



Middletown Water Operating Committee

Meeting April 27, 2023, 11:00 am EST

Meeting to be held via Google Meets/Telephone

Committee Members:

Ken Klinepeter
(Middletown Borough)
Don Correll (WCP)
Dan Sugarman (WCP)
Jason Kiernan (Veolia)
Kodi Webb (Veolia)

Additional:

Bradley Pensyl (Allen
& Overy)
Ken Bonn (Argo)
Shuang Li (Argo)
Justin Mendinsky (HRG)
Michael Winfield (Post
and Schell)

Michael Barger (Veolia)
Ryan Haigan (Veolia)
Chris Halleron (Veolia)
Elsie Kitcher (Veolia)
Annmarie Rutigliani (Veolia)
Maria Tajali (Veolia)
Yunjia Tu (Veolia)
John Joyner (WCP)

1. Introductions/Opening Comments

After a roll call, Mr. Correll called the meeting to order. A PowerPoint presentation was presented.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

Mr. Correll made a motion to move the circulated January 27, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Sugarman moved the minutes.

Mr. Klinepeter expressed concern about the proposed work being done on Union Street from Spring Street to Main Street. Mr. Klinepeter explained that UGI will be paving this area and there may be criticism with it being a newly paved road. Ms. Webb explained that many of the issues in that area have come from UGI hitting the lines and damaging the services and that it would be taken into consideration.

Mr. Klinepeter seconded the meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

3. Operations Update

Ms. Webb explained that the annual 2022 CCTV requirements have been completed with Ann St. and Main St. included in the completed sewer jetting and CCTV. Paving patches for previous service leaks have been completed. Sewer jetting and valve turning for the 2023 requirements has started. Bi-annual root treatment has been completed. There are several areas around town where root intrusion has been an issue where this preventative measure using chemicals to kill the roots will prevent sewer backups due to root intrusion. Annual inspections of the hoists, fire sprinkler system, and garage doors at the plant have been completed and the required repairs have been made. The out of service oxidation ditch mixer was repaired and replaced, along with the rubber sheets for the rotors. The previous sections of rubber were beginning to deteriorate, so they were replaced while the oxidation ditch was out of service. There was an unplanned Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection inspection for wastewater on February 23, 2023. There were no violations that came from the inspection. The final report has not been sent over yet but Ms. Webb has spoken to Heather Dock and read the draft report that showed no violations. Ms. Webb stated that a pollinator garden has been planted on site by the



wastewater treatment sign. Fresh soil has been put down and pollinator seeds have been planted as a way to help the environment. Ms. Webb explained that the biosolids total solids percentage reached 37.26%, which is excellent credit to the operators. The SmartCover antenna has been replaced in one of the Hoffer Park manholes. It was noted that Royalton's consumption had gone up over the last month and they have been notified of a potential leak. They found a few small leaks and are still waiting to see if a larger leak will be discovered. There has been an open line of communication with Royalton and there's a hope that their numbers will begin to go down as the leaks get repaired. Ms. Webb explained there are a few pieces of equipment that are out of service including Well 3 and 4, the cooling pump at the chlorine contact tank which had a seal failure and is pending repair, and raw water pump 3 had a mechanical failure which will be repaired. There was 1 main break on Witherspoon Ave. and 1 service line leak on North Union Street. The Witherspoon Ave. main break was a 2 inch galvanized line which occurred after UGI worked on their gas service line and the break was in the same area. The North Union St. service line began as a leak on the customer's side, then a few days later it was leaking on the street side of the curb stop and Veolia made that repair. There haven't been any SSO's or sewer repairs in the prior months.

Ms. Webb explained that in regards to the chemical feed upgrades, Well 2 has been completed and the next step is Well 4 which will be done in the next few weeks. The contractor has received all the parts and the permit has been submitted to DEP for the new level transducer and chlorine analyzer. The first week in May is the anticipated start date for this upgrade. The water SCADA computer will be upgraded at the same time.

Ms. Webb stated that there was an issue with one of the SmartCovers. It was noticed that there was not a signal coming in for the SmartCover and after inspection it was found to have a missing antenna. The assumption is this was likely removed during snow plowing and not vandalism. The antenna has been replaced and the data is being relayed.

