

BULLETIN Winter 2015

Rate Study for Apple Valley, MN

The services that the City of Apple Valley, MN provides for water and wastewater are primarily funded by revenues from the rates. The City is interested in developing new utility rate structures for both water and wastewater for the next five years. The City selected PCE to do a cost of services study to develop equitable rates for the different rate classes within the water and wastewater rate structure.



Water conservation can result in substantial savings for both the utility and the consumer, as water conservation promotes reduction of water usage. This may also result in less electric energy usage and lower sewage flows. Nationally water consumption is decreasing at a rate of 0.44% annually and similar reductions have been experienced in Minnesota. Water conservation and its impact on rates will be an important aspect of this study as consumption is the cash register for the utilities.

Equitable rates are needed to fund the ongoing operation and to develop a fund balance for emergency needs. The rate study will address these concerns. The new rates will be reviewed in relation to rates in surrounding communities and the approach taken by those communities in developing rates will be carefully considered. To maximize the value to the City, the tables and a report detailing the methodology used for the rate study will be provided to the City for their future use.

Publication in Opflow Magazine

Naeem Qureshi's article "How Do We Meet the Challenge of Aging Infrastructure?" was published for the Question of the Month in Opflow magazine, an American Water Works Association (AWWA) publication, in December 2014. This is his sixth publication in Opflow. The article presents reasons why the US public water systems will need massive public investment in the next 20 years. The dilemma many water utilities are facing is water sales are declining in Minnesota and across North America. Public water systems and local government may need to develop a comprehensive strategy, set adequate rates, and better manage their assets. Fixing and upgrading existing systems, rather than new construction, may contribute to a lower overall cost for water delivery. By conducting rate studies, public water systems can plan appropriately and reduce the lag in rate increase to ensure rates are properly aligned with costs. Setting up a rate committee comprising of business leaders, prominent citizen and the council may help the public understand the needs. Effective communication is key for elected officials, committee members and the community for acceptance and support of the project's importance and the resulting rate increases.



Presentation “Well Rehabilitation” for Minnesota APWA Conference

Naeem Qureshi presented a paper “Well Rehabilitation” on November 22nd, 2014, at the American Public Works Association Minnesota Chapter Fall Conference. The presentation discussed the type of wells including screened and rock wells and the various aquifers in the metropolitan area; provided a recommendation of frequency of rehabilitation based on well pumping drawdown and yields; and presented data on rehabilitation of 24 wells in Coon Rapids. The well inspection should include review of well yield, specific capacity, pump bowls, bearings, and motor. The presentation addressed that when well yields are declining, the well may need redevelopment. Camera inspection, gamma logging, and step discharge testing are normally needed



to evaluate the condition of the well. Records of motor age, operating hours service records including repairs, temperature, and current draw need to be carefully reviewed. In some cases, acid treatment may be necessary. Blasting, surging, bailing and test pumping may be required to improve the well yield.

Bottineau and Southwest Light Rail Transit Project



PCE was part of the design teams for both the Hiawatha and Central Corridor Light Rail Transit projects and responsible for utility relocation and design. Now, PCE is a member of the teams selected to design the Bottineau Light Rail Line and the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Line. The Southwest Light Rail Transit will connect Minneapolis to St. Louis Park, Minnetonka, Hopkins and Eden Prairie. The Bottineau Light Rail Line will connect Minneapolis to

Brooklyn Park. These projects involve collection of utility information, plan depiction of utilities, utility coordination and design efforts to accommodate utilities.

Well Rehabilitation Fridley, MN



In December 2014, the City of Fridley retained PCE to design the rehabilitation of Well No. 3, 7, 10 and 11. The project will involve inspection of well pump equipment and well pump motors and installing well drawdown pressure transducer. Well No. 10 is a screened well and may require acid treatment to improve the yield of the well. Well No. 3 draws water from the Mt.

Simon Hinckley aquifer and has a high sand content. Well No. 3 may require redevelopment by surging and airlifting or bailing the well to reduce the sand content of the well water. Wells No. 10 and 11 are planned to be completed by May 15, 2015 prior to the high demand season. Wells No. 3 and 7 are to be completed later in the year.



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