

Municipal Services Commission
Monthly Meeting
July 25, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.
216 Chestnut Street
New Castle, Delaware

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with Dr. Roy Sippel, Commissioner, presiding.

Present: Dr. Roy J. Sippel, Commissioner, President
Daniel F. Knox, Commissioner
Dr. Allen Hansen, Commissioner
Pamela A. Patone, Secretary
Russell P. Smith, City of New Castle Councilperson
Tim Sawyer, CPA-Barbacane Thornton & Company
Joe Manfre, Barbacane Thornton & Company

Staff in Attendance: Accounting/Customer Service Manager Tara French; Jay Guyer, Manager, Water Department; Artie Granger, Supervisor, Electric Department

Minutes – A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the June 27, 2019 meeting. The motion was approved. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the June 27, 2019 executive session. There was one correction needed to be made. The motion was approved.

Tim Sawyer CPA of Barbacane Thornton & Company reported the audited financial statements received an unqualified opinion. He advised there were no issues during fieldwork. Mr. Sawyer went on to present comparisons of the last 3 years summarized financial statement line items. Discussion ensued regarding the comparisons. Secretary Patone noted the year to year fluctuations for some line items were a result of operational projects and the capitalization of labor.

(Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Manfre were thanked and excused from the meeting.)

Treasurer's Report – Secretary Patone reporting in the absence of Treasurer Stubbs

Secretary Patone reported a total operating cash balance as of June 30, 2019 of \$2,200,096.66. PNC escrow and meter deposit total in the amount of \$730,116.57. Total cash balance is \$2,930,213.23. Total investments are \$1,159,163.45. Electric Department Manager Scott Blomquist reviewed the bank statements for the month. Treasurer Stubbs addressed his questions satisfactorily. The accounts payable check register is attached to Treasurer Stubbs' report.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the disbursements as presented. The motion was approved.

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Accounting and Customer Service Department Report – Accounting/Customer Service Manager Tara French reporting

Ms. French is continuing to send out phone notifications to update customers who are affected by the Van Dyke Project/Delaware St. Water Project. Ms. French submitted her Customer Action Plan as the final item necessary to become Certified in Key Accounts. Ms. French should be notified by August 3rd, 2019. Business Manager Stubbs and the Customer Service Department participated in training for MSC's new online bill pay service. MSC is working to have the site available for customers to make payments by mid-August. Ms. French provided Electric Manager Blomquist with five years of consumption data for all customer's with solar meters for his analysis. The Customer Service Department prepared monthly billing to customers.

Ms. French reviewed the Capital Budget vs Actual, and the Operating Budget vs Actual for the quarter ended June 30, 2019. Ms. French noted the Electric Department is under budget for the three months ended June 30, 2019. The Water Department exceeded budget on one line item due to an unexpected repair on the School Lane well pump motor. The Water Department will attempt to defer expenses to minimize the impact of the unexpected expense. Overall, Water Department was under budget for three months ended June 30, 2019. General/administrative expense were also under budget. Ms. French shared financial statement highlights. Ms. French also shared information regarding disputed invoices from Windstream, the Commission's previous telephone service provider. Secretary Patone advised the issue should be resolved shortly.

Electric Department Report – Report prepared by Mr. Blomquist
(See attached report.)

While Electric Supervisor Granger went over the report, there was discussion of the outages due to trees falling on the power lines during recent storms. Commissioner Hansen asked in the event, who clears out the trees. Secretary Patone stated MSC will do what needs to be done in order to get the electric restored. The City would typically clean up debris on the street or sidewalk. If the tree is on the customer's property, any debris would be the homeowner's responsibility.

Water Report – Mr. Guyer reporting

While Mr. Guyer went over Delaware St. repaving, there was discussion of the widening of Delaware Street and if this was a definite. Councilperson Russell Smith said this will not be approved or disapproved until September.

Secretary Patone stated Commissioners were provided a copy of the letter that went to the Mayor in response to his inquiry last month to understand the article in the paper about lead exposure by zip code. (see letter attached)

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A discussion ensued regarding the permit filed with DNREC by Delaware Recyclable Products, Inc. Mr. Guyer stated a technical review and a letter of recommendation will be sent by DNREC staff to DNREC Secretary Garvin to either approve or not approve the permit. MSC has prepared a letter to Secretary Garvin stating concern regarding the potential harmful effects to New Castle's drinking water supply. Secretary Patone asked for approval of the Commissioners on the letter. (see letter attached)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the letter adding the Mayor to the distribution list. The motion was approved.

