

## **Belton Water Plant Power Outage**

May 9, 2022

*2pm 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. However, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has affirmed that each entity is responsible for making the determination of whether a boil water advisory should be in effect. Water from WCID 1 is delivered through the customer meters and directly into the customers water storage tanks. The water quality beyond the customer meter is monitored and managed by each receiving customer. To find out if you are under a boil water advisory, please check with your retail water supplier. If you live within the city limits of Belton, Copperas Cove, Harker Heights, or Killeen, you would need to contact officials from those cities. If you live in Nolanville, you would contact Bell County WCID 3. If you reside in the unincorporated area between Belton and Nolanville, you would contact 439 Water Supply Corporation.
- 2) Water use restrictions - At this time WCID 1 is asking all customers to conserve as much water as possible until noon tomorrow. 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. We've asked each of our customers to try and reach a 50% reduction. Each entity has their

own unique drought contingency plan.

Current activities;

- Samples are being collected, or have been collected from our delivery system and will be delivered to the Waco Environmental lab for testing.
- Disinfectant residual is also being monitored in our delivery system. We've b
- Another treatment train is being filled and will be in service soon allowing our flow to increase to about 60 million gallons per day.

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.