



CITY OF MANITOWOC

WISCONSIN, USA

www.manitowoc.org

August 9, 2021

TO: Town of Manitowoc Board and Residents

FROM: City of Manitowoc

RE: Project Update on the Newton Gravel Pit

The City of Manitowoc owns the property on Hecker Road in the Town of Newton commonly known as the Former Newton Gravel Pit. In the 1960s and 1970s, this property was used by local industry to dispose of waste products from their operations. The City of Manitowoc and Newell Brands, Inc., the successor to Mirro Aluminum, have been identified as the responsible parties for this site by the Wisconsin DNR. The City has been working with the DNR since 1991 to address the necessary environmental remediation at the site. In 2013, the City became aware of the offsite migration of volatile organic compounds, or VOCs.

The City has tested over 300 potable wells for VOC impacts in an area from Hecker Road east to Lake Michigan. VOC impacts are generally limited to 1,2-dichloroethene and vinyl chloride. There have been no enforcement standard exceedances for 1,2-dichloroethene. At properties where there has been an enforcement standard exceedance for vinyl chloride, the City has provided an immediate temporary source of clean and safe drinking water as it works with the Wisconsin DNR to provide a permanent source of drinking water. If you live in the area the City has sampled and you have not yet been sampled, please contact Karen Dorow at the City at 686-6514.

The City and Manitowoc Public Utilities have plans to install a water main to address the drinking water contamination issues. In order to that, a number of steps need to be taken, including:

- Design of the water main
- Public Service Commission approval to construct a water main outside of City limits
- Obtaining financing for construction
- Reaching intergovernmental agreements with the townships to install water mains
- DNR approval of the water main as a remedial solution
- MPU Commission approval to construct the water main
- Public bidding of the water main in accordance with Wisconsin law
- Manitowoc Common Council approval of the water main.

The City has applied for funding from the State of Wisconsin to finance the water main, but cannot take further action until the Public Service Commission approves the project. They are tentatively scheduled to

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review the project again in October 2021. The City, Manitowoc Public Utilities, and the Wisconsin DNR continue to work together to progress towards the water main.

The City will also need the cooperation of the Town of Manitowoc and Town of Newton to construct the water main. The City will need to execute intergovernmental agreements with both townships for permission to construct the water main in the town.

Prior to tonight's meeting, the City reached out to the Town to see if there were any questions. Town Clerk Geri Gilbert was gracious enough to collect questions from the Town Board and residents, and we are providing written answers as a reference for Town residents to use after tonight's meeting.

How will the City and Manitowoc Public Utilities communicate with affected residents? What about non-affected residents?

The City will provide periodic mailings as new information becomes available. The City also will continue to sample wells according to the Potable Well Sampling Schedule approved by the Wisconsin DNR. The City will also provide frequent updates on the City website.

How is it determined what Town residents will be connected to City water?

Only properties with detections in exceedance of the State of Wisconsin's established standards will be allowed to connect to the water main. Property owners are not obligated to connect, but the City will not provide an alternate permanent drinking water source other than the water main to homeowners who refuse to connect.

Who will pay for the water main construction and connections?

The City will pay for the construction of the water main, the lateral running from the main to the house, the connection to the house, and abandonment of the existing well. Property owners are responsible for any plumbing within the house.

What is required of residents who connect?

Residents who connect to the proposed water main would pay the MPU retail water rate as established by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

Who pays for well testing while we wait for water main approval?

The City will continue ongoing testing in the area based on the DNR-approved plan at no cost to property owners.

How often will my property be tested?

The frequency of testing is based on proximity to affected areas. There is a five-year plan approved by the DNR for sampling that is updated annually. Some properties may be tested several times a year, and some may be tested every three to five years. The City has a map showing sampling frequency that can be provided to homeowners upon request.



What method of construction will be used to build the water mains?

In general, the City and MPU are planning for open cut construction. Some sections may be directional bored to avoid damage to roadways. Fire hydrants will be placed approximately every 600 feet, in accordance with State guidelines.

Will current easements be followed?

Whenever possible, the City will follow existing roadway easements. If a new easement is required, the City will obtain it from the appropriate property owner.

Who will restore my landscaping from construction of the water main or water connection?

The City will pay for landscaping restoration to current conditions. Property conditions will be documented before construction.

How will the cost of water for Town residents be determined?

Water rates for public utilities are set by the Public Service Commission.

Will there be fees to recover the cost of the installation?

The City is working diligently to recover expenses from Newell Rubbermaid, and has no plans to charge affected property owners for construction of the water main.

How will allegations of perceived medical or health problems related to the contaminated wells be handled?

City employees are willing to discuss these issues with property owners, or provide contacts at the Wisconsin DNR or Department of Health Services if residents would like to discuss with an impartial source.

Will wells that are replaced with water main be capped off?

Yes, the Wisconsin DNR requires this.

Why does City water need to be paid for by town residents when the City is responsible for this dilemma?

The City will be paying for the water main, connection to the property, well abandonment, and landscape restoration. The total cost to the City for the complete water main is estimated at approximately \$9,000,000 for all the phases. Property owners will be responsible for MPU water bills, which are some of the lowest in the state, just as the property owner was previously responsible for their well construction and maintenance.

Will the roads be resurfaced during this process at the expense of the City?

No. Most work will be done in the ditch area. Any disturbances to the road will be restored by the City, but the City will not be resurfacing town roads.

When will the water main be installed?

The City is waiting for the Public Service Commission to approve project construction. Plans were to install the water main in 2021, but with the PSC approval still pending, construction will likely not start until Spring 2022.



If our home is sold during this process, will the new owners be grandfathered in?

If an impacted property is sold during the approval process or construction, the City will continue to supply bottled water to the new owners and they will still be eligible to connect to the water main.

What happens if our property is not impacted now, but becomes impacted in the future? Who will pay for the water main connection and installation?

Once the water main is installed, any impacted property will be eligible to connect. If a property is not eligible at the time of construction and contamination is later detected, that property owner will be able to connect under the same criteria as current property owners.

If you have additional questions about the site, please reach out to one of the contacts below.

DNR Remediation & Redevelopment Program, Tauren Beggs (920) 510-3472

DNR Drinking Water & Groundwater Program, Jim Kasdorf (920) 387-7872

Wisconsin Department of Health, Nathan Kloczko (608) 867-4448

Manitowoc County Health Department, (920) 683-4155

City of Manitowoc

Property Owner Inquiries: Karen Dorow (920) 686-6550

Media Inquiries: Kathleen McDaniel (920) 686-6990