Mr. Guyer went on to finish presenting his report.

At the conclusion of the Water Report, Secretary Patone stated on August 8th, MSC is offering tours to several key accounts of MSC's substations and Water Facilities.

(Messrs. Granger, Guyer, and Ms. French were thanked and excused from the meeting.)

Secretary's Report – Secretary Patone reporting

DEMEC – Secretary Patone and President Sippel attended the July 16, 2019 meeting. President McCullar reported PNC Investments has been sold to Federate Investments of Rhode Island. This will finalize in December of 2019. Secretary Patone stated under the Committee reports, the Chair of the Executive Committee, Darren Gordon, distributed a document to the board for review which would be discussed in Executive Session at a special meeting which was requested to be held on August 1, 2019. Secretary Patone stated there was nothing new to report on the Audit Committee. In monthly reports, Middletown indicated they would be issuing an RFP for a solar facility. Newark reported University of Delaware is still looking for prices on renewables as well. Under legislative reports, President McCullar reported the RPS bill which would have increased the renewable requirements, did not pass. This was largely due to last minute submission. Secretary Patone stated it is understood that Senator McDowell intends to retire after next Legislative session. It is also expected Senator McDowell will attempt to have an increase in renewables, as well as have the net metering rules revisited due to some unintended consequences behind the initial net metering rules.

Secretary Patone stated DelDOT had sent a letter to DEMEC requesting they appoint a participant for a working group of utilities. The idea is to improve projects being moved along quicker in dealing with utilities. Jim Robinson of Dover was appointed by the DEMEC Board. President McCullar requested feedback on the annual survey format that is done for evaluations each year. The DEMEC staff will be providing customer service training regarding Efficiency Smart as well as more information for the customer service reps related to renewables and net metering.

Secretary Patone stated Newark inquired about DEMEC demand response calls. The city of New Castle doesn't have any participants in the Demand Response program at the moment. MSC does post voluntary recommendations on MSC's website in an effort to have customers reduce

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their usage during high temperature weather. There was discussion by the Board of what kind of electric vehicles were in the Municipalities, and asked DEMEC staff to keep the Board aware of opportunities.

Charter Change – Technical correction necessary for the MSC Charter went through Senator Poore. The technical correction was made and signed by the Governor on July 17, 2019.

Cyber Security – On July 15, 2019 Mr. Guyer and Secretary Patone had a telephone call with David Weir and Amelia Rosiasis from the University of Delaware Office of Economic Innovation and Partnership and Jacob Blacksten a University of Delaware, Technology Business Advisor. This meeting stemmed from discussions regarding a grant from the State of Delaware to protect the State's water. As part of this grant there is funding to assist in providing a Cyber security framework for small businesses which simplifies the NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) Cybersecurity Framework. Secretary Patone intends to meet with this group to assist with the Commission's cybersecurity measures.

Old Business

Disaster Recovery Capital Expenditure – Secretary Patone stated she is still working on gathering information and quotes.

Third Street Parking Lot – On June 6, 2019, a letter was sent to the Trustees stating MSC would be happy to continue the relationship with the Trustees where the Commission contributes labor toward Trustee projects and materials/expenses are borne by the Trustees. Trustee Castagno attended the June 27, 2019 meeting and requested the Commission to provide more than the already contributed 41% cost of the project. The Commissioners considered the request and decided to stand on the previous communication in the June 6, 2019 letter.

Secretary Patone stated a goal is to formulate a document formalizing the relationship with the Trustees. She will continue to develop ideas on the best approach to this goal.

A motion was made and seconded to enter executive session at 5:40 p.m.

Commissioners returned to general session at 6:02 p.m.

Next Meeting


Commissioners set the next monthly Board meeting to be August 21, 2019, 4:00 p.m., at the office of the Commission, 216 Chestnut Street, New Castle, Delaware.

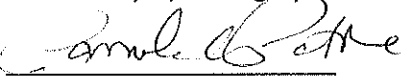
Secretary Patone stated in November of 2018, The Center for Disease Control and The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease announced the City of New Castle is one of the areas they're going to do an exposure assessment. This exposure assessment is on human exposure to PFAS due to the proximity to the Delaware Air National Guard. There will be a meeting held on August 26, there is no definitive on the location as of yet.

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Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion received unanimous approval. The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.


Michele R. Grussemeier, Stenographer.