Ms. Webb asked if there were any operation questions. None were asked.

Ms. Webb explained that there are regulatory updates including the Revised Lead and Copper Rule which Ms. Kitcher would present and PFAS.

Ms. Kitcher gave a presentation on the Revised Lead and Copper Rule. The Lead and Copper Rule Revisions would go into effect in October 2024 and would require a complete lead service line inventory by October 16, 2024. The lead service line inventory requires the service line material information on both the customer owned and utility owned sides. The public outreach regarding unknown or lead service lines and required school testing were also discussed.

Mr. Correll inquired about the due date of the inventory and the required replacement schedule. Ms. Kitcher replied that the due date was October 16, 2023 and that the EPA has not outlined a replacement schedule. Mr. Correll asked about the time and costs associated with the creation of the service line inventory. Ms. Kitcher explained that the time would depend on the amount of information that the utility already had but it is likely to take a substantial amount of time. The costs were not immediately available, but would be made available to Ms. Webb.

Mr. Correll asked Mr. Klinepeter if it would be helpful to have a briefing or presentation regarding the upcoming regulatory changes with the Borough Council in a public session. Mr. Correll stated that the JV and Veolia are on notice that the new regulation is coming between now and October of next year and some level of effort will be needed to come up with an inventory and a plan. There will be costs associated with that and a willingness to work together to communicate with the Council to come up with the way that is most useful or productive.

Mr. Klinepeter invited a presenter to any of the workshop meetings. The workshop meeting is held the 3rd Tuesday of every month and there is a standing placeholder for Veolia. If it is an emergency, Veolia



can come to the business meeting which is held the 1st Tuesday of every month. Mr. Klinepeter suggested attending one of the meetings to go over the Revised Lead and Copper Rule.

Mr. Correll stated this will be discussed and possibly attend a future meeting and if Mr. Klinepeter can think of anything additional that would be needed or on the council's mind the presentation can be supplemented to accommodate. Mr. Klinepeter stated that he could not think of anything at this time.

Mr. Correll asked if there were any other thoughts or questions. There were none.

Mr. Klinepeter asked if there is a process for the inspection or review to get the type of pipe in basements in the homes or if residents should be looking at the lines. Ms. Kitcher stated that Veolia would need to get into some of the homes to base the data off initially using swabs or water samples. In some cases the customer is allowed to do the tests but there are discrepancies with this method and Veolia getting into the home is the best practice.

Mr. Klinepeter expressed concern that due to the Borough ordinances the customer was responsible from the home to the curb stop and the utility was responsible from the curb stop to the main and there would likely that 2 different materials will be found from the main to the home. In the last 30-40 years all the service line replacements from the main to the curb will be copper and after that there may be galvanized after that.

Ms. Webb stated that part of the requirements is to identify the utility side and the customer side. DEP is aware that these lines may be different. Historical records and town ordinances are an acceptable background material to make educated guesses for the portions that are utility owned. Mr. Mendinsky stated that HRG has been keeping records of the more recent projects they have been involved with.

Ms. Kitcher stated that one of the best successes on lead service replacements has been Newark, they changed the ordinance to allow access after customers were not giving the access needed. Mr. Klinepeter stated he does not believe that there would be very much push back based on prior meter changes that were done in the past.

Mr. Correll stated that there would be communication with Mr. Klinepeter to have the presentation shown in the upcoming months.

Ms. Webb explained there are additional regulatory updates from the EPA regarding PFAS. Since the last meeting, Pennsylvania has proposed 14 parts per trillion as the MCL for PFAS and 18 parts per trillion for PFOA, in the last month the EPA has proposed a 4 part per trillion MCL for PFAS and a 4 part per trillion MCL for PFOA. These are still in the proposal period for the EPA but anything that the EPA proposes Pennsylvania has to adopt or make stricter. If the EPA proposed regulation goes into effect then those Pennsylvania limits would change. This EPA proposed limit is facing a lot of push back and litigation so it is unknown when it would be finalized. This would require additional treatment techniques if the rule goes through as proposed from EPA

Mr. Klinepeter stated that it would be helpful if the PFAS information was presented at the same time as the lead and copper rule and explained that the Borough tested for PFAS in the past and it is believed that some sites were above 4 ppt. Ms. Webb explained that the testing methods have changed drastically in the last 2-3 years, previously they were unable to get down to 4 ppt. Mr. Correll agreed with Mr. Klinepeter to include the PFAS information with the lead and copper presentation to the Borough Council.

