



CITY WATER UPDATE

October 2014

Water Treatment Facility Progresses

Elko New Market's Central Water Treatment Facility project is well underway. You may recall from the previous "City Water Update," the City Council was required to address the City's water quality issues, specifically radium levels in untreated water exceeding limits allowed by the Minnesota Department of Health, and chose to do so through the construction of a central water treatment facility. Many other municipalities drawing their water from the Jordan aquifer, the aquifer serving Elko New Market, have built similar facilities. Relative to the many options considered, the central water treatment facility offers:

- The lowest operational, maintenance and overall long-term costs.
- The greatest reduction in radium levels.
- A near-elimination of iron, reducing staining of residents' fixtures and appliances.
- Underground water storage capacity of 500,000 gallons, eliminating the need to construct another water tower.
- Capacity to serve up to 10,000 residents.

City Administrator Tom Terry said, "The smell, discoloration and most other disagreeable characteristics associated with residents' current water will be virtually eliminated. We're confident residents will appreciate the improved water quality."

The City has awarded portions of the water project to several contractors, including Elko New Market-based Ryan Contracting. Magney Construction has begun foundation excavations of the \$7.1 million water treatment facility. Ryan Contracting has laid approximately 50% of the water and sewer piping to connect the site to the existing water system. EH Renner has completed 20% of the drilling for the new well located at the water treatment facility.

If you'd like more information on the water projects, you can access the previous "City Water Update" newsletter at www.ci.enm.mn.us under "News." You can also attend the City's Water Expo on Saturday, November 1, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Eagle View Elementary School. See page 4 of this newsletter for details. There will be a public hearing on the proposed rate structure at the City Council Business Meeting on Thursday, November 20 at 8 p.m.

"The smell, discoloration and most other disagreeable characteristics associated with residents' current water will be virtually eliminated."

*Tom Terry
City Administrator
City of Elko New Market*

10,000+

The number of gallons of water wasted annually by an average household leak. This is equivalent to the amount needed to wash 270 loads of laundry.

Inside

Proposed Rates: Pg. 2

Conservation Tips: Pg. 3

Water Expo: Pg. 4

Water Rates Changing

While there will be many water-quality benefits to the new central water treatment facility well into the future, the facility requires a large capital investment by the City. The City secured a loan at 1% annual interest rate to finance the facility, which will be repaid through water utility service to residents.

The Council evaluated several tiered rate structures presented by Springsted Incorporated, the City's public financing consultant, before selecting the proposed structure, which provides incentives for users to conserve water. The current monthly base rate for service is \$10.89. Under the proposed rates, that would increase to \$11.35 in 2015 and \$34 in 2016, when the new water treatment facility is placed in service. Residents and commercial water users will pay an additional fee per 1,000 gallons used in a billing period, with higher rates for users of 10,001-20,000 gallons and an additional rate tier for those who use over 20,001 gallons.

	2014	Proposed 2015	Proposed 2016
Base rate	\$10.89	\$11.35	\$34.00
0-10,000 gal	\$2.32*	\$2.42*	\$3.15*
>10,000 gal	\$4.68	-	-
10,001-20,000 gal	-	\$7.02*	\$9.13*
>20,001 gal	-	\$14.04*	\$18.25*
	<i>*per 1,000 gallons</i>		

The Council viewed this scenario as the most favorable of the three presented as it added a third tier to the rate structure for "super users," without moving above average users into a more expensive tier. Under this rate structure, median users in winter months (4,000 gallons/month) will see an increase of about 5% in 2015, followed by a 43% increase in 2016. The following chart outlines rate implications for several levels of use:

	Monthly Use		
	4,000 gallons	7,000 gallons	17,500 gallons
2014 (Current)	20.17	27.59	69.19
Proposed 2015	\$21.03	28.77	88.20
Proposed 2016	\$46.60	56.68	133.98

The Council invites your feedback on the proposed rate structure at its regular meeting on Thursday, November 20 at 8 pm at City Hall. If you have questions, you may also contact City staff listed on page 4.

Rate Timeline

July 2014

Springsted completes rate analysis, presents to Council

August 2014

"Water Update" newsletter informs residents of impending rate increases

Council approves proposed 2016 rate structure, pending public comment

October 2014

Second "Water Update" newsletter outlines proposed rate structure

November 2014

City hosts Water Expo for residents to learn about water quality issues and rates

Council invites public comment at November 20 Council meeting

January 2015

New rate structure takes effect

Public Hearing on Proposed Rate Structure:

**City Council Meeting
Thursday, November 20, 8 p.m.**

Water Conservation Pays

Conserving water is worth the effort for the money you can save in your water utility bills and for environmental reasons — and it can be a fun learning activity to do with your kids. By checking your home for leaks, installing low or restrictive-flow fixtures and simply being mindful of using less water, you can conserve thousands of gallons a year. Just fixing leaks saves homeowners an average of 10% on their water bills. Imagine how much could be saved if everyone in Elko New Market pitched in!

Here are few tips for saving water around your house:

1. Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. Fix it and start saving gallons.
2. Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1,000 gallons/month.
3. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save up to 4 gallons/minute. That's up to 200 gallons/week for a family of four.
4. Take 5-minute showers instead of baths. A full bathtub requires up to 70 gallons of water.
5. While you wait for hot water, collect the running water and use it to water plants.
6. Look for WaterSense® labeled toilets, sink faucets and showerheads. A WaterSense showerhead alone can save you up to 750 gallons/month.
7. Dishwashers typically use less water than washing dishes by hand. Energy Star® dishwashers save even more water and energy.
8. Don't use running water to thaw food. For water efficiency and food safety, defrost food in the refrigerator.
9. Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator for ready access to cold water instead of running the tap until you get cold water.
10. If you accidentally drop ice cubes, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.
11. Collect the water you use while rinsing fruit and vegetables. Use it to water house plants.
12. Washing dark clothes in cold water saves water and energy, and helps your clothes retain their color.
13. When shopping for a new washing machine, compare resource savings among Energy Star models. Some can save up to 20 gallons of water per load.
14. Avoid planting grass in areas that are hard to water, such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
15. Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers.
16. Use porous material for walkways and patios to prevent wasteful runoff and keep water in your yard.
17. Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants helps them retain moisture, saving water, time and money.
18. Collect water from your roof by installing gutters and downspouts. Direct the runoff to plants and trees.
19. Teach children to turn off faucets tightly after each use.



Learn More About Your Water Supply at the Water Expo

Saturday, November 1, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Eagle View Elementary School

Come learn more about the central water treatment facility, water conservation and groundwater quality issues on Saturday, November 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., when the City of Elko New Market hosts a Water Expo. There will be free hot dogs and beverages, door prizes (including two iPad Minis!), activities for kids, and representatives of water-related agencies and organizations to answer your questions. City staff will be present to address questions related to the new treatment facility and proposed rates. Speakers include:

- Karla Peterson, Minnesota Department of Health - Radium in the water supply
- Michael MacDonald, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Balancing demand with the available water supply
- Sam Bauer, University of Minnesota Extension Service - Lawn care, irrigation and landscape alternatives
- Terry Heaton, Springsted Inc. - New water rate structure

***Enter to win an iPad Mini! Enjoy free food!
Activities for the kids!***

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