

MILLIKEN WATER TREATMENT FACILITY UNDER REVIEW

The Town of Milliken provides its residents with drinking water through facilities operated by the City of Greeley, the Central Weld County Water District and the Town's own Reverse Osmosis (RO) Treatment Facility. The RO facility treats water pumped from Town wells and discharges the reject water, or brine, from the treatment process into the Little Thompson River under a permit from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). This past summer, the Town received Notices of Violations (NOVs) from the CDPHE for its failure to provide regular reporting on the required testing and monitoring of the brine discharged and for its discharge of Selenium in excess of the amounts allowed under the operating permit for the facility. These NOVs applied only to the brine water discharged into the river – **not the drinking water provided to the Town's customers, which has always met required standards.** The Cease and Desist Orders that accompanied the NOVs required immediate compliance steps to be taken and established a formal review and monitoring process to ensure that the Town becomes compliant with the rules and regulations that govern its operation of the RO Plant.

The Town immediately responded to the NOVs in August by compiling and transmitting the testing data and required reports for the past two years that had been prepared, but not sent, and implemented new procedures for ensuring that these reports would be filed in a timely and comprehensive manner now and in the future. The Town also engaged an outside engineering firm to formally assess the operation of the RO facility and report back to the CDPHE with a full evaluation and set of recommendations for how to address the treatment and discharge of the Town's raw water to ensure long-term compliance with its permits.

The Town also received NOVs for its failure to provide reporting from its wastewater treatment facility, which discharges treated wastewater into the Big Thompson River under a separate permit. These reports and the additional information ordered were also submitted to the state and there are no violations related to the actual operation of the facility.

On December 2, 2014, the Town ceased operation of the RO facility to eliminate the possibility of any discharge violations during the period agreed upon with the CDPHE to assess, develop and implement alternative water supply, treatment, and discharge technologies. During this interim period, the Town is able to meet its drinking water needs through the other two treatment facilities available.

On January 6th, several representatives of the Town, and the engineering firms engaged by Milliken, met with officials of the CDPHE to review the compliance steps taken to date, to discuss the regulatory and treatment alternatives available to the Town to meet its short-term drinking water and augmentation needs, and to demonstrate the Town's commitment to resolving its long-term water treatment issues. The meeting was constructive and informative, the Town's proposed solutions were positively received, and the CDPHE stated its willingness to work with the Town to address these challenges. An action plan has been established to research, evaluate and implement a long-term solution consistent with the Town's recently revised Water and Sewer Master Plan and a series of short-term actions were agreed-upon to provide the Town with opportunities to utilize and manage its water supplies in full compliance with State regulations.

The deficiencies outlined in the NOVs do subject the Town to potential fines for non-compliance. The violations cited carry penalties of up to \$10,000 per day per violation, which is the statutory maximum. The cumulative potential of these fines is in excess of \$8 million. Fortunately, these penalties can be negotiated, and there are provisions for mitigating these fines based on, among other things, the timing and nature of the Town's response to the Corrective Actions mandated, the demonstrated commitment to resolving the issues cited, and the level of investment required by the Town to remedy the situation for the long-term. Accordingly, Town Staff has been prompt, diligent, and comprehensive in its responses since these notices were received in July, and has engaged the level of outside expertise needed to develop long term solutions for treating its water in line with the vision and requirements of the Master Plan.

Town Staff, and new Town Administrator, Kent Brown, has been keeping the Town Board fully apprised of its progress and will continue to inform the community of any consequential events related to this process. In the meantime, the Town is fully capable of meeting its drinking water needs through its remaining outside facilities.



WORD FROM THE MAYOR

2015 will mark “the year of Capital Improvements” for the Town of Milliken. A multitude of infrastructure projects are scheduled for water, sewer, sidewalk, trail and park improvements. Funding for these will come from various sources such as capital improvement funds, the conservation trust fund, impact fees, general funds and grants. Parks have been a high priority of the current Town Board as well as the previous Board and a substantial amount has been allocated to that area. All parks will start to see uniformity in benches, trash cans, etc.

- Sappington Park: shade structures have been installed and tables and trash cans are in place; irrigation and landscaping improvements are scheduled when weather permits.
- Ada Park: playground improvements, shade structure, lighting, basketball court upgrade and BBQ pit.
- Dog Park: equipment, lighting, shade structure, benches, and trash cans
- Lola Park: a permanent restroom, shade structures, lighting, new bridge, trees, benches and trash cans.
- Mountain View Park: restroom refurbish, basketball court upgrade and repairs, bleachers, lighting, benches, and trash cans.

The intent of the Town is to start to care for and upgrade the assets we have for the benefit of all. A synopsis of other capital projects scheduled this year will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

Respectfully, Milt Tokunaga, Mayor MTokunaga@millikenco.gov 970.744.3007

TOWN OF MILLIKEN

POLICE AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency /Urgent
Police Response
(24/7) 911

Non-Emergency Police
Response
(970) 356-1212x4

Milliken Police
(970) 587-2772
M-F 8am-5pm

Town Hall
(970) 587-4331

Town of Milliken Community Trail Survey, Please Take Part

The Town of Milliken is conducting a Community Trail Survey and wants your feedback. To take the survey simply go to the Town of Milliken’s homepage at <http://www.millikenco.gov/> and scroll down to the heading, “We want to hear from you!” The Town in February of 2014 received a Walk and Wheel Grant from Kaiser Permanente in the amount of \$100,000. This funding is being utilized to conduct a community wide survey to determine what actions Milliken can take to better improve trail interconnectivity throughout Town and to hire a consultant to complete a Gap Analysis of the Town’s existing trail system. The grant also provided funding for Milliken’s engineering and design work for Milliken’s portion of the Johnstown - Milliken Trail which will run along on Weld County Road 46

and ½ from the edge of Green Street to Weld County Road 19. The Johnstown section once completed will extend the Milliken-Johnstown trail to Weld County Road 17 and finalize the trail connection between the two Towns.

The Town of Milliken and the rest of the nation are suffering more from an inactivity phenomenon rather than an obesity epidemic. That is why trails are so important to Milliken and its surrounding communities. So, please go to the Town’s home page and take the survey. Your feedback is needed to shape the community’s trail system. **The Town will also be having a Community Meeting from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM to discuss the survey results on February 26, 2015 at the Town Hall Community Room (1101 Broad Street).**

FINANCE/ UTILITY BILLING

PLEASE remember to put your FULL UTILITY ACCOUNT NUMBER on your check or money order. This ensures that your payment will be credited to the proper address. You can also pay your bill online at www.xpressbillpay.com. Thank you

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Mobile Food Pantry

The Town of Milliken is partnering with the Weld Food Bank to provide fresh produce and other grocery items to the community.

Next distribution date:

Wednesday, February 25th
10:30 am-12:30 pm Town Hall

CALENDAR

Mon, Feb 2, 9, 16, & 23 Trash Pick-up

Mon, Feb 9 & 23 Recycle Pick-up

Mon, Mar 2, **Water Commission**, Meeting House 7pm

Wed, Feb 4 & 18 **Planning Commission**, Meeting House 7:00pm

Mon, Feb 9, **Historical Society**, Town Hall 6:00pm

Tues, Feb 10, **MBA**, Town Hall 7:00pm

Wed, Feb 11 & 25 **Town Board**, Meeting House 7:00pm

Thursday, Feb 19, **Milliken Housing Authority**, Meeting House 1:30pm

Thursday, Feb 19, **Bedtime Reading**, Head Start Theme Meeting House 6:30pm