Approved: 
(Minutes transcribed from recording)

MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE 19720-0208
P.O. BOX 208

<http://newcastlemsc.delaware.gov/>

Office: 302 323-2330 Utility Building: 302-323-2333 Fax: 302-323-2337

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT COMMISSION REPORT

July 25, 2019

Prepared by Scott Blomquist on July 19, 2019

1. Developer Projects:

a. Garrison Apartments:

I. There has been no contact from the Developer on this project

b. 108/110/112 Brylgon:

I. On Wednesday July 18th the Developer installed the electric conduit to 108 and 110 Brylgon.

2. Capital Projects:

a. Van Dyke Village:

I. The houses on the first block of Baldt have been converted to the new underground infrastructure.

II. The Electric Department is working conversion of the second block of Baldt.

b. Wilmington Rd Substation:

I. Most of the trees have been removed in preparation for the new fence installation.

c. Utility Building Fire Alarm:

I. Electric Department personnel ran the conduit, wire and installed the new devices so that our fire alarm can be separated from the City Police's fire alarm. We are waiting for Security Instruments to get us the device address so they can come in and complete the system conversion.

3. Capital Purchases:

a. Dump Truck:

I. Managers Blomquist and Guyer are working on getting an updated quote for the Dump Truck.

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b. Capacitors:

- I. Manager Blomquist continues to monitor and make adjustments to the automated banks. We found one auto bank on the 440 circuit that has an issue with 2 of the switches and it had one tap to one of the capacitors that had a loose connection and had burned off. The Electric department fixed the tap and replaced one of the switches. After trouble shooting the switch we had removed we figured out that the switch operates normally. We believe that we have an issue with either the control wiring or the controller. Manager Blomquist will continue to trouble shoot to determine the issue. Currently we have the bank closed in a manual position.

4. Operations:

a. Outages :

- I. There were 3 outages over the last month.
 - i. On June 29th at 607 W 11th St we had a tree come down on the rear property aerial. 51 customers were affected for 37 minutes. Of those 51, 26 were affected for another 33 minutes while we made repairs.
 - ii. On July 2nd at 139 Casimir we had a tree come down on the rear property aerial. 63 customers were affected for 2hours and 42 minutes.
 - iii. On July 2nd at 2 Lincoln we had a tree come down on the single phase aerial. 2 customers were affected for 5 hours and 29 minutes.

Both of the outages on the July 2nd were at the same time. All of the electric department employees were in for the duration.

II. 07/01/2018 – 07/01/2019

SAIDI (minutes)	SAIFI (number of interruptions)	CAIDI (minutes)	ASAI (percent)
4.31	0.39	11.039	99.99

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SAIDI - is the average outage duration for each customer served.

SAIFI - is the average number of interruptions that a customer would experience.

CAIDI - gives the average outage duration that any given customer would experience.

ASAI - is the Average Service Availability Index.

5. Repairs and Maintenance:

a. Wilmington Road Substation:

I. The Electric Department performed the monthly inspection at this location.

b. Dobbinsville Substation:

I. The Electric Department performed the monthly inspection at this location.

6. Safety:

I. Daily tailgate sessions and safety meetings continue.

7. Delaware Street Rehabilitation City:

I. There is nothing to update on this project.

8. Third Street Parking Lot:

I. There is nothing to update for this project.

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9. **Training:**

- I. The Electric Department personal attended the pole top rescue and fall prevention training at DEMEC.

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Water Department Commission Meeting Report

July 25, 2019

Prepared By: Jay Guyer on July 18, 2019

1. Projects

A. Riverbend Subdivision

1. The water system in Riverbend was flushed on July 16th to maintain the required 0.3 ppm of Chlorine Residual.

B. Water Metering

1. Meter reading was completed on July 12th. Water Operators followed up on water check reads and missed reads as needed.

C. Cross Roads Well – Penn Farm

1. WUM Guyer and WUS Jaeger are working on completing a draft of the Allocation Permit to include the Cross Roads Well for submission to DNREC. WUM Guyer contacted the Delaware River Basing Commission (DRBC) to see if additional work needs to be completed for the permit on their behalf. Per DRBC, DNREC will work with them when they have our permit submission for compliance.

D. The Garrison Apartment Complex – 7th Street

1. MSC is waiting for the plumber to complete flushing the services in Building 600 and to notify MSC he is ready for samples to be collected for bacteria testing. The pump house experienced another pipe failure on the domestic service which is unmetered. An estimated water loss and bill will be prepared for the incident.

