

Water Reclamation Plant

Providing Water Resources to the West Plains

Airway Height Water Reclamation Plant November 14, 2007 Public Meeting Summary (DRAFT)

Sarah Hubbard-Gray, GeoEngineers public involvement task leader and facilitator, started the meeting and provided an outline of the meeting. Albert Tripp, City of Airway Heights Public Works director, gave a presentation that covered 1) an introduction, 2) highlights from the first public meeting, and 3) an overview of the project's status. Dennis Fuller, Century West Engineering project manager, continued the presentation and 1) provided an overview of the plant design, 2) discussed the permitting process and anticipated compliance requirements, 3) compared reclaimed water to the current standards, and 4) provided an overview of the landscape design elements.

Sarah Hubbard-Gray then led a group discussion on the landscape design elements and reclaimed water opportunities presented during the meeting. Sarah closed the meeting by reviewing "what's next" and opening up the meeting to questions. Following the large group question and answer session, meeting attendees were invited to visit the displays, discuss ideas and concerns with the project team, and fill out the meeting questionnaire.

Four (4) people signed in for the meeting. One (1) participant filled out the meeting questionnaire.

The following sections provide 1) a summary of the questions asked and answers provided during the large group question and answer session, and 2) comments provided during the group discussion on landscape design and reclaimed water opportunities.

Comments & Questions raised during the Group Discussion

Comments:

- You should involve and educate young people about water reclamation so they understand what is going on. Cheney is doing a lot of education which is helpful. Don't build the facility and ignore it – use it as a tool to increase awareness and support. Sponsor educational programs and facility tours.

Questions:

Q: Sarah Hubbard-Gray asked meeting attendees if they had suggestions of other businesses or institutions that might be interested in or benefit from using reclaimed water.

A: The following comments were provided by meeting attendees:

- Since the Casino is completing a huge \$300 million expansion it was suggested that they might be users of reclaimed water.
- The Casinos and Department of Corrections seem to represent the major opportunities for use of reclaimed water.
- We need to reduce the level of water we use in this area. For example, Spokane County uses three times more water than anywhere else in the country.
- It was asked if Spokane Galvanizing located on Craig and McFarland uses a lot of water and would be possible candidates for using reclaimed water. Albert Tripp responded that he hadn't talked to Spokane Galvanizing yet and appreciated the suggestion.
- It was asked if Fairchild Air Force Base or the Spokane International Airport could use the reclaimed water. Dennis Fuller said that the Fairchild Air Force Base could be a candidate for the reclaimed water, but that Spokane International Airport may not be as good of a candidate.

Q: Sarah Hubbard-Gray asked meeting attendees if they felt well-informed about the project.

A: Meeting attendees responded that they felt well informed and appreciated the well organized and informative meetings.

Summary of Question & Answer Session

Sarah Hubbard-Gray, GeoEngineers public involvement task leader, facilitated the question and answer session. Below is a summary of the questions asked and project team responses.

Q: Medical Lake is a Class A facility; however one of the problems is the smell produced by the operation. The public was told that it wouldn't smell as long as the facility was operated properly. However, it has continually had odor problems. Can you please look into this odor concern and manage the plant similar to one in Portland (as it doesn't smell)?

A: Dennis Fuller answered that the Airway Heights Water Reclamation Plant will have an elaborate system to prevent odors and that the team will look into why the Medical Lake plant has odor problems.

Q: Will this new plant have security fencing to control access into the facility?

A: Dennis Fuller explained that there will be secured fencing around the facility. He explained that the only way to get into the plant site will be through secured gates located at the operations building. Dennis also explained that though it will be very secure, educational and group tour opportunities at the plant can be provided. The conference and meeting rooms in the operations building will be large enough for group meetings.

Q: Will the plant have an overhead camera security system? A good security system is needed.

A: Dennis Fuller explained that it is hard to secure public facilities. The current plans do not call for a camera system, however, the facility will be secured with tall fencing and controlled access near the operations building.

Q: Are you still waiting approval on the groundwater monitoring system?

A: Dennis Fuller explained that the groundwater monitoring system has been conditionally approved by the Department of Ecology. The Department of Health hasn't reviewed the plan but has a December 15th deadline. Dennis Fuller went on to explain that with the conditional approval the City of Airway Heights was eligible to apply for a State Revolving Fund loan for \$30 million. Once the Department of Health provides comments and suggestions, the Department of Ecology will give their full approval.

Q: What is the difference between the plant plans versus plant design?

A: Dennis Fuller explained that the plant design is the process that takes place to get to the final plans for the plant. From the plant design, the design team generates a set of plans and documents, which is then sent to the Department of Ecology for approval.

Q: Is twenty years enough time to pay for plant construction?

A: Dennis Fuller answered that a lot depends on funding associated with purchase of reclaimed water from various businesses and institutions, such as the tribes and Department of Corrections. The sale of reclaimed water will influence the bottom line. Other internal funding will also influence how long it takes to pay for the plant.

Q: Is the City of Airway Heights going to use impact fees?

A: Dennis Fuller answered that impact fees are typically used for repairs to infrastructure and roads, not new facility construction.