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Floating Solar Comes to Ohio – Del-Co Water Installs Ohio’s first FPV



In Delaware County, Ohio's fastest growing county for the better part of the past two decades, land is quite literally at a premium. So, when Del-Co Water decided to explore installing solar power to augment its energy needs, it wasn't apparent where to look for ground. Then, as members of Del-Co's Environmental Sustainability Committee brainstormed ideas, the idea of floating solar was discussed. Floating solar has been utilized in other parts of the United States; why not bring it to Ohio someone asked? And thus began the process of bringing FPV (floating solar photovoltaic) to Ohio!

For the FPV, Del-Co selected a product from Ciel & Terre, the Hydrelío®. The Hydrelío® floating system is comprised of solar cells, HDPE plastic floats, mooring lines, and anchors. Fully functional, the FPV is a 1.2-megawatt installation that will cover nearly 3 acres on Del-Co's Upground Reservoir, providing an annual energy production of 1.6-gigawatt hours. The FPV is expected to provide about half of the energy needs of the Olentangy Water Treatment Plant.

— Jeff Kauffman, Communications and Compliance Director

Rising Costs, Sustainability, Reliability, and Water Rates

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing high quality water services, we want to inform you about important changes to our water rates. After careful consideration and thorough analysis, it has been determined that a rate increase is necessary. The minimum fee for residential service will increase by \$3.00 per month, along with a modest adjustment to volumetric rates for an aggregate increase of 8%.

This change will be effective on water bills starting May 1, 2024. The decision to increase the water rates are driven by several factors essential for maintaining and

enhancing water services. The existing infrastructure requires upgrades to meet new regulations and usage patterns of customers/members. In addition, continuous maintenance is required to ensure a consistent and uninterrupted water supply. This is a fundamental aspect of our commitment to providing reliable and high quality water services.

Secondly, we are confronted with rising operational costs, a common challenge among utilities. These costs are comprised of increasing expenses associated with energy, treatment chemicals, inflation, and other operational

and maintenance tasks. The rate increase is not solely about addressing immediate needs; it is a strategic move toward long-term sustainability. We aim to ensure that our water resources are managed effectively and remain sustainable for future generations.

Please visit our website to find additional information. Thank you for your understanding and continued support. Together, we are ensuring our community a secure and sustainable water future.

— Kris Dye, Chief Business Officer

Join our Team!

With Del-Co's continued growth, there is an ongoing need to attract talented individuals who can help support the company's mission. Are you service-minded? Looking for an opportunity for professional growth and competitive benefits? If so, we would love to have you consider joining our team, where we believe in fostering a collaborative and inclusive work environment where everyone's contributions are valued. Please visit us at Delcower.org and take a look at our Careers page. We look forward to reviewing your application and getting to know you better!

Save the Date - Annual Meeting!

Del-Co Water will hold its annual business meeting on **July 18th, 2024**. Come hear about the significant work being done by your drinking water provider!

Construction Continues of Del-Co's Three New Water Tanks



Del-Co continues to progress on the construction of three new elevated water tanks being constructed by Caldwell Tanks, Inc. The first water tower is in Genoa Township, near the intersection of S.R. 3 and Lewis Center Road. It will become the largest water tower on Del-Co's system – with a capacity of two million gallons! Construction of the new water tower is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2024. The water tower will provide additional capacity for the customers in the Genoa Township region – helping to maintain the high level of service that Del-Co Water has established for its customers, particularly during the summer months when water demands are at their highest.

Progress also continues for the Center Village Tank #2 in Harlem Township, and the US 36 Tank in Berlin Township. Both of these sites have foundations completed and will soon be moving on to the vertical pedestal construction. These towers are anticipated to be completed in 2025.

— Judy Anderson, Project Engineer

Del-Co's Looking "SHARP"



We're thrilled to share some exciting news with you – our Ralph E. Scott Water Treatment Plant, located in Lewis Center, is Ohio's first drinking water facility to achieve SHARP certification from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). SHARP stands for 'Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program' and this achievement is a testament to our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace for our employees.

What is SHARP? It is going above and beyond the minimum safety standards. That means improving ergonomics, safer best practices, and providing the safest work environment possible. What does this mean for you, our valued customers? It means that

when you turn on your tap, you can trust that the water coming out is not only clean and reliable, but also produced by a team that prioritizes safety above all else. Achieving SHARP certification is no small feat, and it's all thanks to the hard work and dedication of our employees who make safety a top priority every day.

As we celebrate this achievement, we want to thank you, our customers, who drive us to be the best we can be. We are committed to maintaining this culture of safety and excellence as we continue to serve you and our community. We look forward to providing you with safe, reliable water services for years to come.

— Ben Rogers, Chief Operator

Del-Co participates in PFAS Testing

PFAS chemicals, also commonly referred to as "forever chemicals," have been in the news recently. This story delves into the world of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), shedding light on their persistence in our environment and our ongoing efforts to address drinking water impacts. PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that, because of their unique properties, such as water and oil resistance, have been used in products like non-stick cookware, food packaging, and firefighting foams.

One of the most concerning aspects of PFAS is their persistence in the environment. These compounds are resistant to degradation and because they can be present in water resources, all large drinking water systems are required to

test for them as part of the US EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. Del-Co is currently testing for 29 PFAS compounds and has detected five different compounds at concentrations ranging from 0.0031 ug/L to 0.0089 ug/L. Because of these detections, Del-Co Water is proactively exploring advanced treatment methods to try and stay ahead of the anticipated US EPA regulations. The advanced treatment method chosen was granular activated carbon (GAC). From August 2023 to January 2024, we conducted a pilot study to assess the efficacy of various types of GAC filters in removing PFAS compounds. This sampling phase has concluded, and we are currently awaiting the comprehensive report before proceeding with

the next phase of upgrading our treatment plant with activated carbon.

While progress has been made in understanding and addressing PFAS issues, work remains to be done in the areas of research, regulatory action, and community engagement – all of which are essential in addressing the health and environmental impacts related to PFAS. To learn more about PFAS, visit the water quality section of our website. Additionally, you can find our routine water quality data on the 2023 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) on the website at: <https://delcowater.org/waterquality/>. PFAS will also be addressed at the 2024 Annual Meeting on July 18, 2024.

— Erik McEown, Water Quality Technician