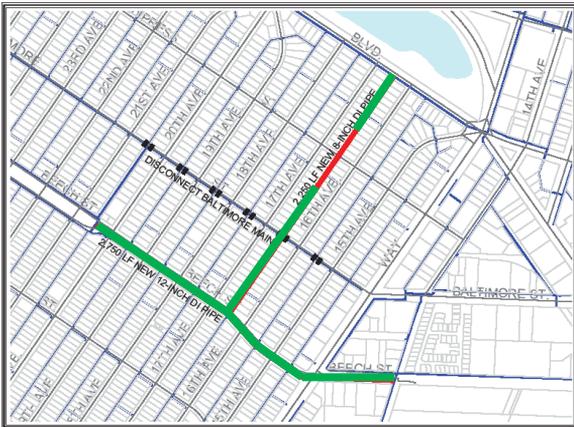


News

From the Well

WATER UTILITY UPDATES FOR CITY OF LONGVIEW CUSTOMERS

Freezing weather has not slowed progress on the emergency water line replacement project. Crews continue to work from both ends of the alley between 16th and 17th Avenues and have installed roughly 1,500-ft of new 8" main. The first block between Beech Street and Baltimore was successfully pressure tested and disinfected last week. Tomorrow, crews will begin moving 26 services in that block over to the new main. A second block of services should be moved over to the new main by the end of the year.



Project Map Showing Completed Work in Green

Results of the softening evaluation are still very preliminary and we are doing more tests to take a closer look at pellet softening, the least costly softening process. Ion exchange can eliminate hardness (calcium and magnesium) completely, but because it replaces those minerals with sodium, the total dissolved solids is the same or higher. **This means residential water softeners would not reduce white spotting unless they use reverse osmosis technology.**



Typical Spotting Without Additional Treatment



Continued Spotting with Hardness Removal Only



Spotting with Both Hardness and Silica Removed

Preliminary tile testing indicates white spotting is not eliminated with softening alone because both hardness and silica contribute to the issue. Silica removal is possible but requires activated alumina filtration or nano-filtration treatment of the majority of the flow leaving the Mint Farm Regional Water Treatment Plant. Budgetary costs for softening and silica removal options will be presented to the Longview City Council in January 2014 to decide if and what kind of additional treatment should be pursued.

Weekly distribution system sampling is ongoing and results are promising. Stable or declining levels of soluble iron and manganese indicate most of the distribution system is stabilizing. The second pipe loop using water main taken from the alley between 16th and 17th Avenues was built last week and is being monitored this week to observe how it responds when water with stable chlorine levels flow through it. If the pipe loop stabilizes quickly, that further confirms the water quality issues experienced in the Baltimore Area are due to legacy iron and manganese scale which has accumulated in the cast iron water mains over several decades.

Did You Know?

The average person in the United States uses about 90 gallons of water every day. Most is used to bathe, flush toilets, water lawns and wash dishes, clothes and cars. Only 1% of water treated to drinking water standards is actually consumed. Nearly 14% is never even used – it leaks down the drain.

To report a water quality complaint, click on the ASK Longview button at www.mylongview.com or call 442-5700. We appreciate your patience as we work through these temporary problems.

