

Mountain Water and Sanitation District April 2007

Update on Radionuclide Removal

The District has been working with two engineering firms to design a system to remove radionuclides from the drinking water. The plant design for wells that feed into the main water storage tank is nearing completion, and construction is expected to begin this summer.

Cost of the system is about \$616,000, and the District directors believe MWSD will be able to fund it out of current reserves rather than floating bonds and incurring debt as approved by the voters last May. The District reserves the right to issue bonds in the future if additional funding is needed.

The water treatment system involves the installation of a small prefabricated building to house equipment that will treat the water using a media that removes uranium. This media will be changed on a regular basis through a contract with WRT, a consulting firm. Preliminary plans for this process have received approval from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The District will continue to obtain the appropriate permits from state and county authorities as the project progresses.

The District is also working on design and approvals for similar, but smaller treatment systems to be installed at individual wells that have higher than permitted levels of uranium.

State Grants District Extension on Ammonia Treatment

You can fight City Hall! In order to get the District's wastewater permit renewed, the State required that we meet strict new ammonia guidelines on our wastewater discharge because it goes into an unnamed tributary of Gooseberry Gulch. The cost of meeting these standards is between \$700,000 and \$3.5 million according to preliminary engineering estimates.

Based on resident input at our January 2006 public meeting, the District decided to hire a consulting firm to study the tributary and determine whether indeed there is any aquatic life that is potentially endangered by our effluent. The District appealed to the state to get a temporary extension on meeting the ammonia removal requirements while we conduct the study. On March 13, 2007, Attorney Dave Lindholm appeared before The State Water Quality Commission, and the commission granted our request for an extension until 2010.

Based on preliminary results, the Board of Directors believes the study will show that Mountain Water should be granted site-specific ammonia regulations since there is no sign of aquatic life in this tributary. By the time our effluent reaches Gooseberry Gulch, it is so diluted that ammonia is not a factor for any fish. If the District can get some relief on the ammonia standards, it will save taxpayers considerable amount of money.

No Outdoor Watering...By Court Order!

Although we had a wet winter, MWSD is unable to allow outside watering anywhere in the District. The restriction is based on a water court ruling.

The decree issued in 1983 by Colorado District Court, Water Division, granting MWSD water rights, states, "The District shall enact and enforce rules and regulations prohibiting outside irrigation, street cleaning and car washing."

To ensure adequate water for the health and safety of all families, no water may be drawn from District sources through garden hoses.