E. Delaware Street Cleaning and Lining - 3rd to 6th Street

1. WUM Guyer and WUS Jaeger have had several meetings with J Fletcher Cramer (JFC) and Brandywine Construction Company, Inc. (BCCI) to discuss the Delaware Street project and confirm schedules. The schedule will be updated weekly and communicated throughout the project.
2. BCCI has completed the water main replacement in the intersections of 4th and Delaware Street, 5th and Delaware Street, and 6th and Delaware Street. MSC Crews completed the other excavations and shoring for the cleaning and lining project. JFC crews mobilized on July 15th and started the cleaning and lining process at 6th and Delaware Street. The cleaning and lining is scheduled to be completed by Monday, July 22nd. Following the

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cleaning and lining, MSC water operators will begin the process of reconnecting the open pipes, disinfecting, flushing, and bacteria testing them. Final restoration will begin after customers are transferred back the newly lined water main and the temporary water system is removed.

F. Utility Building Security System Upgrade

1. MSC Electric crew has begun working on installing the conduits, wires and fixtures in preparation for the system separation from the police station. Security Instruments will be on site to complete finals installation and programming when our work is completed.

G. Delmarva Power Gas Main Installation

1. Brandywine Construction Company, Inc. (BCCI) continues installation of the Delmarva Power gas main along RT-273 on the west side of Traders Lane. WUM Guyer and WUS Jaeger are monitoring the installation to ensure no issues are created between the new gas main installation and MSC Water infrastructure.

H. 108, 110, and 112 Brylgon Avenue – 3 New Homes

1. Marty's Contracting continues construction of the new homes on Brylgon Avenue. The plumbing contractor installed the water services for 108 and 110. The services were inspected and found to be in compliance with MSC Standards and will be bacteria tested after flushing.

I. 1003 Wilmington Road – New Home

1. WUM Guyer has nothing to update on this project.

J. West 3rd Street Parking Lot Proposal

1. WUM Guyer has nothing to update on this project.

K. Del DOT – SR 9 / SR 273 Delaware Street Railroad Crossing Safety Improvements

1. Del DOT and the Century Engineering Soft DIG contractor performed additional excavations around utilities in the Delaware Street and Ferry Cut Off area. WUM Guyer has nothing to update on this project.

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L. Delaware Street Repaving – City Project

1. WUM Guyer received revised final plans from City Engineer Dave Athey and was invited to attend the pre bid meeting on August 6th at 9:00am. Per Mr. Athey the final scope of work may still change with certain components being eliminated due to cost which will affect the phasing/timing of the project. WUM Guyer will review the plans and be prepared for the pre bid meeting. Additionally, the state is planning to install a fire sprinkler system in the Court House.

M. Interconnection Room Re-piping

1. WUM Guyer forwarded plans and details of the project to the Office of Drinking Water, Office of Engineering requesting a “Certificate to Construct” be issued. Parts for the project were ordered and received. The work will be scheduled around the Delaware Street Cleaning and Lining Project and coordinated with Artesian Water Company.

2. Operations

A. Outages and Reporting

1. There were 6 planned and no unplanned water outages for the month of June 2019.
2. WUM Guyer and WUS Jaeger completed updating the 2019 Consumer Confidence Report for the Newsletter. WUM Guyer completed the “Certification of Delivery” to the Office of Drinking Water and the Public Advocate by the July 10th deadlines.
3. WUM Guyer is working on drafting an agreement for the University of Delaware graduate student to sign who was planning a research project involving PFAS compounds. The agreement will outline the details of MSC providing a sample of MSC untreated water.
4. On June 10th, MSC started our triennial Lead and Copper Monitoring. The 20 samples collected on June 11th and 12th were delivered to the Laboratory for analysis. All 20 samples had results below the action level for lead and copper. Letters were drafted including the test results, required Lead and Copper Language, and were mailed to the customers. WUM Guyer completed the Certification Form and forwarded it, a copy of the Customer Letter, and the results to the Office of Drinking Water for compliance.

