

Prior Council Action, Project Background, Schedules

McAllister Wellfield and Transmission Main Projects

Prior Council Action:

City Council has taken numerous actions over many years related to the McAllister Wellfield and Transmission main project. Most recently, on August 14, 2012, Council awarded the construction contract for drilling and testing wells at the new Wellfield. And, on July 10, 2012, Council awarded the construction contract for the McAllister Transmission Main project. Also, on January 3, 2012 Ted Sturdevant, Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology presented Council with the approved Water rights for the McAllister Wellfield.

Background:

Historic Partnership - Through a cooperative agreement signed in 2008, the City of Olympia and the Nisqually Indian Tribe are jointly pursuing development of the McAllister Wellfield, a more protected and productive supply of drinking water for both communities. The McAllister Wellfield will replace McAllister Springs as Olympia's main supply of drinking water. The Wellfield is located approximately a mile southeast of McAllister Springs and eight miles east of Olympia.

Transfer of Water Rights - In 1995, due to concerns over the vulnerability of McAllister Springs and costly water quality treatment requirements, the City formally requested a transfer of its water rights from McAllister Springs (and nearby Abbott Springs) to the McAllister Wellfield. In support of the water right application, the City subsequently conducted an extensive study on groundwater pumping, worked with regional partners on mitigation strategies across two watersheds, and reached two groundbreaking agreements with neighboring Tribes. Nearly 17 years later, in early January 2012, the Department of Ecology issued water rights for the McAllister Wellfield, marking a historic moment for the City and the Nisqually Tribe.

Development in Three Phases - Ecology approved developing the water rights in three phases, with full development by 2050.

- **Phase 1** includes drilling one new well and rehabilitating two existing wells drilled in the late 1990s. Phase 1 will replace the 16 million gallons per day (MGD) capacity of McAllister Springs. We will complete construction of Phase 1 in 2014. Phase 1 will provide sufficient water to meet summer water demands until approximately 2030.
- **Phase 2** well supplies will come on-line in approximately 2030. It will increase production levels to 19.6 MGD for the City and 0.5 MGD for the Nisqually Tribe.
- **Phase 3**, scheduled for completion by 2050, will raise production to 23 MGD for Olympia and 3 MGD for the Tribe, thereby maximizing full use of the water rights.

Project Schedules:

Phase 1

Transmission Main - Construction of a new 36-inch diameter transmission main, from the tie-in point at the Springs to the Wellfield (approximately 4000 feet), was completed in April of 2013.

Well Drilling and Rehabilitation - Drilled a new 24-inch diameter well capable of producing 6,000 gallons per minute (gpm) and rehabilitation of two existing wells at the Wellfield, were completed in February of 2013. This phase will produce approximately 11,000 gpm, which is our 16 MGD target for phase 1.

Wellfield Buildings - Construction of the Wellfield buildings, pipe connections, equipment, disinfection system, and well pump installation will take place from fall 2013 to summer 2014. This contract will bring the Wellfield water on-line to provide water for the City's customers.

Corrosion Control Facility - In addition, construction of a Corrosion Control Facility, at the Meridian Reservoirs, will begin in late 2014 or 2015. The facility will use aeration (a non-chemical treatment approach using blown air) to raise the pH of the Wellfield water. Raising the pH will reduce corrosion of household piping, which can cause lead and copper to leach into the water. The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires the City take action to raise the system pH to an optimum level to prevent pipe corrosion.