

Belton Water Plant Power Outage

Press Release May 9, 2022

9am update

At approximately 1:10pm yesterday afternoon all electrical power was lost at the Belton Water Treatment Plant. Power was restored to the plant at approximately 4:30pm yesterday. This plant, operated by Bell County WCID 1 (WCID 1) provides water service to the City of Belton, City of Nolanville, City of Harker Heights, City of Killeen, City of Copperas Cove, Fort Hood Military Reservation and 439 Water Supply Corporation.

The power loss caused subsequent loss of water flow and pressure to ALL of the entities served by WCID 1. There are 2 major consumer impacts caused by the loss of pressure and flow;

- 1) Boil Water Notice - The loss of pressure and flow for a sustained period can create an opportunity for bacteriological contamination. To assure water is safe for consumption, the water must be boiled as prescribed by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality until the water supply and delivery system is deemed safe as evidenced by successful e-coli sampling and testing. This sampling needs to occur once service levels have returned to normal and can be sustained. All people receiving water from WCID 1 including the residents of Belton, Copperas Cove, Nolanville, Harker Heights, Killeen, 439 Water Supply Corporation and Fort Hood are advised to boil water for all potable consumption now.
- 2) Water use restrictions - At this time WCID 1 is asking all customers to conserve as much water as possible for at least the next 24 hours. Currently, the Belton Water Treatment Plant is producing at a rate of 47 million gallons per day. Our typical usage for mid-May is about 35 million gallons per day, so we're slowly gaining ground with depleted storage levels and our disinfectant levels leaving the plant are excellent at this time at 4 milligrams per liter. Staff will be working to bring on more treatment units today with the goal of reaching a 60 million gallons per day production rate by 6pm today.

The customer demand for water will dictate how long storages remain at below normal levels. The more that is conserved now, the quicker we can ease the water restrictions and commence sample collection to lift the boil water advisory. With 47 million gallons per day leaving the plant, we should be seeing steady gains throughout, but we're seeing very modest gains due to usage. For questions regarding your water conservation requirements or questions about the boil order please contact officials from your city or retail water supplier. For questions related to the status of the WCID 1 water treatment system, please contact Ricky Garrett, Bell County WCID 1 General Manager at 254-501-9243.