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Prepared By: Jay Guyer on July 18, 2019

5. WUM Guyer received a call from Artesian Water Representatives VP John Thader and ADO Ginney Eisenbrey in reference to a permit filed by the Waste Management Delaware Recyclable Management Facility located in Miquadale to raise the height of the landfill from 130 feet to 190 feet. GM Patone, WUM Guyer, and WUS Jaeger met on July 15th with Artesian Reps and discussed their concerns about the permit including possible contamination to the Potomac aquifer. WUM Guyer attended a meeting on July 17th with Artesian Reps and DNREC reps from the Water Supply Section and Solid & Hazardous Waste Section to discuss the permit and concerns about the aquifer. Numerous Local and County groups and representatives are against approving the permit and have written letters supporting their position including the New Castle County Executive opposing it. WUM Guyer will follow up with GM Patone about the meeting and steps moving forward regarding communicating the MSC's position and supporting Artesian's position on the permit.

B. System Repairs and Maintenance

1. School Lane Well Pump Motor experienced a starter failure issue. The pump was troubleshot by EUM Blomquist. The amperage across the 3 phases was found to be higher than previously recorded in the last several maintenance inspections. WUM Guyer reviewed the run logs and identified the motor was last rebuilt in 2007 and has since run for over 34,100 hours. Average run time life on a vertical turbine motor ranges from 32,000 to 40,000 hours depending upon conditions and environment. AC Schultes was contracted to remove the motor, install a temporary one, and rebuild the existing motor at a cost of \$4,755.00. The pump was removed for service on 7/19. Another potential issue is the motor starter. This issues is being troubleshot using our SCADA technician. This unplanned failure will result in an overage in the O & M budget for this expense code.

C. Budgets and Grants

1. Water Infrastructure Advisory Council (WIAC) Grants -- WUM Guyer has scheduled a Project Kickoff meeting with Bruce Jones, P.E. of RKK Engineering and his team for July 30th.

D. Equipment

1. WUM Guyer and EUM Blomquist started reviewing the specs for the new T-9 Dump Truck and requested updated quotes from our Ford Commercial Sales Representative.

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Prepared By: Jay Guyer on July 18, 2019

E. Personnel and Training

1. No personnel issues to report.
2. WUM Guyer completed the Key Accounts Customer Action Plan (CAP) for Nixon Medical and submitted to the APPA for review. This was the final step in completing the APPA Key Accounts Certification Program. Results of the CAP are expected by July 19th. On July 16th, GM Patone and WUM Guyer toured the Nixon Facility with Efficiency Smart Representatives. Nixon Medical plans work with Efficiency Smart Representatives to review their operation and hopefully identify where improvements can be made.

F. Safety

1. MSC Water Operators and Facility Person hold daily morning tailgate talks discussing jobs/tasks to be performed that day, potential issues or hazards to be considered, and safety concerns.
2. MSC Water Operators and Facility Person continue with Safety Training utilizing the 2019 AWWA 52 Safety Talks Manual, AWWA Support videos, and other supplemental materials.

3. Reporting Agencies

A. WSCC - Water Supply Coordinating Council

1. Scheduling of the next WSCC sub-committee meeting to evaluate the Northern Delaware Drought Operating Guidelines is pending.
2. The next WSCC meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2019.

B. WRA – Water Resource Agency

1. WUM Guyer is sending weekly pump data to Jerry Kauffman of University of Delaware Water Resource Agency (WRA).

C. DEWARN – Delaware Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network

1. The next DEWARN meeting is scheduled for August 2019.

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Prepared By: Jay Guyer on July 18, 2019

D. Water Operator Advisory Council Meeting

1. The next meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2019.

E. Miss Utility of Delmarva Monthly Meeting

1. The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2019 at Smyrna Public Works.

End of Report

Attachments: June 2019 Water Works Report
June 2019 Water Outage Tracking Sheet

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July 25, 2019

Mr. Shawn M. Garvin
Secretary
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware 19901

Re: Delaware Recyclable Products, Inc. (DRPI) Permit Modification Application

Dear Secretary Garvin:

The Municipal Services Commission (MSC) is writing this letter in reference to the DRPI Permit Modification Application filed with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) in July 2018. The Permit Modification is requesting to expand the final height of the landfill from 130 feet mean sea level (MSL) to a height of 190 feet MSL. Although the Public Comment Period Closed, given the nature of this issue and the potential harmful effects to New Castle's drinking water supply, MSC felt compelled to comment on the Permit Application.

The MSC, an agency of the City of New Castle, provides drinking water and electric service to the citizens of New Castle whom reside within and directly outside the City corporate limits. MSC owns and operates a 1.6MGD water treatment facility supplied by four (4) supply wells which are drilled into the Potomac Aquifer. This abundant, good quality water supply is crucial to MSC's water operations and all necessary precautions should be exercised to protect it from possible sources of contamination. These facilities are located approximately 2.8 miles South West of the DRPI Landfill located at 246 Marsh Lane in New Castle.

