



February 2021 Public Works Update

No major line repairs needed.

The daily average discharge was 132,802 gallons per day average at the WWTP with no violations. Water bills ran late this last month due to the bad weather. I don't have the billing information currently. We pumped 5,772,000 gallons of water this month.

Due to the extended below freezing temperatures and power surges/loss, all employees had to start working around the clock.

Our SCADA system was not reading the levels at the Eagle water plant correctly, nor at the elevated storage tanks. Todd had to come in and change the controls at all the wells from automatic to hand mode and take the Eagle station offline. He operated the controls from the SCADA system and physically from the Danz well station. He determined the problem came from a power glitch that happened the day before in the communication between the Eagle station and the water tower. The SCADA system was reset at the water tower and communication was restored.

Rick contacted the State and County to request TxDOT to clear important City roadways. When the phone service went out, citizens couldn't call in and report water leaks or other issues. Rick was able to work with Emergency Management to do reverse 911, informing people of alternate ways of contacting us.

Many requests for water turn offs. Due to the conditions of the roads and snow in the yards, it was difficult at best to turn off the meters. Despite the City wrapping pipes, adding heat lamps and heaters, and draining lines, we had some losses in the system and parks. At the downtown park women's bathroom, both toilets froze and cracked the inside of the plumbing despite it being used as an emergency restroom when their restrooms didn't work.

One water line at the park froze inside the rock wall and another at the wash sink. The #3 well (gate valve), well #4 (sample port), well #2 (meter turbine), and a 2" ball valve at the pressure tank busted.

The WWTP had some issues, including, but not limited to, a 3” secondary pump, a stop valve, and a check valve frozen and busted. This caused me to run the plant just on one side, instead of both sides, because I lost suction to one of my primary pumps. As of 2-25-21, the plant is back at full treatment capacity.

Larry Bible and Todd Kneese worked above and beyond operating the system in disaster mode. Taking half of the system offline and keeping the water pressure lower but still above 30 psi for most of the residents. By doing this, we were able to keep the water in the pipes and not on the ground (busted pipes).

BJ Sultemeier

