

## Water Distribution Overview For 2008

The following things were done in 2008

- 132 Water Main repairs
- 3,413 water lines were located
- 307 new water meters were set
- 100 service lines where repaired
- 696 meters were converted to AMR Read

Two inch water on I-30 service rd for Thomas rd. west to 18421 I-30 was replaced with 6inch water main and a fire hydrant was installed.

Two inch water main on West Conway was replaced with six inch water main and fire hydrants installed.

## Wastewater Treatment Overview for 2008

- This facility processed 2,181,404 MGD of wastewater
- The Maximum flow on a given day was 11.71 MGD
- The average flow for the year 2008 was 6.07
- The minimum flow for the year was 3.58 MGD
- We had 60.28 inches of rain for the year 2008.

Max Foote Construction was awarded the bid for the 13.5 million dollar contract and began construction on July 14, 2008.

We are well under way on the construction of the new wastewater treatment addition. This plant has been designed to meet future permit conditions such as phosphorus and nitrates.

I and my crew are excited about the addition of this new 5 mgd activated sludge oxidation ditch. This will replace the older less efficient Rotating Biological Contactor Plants the first one built in 1975 and the next plant built in 1986 which were designed to treat a different set of standards under previous permits. The addition of this new treatment will modernize this facility and it mirrors the activated sludge oxidation ditch in use now which is the 3.3 mgd addition built in 1996.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant went through the re-permitting process in 2008 with the help of McClelland Engineering and October 1, 2008 we received the new five year National Pollutant Discharge Elimination permit for this facility.

The facility at this time is rated as a 6.3 mgd treatment plant this addition when it is put into operation will give us the capability to treat 8.3 mgd at this treatment facility and better serve the needs of the citizens of Benton.

## Water Purification Plant Overview For 2008

In 2008 the Benton Water Plant produced 2,265,243,000 gallons of water. Our peak day was on August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008 with a total of 10,644,000 gallons. We had five raw water pumps rebuilt and or

replaced at our pump station on the Saline River. These repairs were very expensive at close to \$20,000 each. The large cranes needed to pull and reinstall these pumps added substantially to the total cost of the projects as well.

Repairs to Chenault Reservoir were completed and the reservoir is just about full. We have been able to utilize the reservoir throughout the entire repair process.

In September we began using a product that should help reduce disinfection by-products in our system. This product is Sodium Permanganate and is added at a very small dose. It has already shown some promising results in our THM and HAA testing.

We have added new filter media to 9 of our 12 filters to improve filter performance. This consisted of 36 tons of anthracite media. The proper depth of media in the filters helps to keep them running within compliance of all regulations.

Chemical costs have risen substantially over the past few years. There have also been fuel surcharges etc. on deliveries since fuel prices were so high. So in January 2009 we have already started scheduling chemical companies to do testing on different, possibly cheaper, chemicals that will be effective on our type of water source. These tests can take several months for each vendor to find the proper chemistry needed in our particular situation.

We are looking forward to a productive 2009. We have a lot of painting activities scheduled to perform in the coming year such as the Raw Water Intake Structures and the Adrian Street Tank, while still continuing with our routine maintenance and providing a high quality water supply for all of our citizens.

## Purchasing Overview for 2009

The purchasing dept. works continuously with [fourteen depts. in](#) the City of Benton and Benton Utilities. This dept. guides them in keeping their purchasing within guidelines set forth by the rules and regulations outlined by city ordinances and the laws governed by the State of Arkansas. A total of 4,282 purchase orders were issued in 2008.

While guiding purchases is our primary goal, there are many other responsibilities assigned to this dept. [such as dispatching the Utilities depts.](#) Each year, after the budgets are passed, we usually solicit bids for all new equipment to be purchased that year. We also maintain the water, electric and central stores divisions of inventory, and annually, we except quotes for inventory items in our warehouses to keep our spending as frugal as possible.

In 2009, we are looking forward to conducting the annual misc. equipment auction where merchandise and equipment that is no longer utilized by our organization can be legally disposed of publicly. We are looking forward to combining the current inventory warehouses into one warehouse location.

## Electric Department Overview for 2008

1. We now have in place a one-shot order. This document enables our lineman to work under safer conditions while maintaining reliable customer service.
2. Developed an outage restoration and personnel location plan.
3. After 28 years, Mr. Will LaSage, Electric Department Manager decided to retire and Mr.

Jeff Barnett became Electric Department Supervisor. The Electric Department hired a new electrical engineer in May, Mr. Kirk Hall to help with designing new electrical infrastructure.

Things we hope to accomplish in '09

1. Relocate overhead power lines in the Wellington point sub-division as well as Hidden Valley and Valley View.
2. Build on and improve the existing apprenticeship program for linemen.
3. Develop an identification system to accurately locate equipment such as GOAB's and pole mounted breakers in the field.
4. Decrease over-time spending.
5. Decrease line-loss

## Projects for 2008

During the year of 2008 we completed all but one of the projects that were in the original \$26.5 million bond for wastewater improvements.

The new 5 mgd wastewater treatment expansion project is slated to be completed by mid-October 2009. This plant was originally planned to be completed in December 2009. The project is ahead of schedule and close to budget.

In 2008, the utilities department installed approximately 8 miles of fiber optic cable. The purpose of this new cable was to install cameras at all substations as well as the new EQ basin. This will also allow us to interconnect all departments in the utility department.

A new gravity sewer line was completed from the wastewater treatment plant to I-30.

A sewer force main from Exit 144 to Airline Drive was completed.

Christy Acres sewer line project was approved in 2008 and construction is underway.

The design for repairs due to April floods have been completed and construction began early this year. A second FEMA project due to the September floods is under design and construction could begin in early spring.

## Wastewater Collections Overview for 2008

36,065.5 feet of old and new sewer lines were checked with the camera truck

We had 3,853 locates in 2008

We had 244 new service connections

There were 122 service call outs in 2008

The Lift station crew kept 144 pump stations up and running

Pipe bursting - 2, 028 feet of old pipe from 6" pipe to 12" pipe were pipe bursted in the wastewater collections system

## Billing Department Overview for 2008

What's new in 2008:

### On Line Credit Card Bill Pay

Telecheck Verification which will allow us to reduce returned checks by verifying validity of check at the time it is presented to the cashier(s).

Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity Plan allows us to be prepared for a disaster and have a backup plan should we have a disaster that would affect our business.

### Bringing Bill Printing and Mailing in house

Why bring bill printing in house? The money spent to produce bills should be spent in our own community. The ability to produce duplicate or corrected bills and customers receive their bills within 2 days of billing.