

On the WATER Front

A Message from Ed Archuleta, P.E., President/CEO

December 2011



Making Certain

You might not give much thought to where your water comes from or how it makes its way to your faucet. You trust us to have water available whenever you need it, and you need it 24 hours a day.

Our water system includes four water treatment plants and 2,500 miles of pipelines. We have reservoirs, booster stations and more than 175 wells. We send water up the mountain and into valleys, and we expend considerable resources to ensure that the system functions as it should.

Power supply is very reliable in El Paso and we get infrequent interruptions causing minor problems. However, to better prepare us for possible extended power outages, we need additional standby power.

This summer, staff worked with engineering consultants Black & Veatch to determine how much standby power would be needed to serve customers during power disruptions. Both water and wastewater service can be affected by wind, fire, freezing temperatures and terrorism, to name a few. Some events can be beyond the control of water and power utilities.



Backup generators will keep these pumps working during extended power outages.

Recommendations

After visiting more than 200 EPWU facilities, Black & Veatch outlined the steps needed to serve customers during an extended power outage. This includes placing diesel-engine generators at specified production wells, booster stations and water treatment plants.

The recommendations were approved at the Dec. 14 Public Service Board meeting. The funds are budgeted for fiscal year 2012-13 and we will begin installations next year. This is where we are in our development as a utility and where we ought to be. It's called system reliability.



The new generators will ensure that these reservoirs contain water 24/7.

On the Water Front is a publication of El Paso Water Utilities. If you have any comments or questions contact Christina Montoya at 915.594.5596 or by email at cmontoya@epwu.org