MSC was made aware of the Permit Modification Application at a July 15, 2019 meeting with Artesian Water Company (AWC) representatives. During the meeting, AWC shared their concerns about the landfill and the potential adverse environmental impact it may have on the aquifers in the area if approved absent further investigation under the Delaware Regulations Governing Solid Waste (DRGSW) § 4.2.1 and 6.1. AWC provided MSC copies of information they submitted to your Department dated June 28, 2019 including correspondence and maps.

Upon review of the DRPI Permit Modification Application and material provided by AWC, MSC shares the same concerns as AWC. The use of outdated hydrogeological data, classifying the Potomac as a non-valuable aquifer, lack of monitoring wells for the landfill operations, and testing for the same contaminants the US EPA requires drinking water suppliers test for to measure water quality are grounds to postpone or deny the Permit Modification approval. AWC and MSC Representatives met with Representatives from the DNREC Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Section and Water Supply Branch on July 17, 2019 to discuss the DRPI Permit Modification Application. The differences between filing a new permit and permit modification were discussed, the regulations for submitting a permit modification were

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RE: Delaware Recyclable Products, Inc. (DRPI) Permit Modification Application

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reviewed, and the timing of the water quality concerns are coinciding with the filing of the DRPI application.

Absent current data about the conditions surrounding the landfill operations and until they are known and made available for review, the true environmental impact of increasing the height of the landfill cannot be determined. The potential impact the increased height and weight will have on the lower levels of the landfill need to be determined and the necessary steps taken to prevent contaminants from entering the Potomac aquifer which is a critical water supply for thousands living in Northern New Castle County.

The MSC believes the issues outlined in this letter should compel the Department to delay or deny the Permit Modification Application until such time DRPI can demonstrate that the landfill operation currently as operated, as proposed under the modification, and when operations cease will pose no threat to the drinking water supply.

If you have any questions or would like to further discuss the contents of this letter, please contact myself or Jay Guyer at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Patone
Secretary / General Manager

Jay Guyer
Water Utility Manager

Encl: None

Cc: Linda Ratchford, Council President
Valarie Leary, Councilperson
Michael Platt, Councilperson
Russell Smith, Councilperson
Suzanne Souder, Councilperson
Bill Barthel, City Administrator
Ryan Jaeger, Water Utility Supervisor
File

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July 8, 2019

Mayor Michael J. Quaranta
City of New Castle Delaware
220 Delaware Street
New Castle, DE 19720

RE: Elevated Blood Lead Levels in 19720 Zip Code

Dear Mayor Quaranta:

Per our discussion regarding the June 25, 2019 News Journal article referencing lead exposure by zip code, you requested the Municipal Services Commission's (MSC) respond as it relates to the City's Water System.

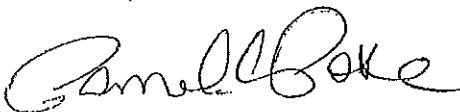
The article indicated there were 166 cases of children in the 19720 zip code who exhibited high lead levels in blood tests, 2010 to 2017. The results did not give specific locations to identify if any of the cases were located in the City limits. Mr. Bill Leitzinger of the State of Delaware (SOD), Office of Healthy Environment advised more detailed locations could not be provided due to HIPPA laws. He went on to advise that 90% of the cases reported resulted from lead paint and 10% were from other sources such as second hand exposure resulting from lead being brought home from remote locations by working parents. He also stated in his time at the Office of Healthy Environment, he has not seen a case related to drinking water.

MSC is on triennial lead and copper monitoring per the US EPA and SOD Department of Health requirements. The testing was most recently completed in June 2019. Preselected households provide water samples from taps within the home, which are then tested for lead and copper levels. MSC is happy to report none of the samples contained lead and copper above the US EPA Action Level. The results are reported to the households tested and included in the Consumer Confidence Report which can be found at <https://newcastlemsc.delaware.gov/consumer-confidence-reports/>.

In the 1970's, the MSC began a corrosion control program as an additional safeguard to prevent customers from being exposed to lead from water sources. The program included the addition of sodium-hexametaphosphate to the water system treatment in order to adjust PH levels of the water and to coat the interior of water mains and plumbing. This treatment insures the water is not aggressive which could lead to the corrosion of old lead joints and the coating acts as barrier between the water and the plumbing.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Pamela A. Patone
Secretary / General Manager