



Your Utility Company Newsletter

Utilities Commission

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- Sheryl Bremmer
- Daniel Graham
- Joseph Kuehner
- Patricia Soltys
- Don Starbuck
- Council Liaisons:
- Peter Braun
- Madeline Seymour

Coming Up

- * Results of a 2018 Wastewater Treatment Facilities Condition Assessment
- * Results of a December 2017 Inflow and Infiltration Program
- * Estimates of costs to conduct maintenance and/or replacement of vital parts of the Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Purpose of the Wastewater Treatment Plant

“The Bandon WWTP is an integral part of the Bandon Community. It provides treatment and disinfection of wastewater from residences, businesses, and industry to levels specified in the City’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (Appendix I), and to levels commensurate with the values of the citizens of Bandon.”

“The Bandon WWTP not only provides for the immediate protection of public health, but also for the protection of coastal fisheries. Fishing is still an important industry in the Bandon area. Chemicals and microorganisms in a poorly treated discharge can severely impact marine life. Because of the potential damage from a poor quality effluent to shellfish in the Coquille River Estuary, the Bandon WWTP is designed in Class I of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Design Criteria for Mechanical, Electrical, Fluid System and Component Reliability.”

“The men and women who manage and support the operations of the Bandon WWTP are charged with an important responsibility. Providing the necessary level of treatment in a cost-effective manner is a reasonable expectation of the citizens and rate payers. The plant represents a significant capital investment of the community and must be operated and maintained to ensure its protections and long life.”

*The information above is also on the City of Bandon’s webpage at <http://www.cityofbandon.org/general/page/wastewater-treatment-plant>.

The last plant-wide improvement project was in 1993 and these systems are generally engineered for 25 year life spans.

Unplanned Wastewater Treatment Plant Expense

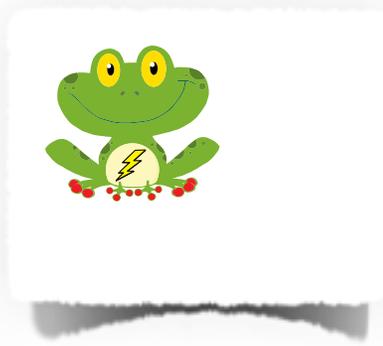
In February, one of the two clarifiers in our wastewater plant broke down. Initially, it was thought that only the top gears would need to be replaced. Parts were purchased for \$10K and the in-house crew would affect repairs. However, given the age of the clarifier (20+years), it was determined to be prudent to have the entire gear works inspected before undertaking any repairs. It was also determined that the bottom gears should be replaced. A thorough assessment of how to move forward is happening. We will inform you of the results of that assessment.

Influent Pump

The influent pump at the Wastewater Treatment Plant pumps all wastewater. We have had multiple incidents where the pump is negatively affected by grease and rags. When the pump no longer works properly, it has to be taken to Coos Bay to be remachined at a cost of \$20,000 per incident. The problems caused by grease and rags are expensive to repair and eventually repairs are no longer effective and replacement of parts will be necessary. We can control some recurring problems by remembering that “flushable wipes” are not flushable and that grease and wipes/rags should be kept out of the wastewater system if at all possible. If an item can be throw in the trash, do that, don’t flush it or put it down the drain.

Bonneville Power Authority

Bonneville Power Authority (BPA) has announced that it will raise electric rates this year. We informed rate payers of a spillage charge last year and BPA has indicated that there **may** be another spillage charge this year. Rate payers bear the responsibility of paying these increases and as soon as we know how much the electric rates will rise and exactly why they are rising, we will inform you.



There is No Away

What does this mean? “I’m going to throw this (cup, chair, food, trash, plastic straw, styrofoam take-out carton) away.” What are you saying? Where is whatever you’re tossing going? How long will it take to break down and decompose back into Earth? Will it even decompose? What animals will try and eat it? Are there other options besides throwing it “away?” When you dispose of something down your drain, where is it going?

What you throw “away” goes somewhere.

Some of what you think you are throwing away can cause problems for you and the utilities upon which you rely. For instance, you wouldn’t think of using your sink to dispose of your grocery list, but produce stickers stuck to some of your fruits and vegetables often fall off when you’re washing those fruits and vegetables. These stickers often include bits of plastic and are coated with adhesive, neither of which are water-soluble. They may be caught in grease coating your drains, get caught in pumps and hoses or block the screens and filters at your Wastewater Treatment Plant.

It might seem logical to flush your expired or unused medication down the toilet or crush it in your garbage disposal, but research shows that a high number of those medications do not get removed at your local wastewater treatment plant before they enter the environment. Wastewater treatment is unable to remove medications.

Leftover or unwanted medications can be given to the Bandon Police Department during regular business hours 8:30AM-5:00PM weekdays.