



Customer Pipeline

Emerald Coast Utilities Authority

Finally Closed: Main Street Wastewater Treatment Plant Ceases Operations!

ECUA's "grand-daddy" Main Street Wastewater Treatment Plant (MSWWTP) was officially taken off-line, Thursday, April 28, at 10:30am CDT. ECUA Board members shut down a series of power switches to mark the completion of the facility's operations.

On December 2, 2010, ECUA's Board dedicated the new, \$316-million Central Water Reclamation Facility (CWRP) – the largest public works project in the history of Escambia County. A full 15 miles north of the existing MSWWTP, the CWRP is well above the flood plain and is built to resist hurricane-force winds, helping to ensure the facility will provide wastewater services during conditions that crippled MSWWTP during Hurricane Ivan in 2004. The CWRP is fully operational and is providing reclaimed water to Gulf Power and International Paper for reuse at their respective sites.

Originally constructed by the City of Pensacola in 1937 between Main and Government Streets, the MSWWTP underwent numerous expansions in the 1970s and mid-1990s as it grew to keep pace with the demands of the community and environmental regulations. Now, after 74 years of serving as our area's wastewater treatment workhorse, it is finally shut-down.

Current plans anticipate the timeframe for dismantling the facility to be approximately 9 to 12 months, once the ECUA Board awards the winning contractor bid in the early summer of 2011.

AFTER 74 YEARS OF SERVING AS OUR COMMUNITY'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKHORSE, THE MAIN STREET PLANT IS FINALLY CLOSED!



Did You Know?

The ECUA's Customer Service Call Center received and answered 280,000 phone calls in 2010? Our Customer Service representatives are always ready to help. Give them a call if you have any questions or need specific information

Call Before You DIG

Underground lines, both on and off your property, can be easily damaged by digging equipment.

To ensure personal and community safety, all area utilities work with a free "line locator" service to help you spot utility lines before you dig. In our area, the number to call is:



1-800-432-4770

It is important to call at least 48 hours in advance so that all of the utility companies affected by your project may be contacted for verification.

*From Back to Front:
Dr. Larry N. Walker,
District 5; ECUA Board
Chairman, Elvin McCorvey;
Ms. Lois Benson, District
2; Ms. Elizabeth Campbell,
District 1.
Mr. Dale Perkins,
ECUA Vice-
Chairman and
District 4 Representative
was present for the event but
unavailable for the picture.*



2011 Fiesta Parade First Outing for ECUA's "ECO-MACHINE"

The 62nd annual Fiesta of Five Flags, "Pen Air Federal Credit Union Fiesta Day Parade," rolls in downtown Pensacola, on Thursday, June 9, at 6:30pm*. The 2011 event will feature the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority's (ECUA) newest environmental item, a Peterbilt Model 320 HLA (Hydraulic Launch Assist) Hybrid sanitation truck, better known as the "ECO-Machine."

The new environmental truck is considerably quieter when compared to standard sanitation trucks in its daily stop, pick-up, and go operations. The vehicle delivers a significant thirty to forty percent reductions in emissions, and a thirty percent improvement in fuel economy. Even better, brake-related maintenance costs are significantly reduced, doubling the brakes' life expectancy while using biodegradable hydraulic oil, which is friendlier to the environment.



In the Fall of 2010, the ECUA conducted an art contest designed to showcase environmental awareness. All entries were



judged on creativity, originality and quality. Local photographer, Cheryl Casey of Beulah, Florida, submitted the winning design titled, "A Greener Today, A Cleaner Tomorrow." As the winner, Ms. Casey's design now appears on the "ECO-Machine" sanitation truck and on the ECUA website.

ECUA Director of Sanitation Randy Rudd says, "During the first year, ECUA will operate this single vehicle, while gathering performance and maintenance data. We'll then use this information to compare the hydraulic hybrid system against other hybrid alternatives, and compressed natural gas-powered vehicles." The ECUA is also currently evaluating the costs and operational issues involved before additional units are procured.

So, keep an eye out for our Eco-Machine now that it's hitting the streets, and if you get out to the Fiesta parade, give us a wave!

Prescription Drug Round-Up a Resounding Success

The ECUA and the Escambia County Sheriff's Office (ESCO), in coordination with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Walgreens, teamed-up on Saturday, April 30, to raise awareness of a growing concern: the improper disposal of unwanted prescription medications.

The "Prescription Drug Round-Up" was held at six local Walgreens, and four ESCO Precinct locations, yielding over 125 pounds of expired, unwanted or unused pharmaceutically-controlled substances and over-the-counter medications. Valued at an estimated half million dollars, the amassed pharmaceuticals are now headed for proper destruction and disposal.

The Environmental Protection Agency has been studying unused pharmaceutical disposal practices, prompted by the concern that potentially large amounts of pharmaceuticals are being flushed or disposed of down household drains, ultimately ending up in rivers, streams and coastal waters. Pharmaceuticals are being discovered in our nation's waters at very low concentrations, and to date, no evidence has been found on human health effects or in the environment.



While the sources of these pharmaceuticals may be numerous, the good news is the ECUA water is safe. Why? The Authority doesn't draw our water supply from surface waters, such as streams or lakes. We have 32 active wells drawing our water from the Sand-and-Gravel Aquifer, not surface water.



* We understand that, due to the distribution schedule of this newsletter, some of our customers will receive this information after the June 9 event.