Ms. Webb stated the meters at Univar and Pineford Village have been replaced. The platform for meter reading has been updated to Neptune 360. Ms. Tajali explained that Neptune 360 is the most modern



platform provided by Neptune. The platform is cloud based which allows for more frequent updates. The testing went well and there are no anticipated issues now that the program is live.

Ms. Webb stated that the meter replacement program would be starting in the next month, which would involve changing out small meters from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 inch. Notices to customers will be sent out by Meter Tech who is the contractor that will be working with Veolia for the meter replacements.

Ms. Tajali introduced Ms. Rutigliani as the replacement for Ms. Tajali as she is retiring in July.

Mr. Klinepeter asked if Veolia would be starting the lead and copper inventory during the meter change out. Ms. Webb answered that contractors will be monitoring the service line material in the home to assist in building the inventory, but that it will only be a fraction of the system. Pennsylvania may be requiring 3 different test areas on a single line with test holes being in the yard, but that is not the case for all services.

4. Capital Investment/Engineering Report

Ms. Webb stated the 2018/2021 project is underway with a majority of the wastewater project already completed and will be moving onto the water phase. The 2022/2023 project, HRG has been working to identify the higher priority areas and where past leaks have been on North Union St. and Water St. Veolia was notified by the Borough about an upcoming storm water project. Mr. Klinepeter explained that there was a grant awarded to upgrade W Emaus St. The expected start time for this project is mid-2024 to early 2025. Ms. Webb stated HRG has been looking at this in order to have a collaborative project. Mr. Mendinsky explained that there may be some CCTV work that will need to be done on the sanitary sewer in that area. Mr. Klinepeter stated there have been problems in the past in that area and a manhole was removed due to sinking. Ms. Webb explained that the High Street tank has been completed and was returned to service in January. The Turnpike Tank will be the next one completed with an anticipated start date in June. The North Union Street Tank has some work being done by HRG to develop a plan for a temporary booster system to address the potential pressure issues which would require additional permitting from PA DEP. The response time from PA DEP has improved significantly but should still be taken into account.

Ms. Webb showed some before and after pictures of the High Street Tank project. Ms. Webb asked if there were any questions, there were none.

5. CPI and Impact on Future Rate Increases

Mr. Sugarman explained the CPI-U for the Northeast region was annualized at 4.3% over the prior 12 month period. If the trending continues to go in this direction it will be a lower increase than was seen last year.

6. Royalton Agreement

Mr. Sugarman expressed that he believed Mr. Winfield has received the draft from Allen & Overy with the proposal for Royalton. Mr. Winfield stated the draft was received and is currently under a legal and technical review. Mr. Correll asked if the extension was through June or if it was longer. Mr. Winfield believed it to be a 6 month extension through June 30th, which was confirmed by Mr. Pensyl. Mr. Correll inquired if anything had been communicated to Royalton at this point to which Mr. Winfield replied that he was unaware of any communications. Mr. Correll explained that once the review is complete he stands ready to have a discussion on it and reach out to Royalton. Mr. Klinepeter added that it may be necessary to extend the agreement further due to time constraints



with previously scheduled meetings. Mr. Correll stated it's understood that an extension may be needed depending on Royalton's meeting schedule.

7. Other Business

Ms. Webb inquired about service line inspections to which Mr. Klinepeter suggested an offline meeting to go over the process. Mr. Klinepeter explained that the specifications in the informational packet that Veolia has for the contractors does not pertain to service lines larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and a new specification may be required. Mr. Mendinsky agreed and explained that if the plastic materials are used it is preferred that the next size up is used due to the change in the inside diameter. Mr. Correll agreed that a discussion offline should be held.

8. Community Service

Mr. Halleron stated Veolia will continue to work on securing the funding for the Middletown Area Historical Society sponsorship. Veolia is open to entertain other community involvements and encouraged additional lead time for processing the payment.

9. Next Meeting

Mr. Correll suggested that the next regular meeting be held at 11 AM on June 13th, 2023.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Correll asked for any other business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.