

E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant Community Newsletter

September 2020

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT WATER, WASTEWATER & DRAINAGE UTILITIES



As EPCOR plans for the long-term reliability of our water, wastewater and drainage systems, we want to hear from Edmontonians about what they value most from their utilities. Your input will help us prioritize the work we do over the

next five years, and how we manage costs associated with this work through rates. Complete the online survey at epcor.com/watersurvey.

GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS

In our March 2020 newsletter, we described our plans to install groundwater monitoring wells around the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant. Since that time, we have completed this work. Wells have been installed in nine locations around the plant and we are now monitoring both shallow and deep groundwater flows in these areas.

These wells will stay in place until mid-2022 so that we can record a variety of ground saturation conditions (e.g. wet, frozen and dry) typically experienced in this area and use this data to inform our operational plans.

LEARN MORE

We have updated our website with information related to operations and ongoing projects at the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant. If you are interested in learning more, go to: epcor.com/elsmith

CONTACT US

Your questions, feedback and input are important to us. For more information about the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant or the information included in this newsletter, please contact us:

(780) 412-3599
waterprojects@epcor.com

As we work and operate in your community, we want to keep you informed about ongoing projects and operational activities at the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant.

In this newsletter, you will find:

- Details about our response to COVID-19.
- Information about this year's seasonal water treatment response.
- Updates about our upgrade projects.
- Our plans to begin work installing a new bypass water main around the water treatment plant.
- An update on our groundwater monitoring well installations around the plant.
- An opportunity for you to provide input on water, wastewater and drainage utilities.

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

We continue to deliver safe and clean drinking water to our customers from the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant. There are currently no interruptions to core services related to COVID-19. We have temporarily reduced some of our services to protect the health of our employees and of our customers and maintain physical distancing measures. We won't be conducting any tours of our water treatment plants during this time, including at the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant.

EPCOR has also postponed any home appointments that are considered non-essential (including meter inspections, home flood prevention visits, and proactive root maintenance). We will continue to provide critical in-person customer services including responding to emergency sewer backups, water main breaks, and water meter installations at new locations.

We have emergency response and business continuity plans in place to guide our organization. All areas within EPCOR have implemented a multi-stage response plan, including additional protocols to protect the health of our employees and our customers and to ensure our operations continue.



SPRING RUNOFF

Spring runoff is a naturally occurring annual event that changes the quality of water in the river. As snow melts and flows into the North Saskatchewan River it can wash large quantities of dirt, leaves and other natural debris into the river. This can change the quality of the water that enters Edmonton and the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant.

The timing, duration and conditions of spring runoff vary from year to year, and can temporarily affect the smell and taste of your drinking water. Each year, our water treatment team increases the frequency of water quality testing, and adjusts our treatment, to ensure we continue to provide you with clean and safe drinking water.

This year, spring runoff arrived relatively late but our teams were prepared for it. Our operations team adjusted the treatment process as required for the changing river water quality conditions and the plant continued to supply safe, reliable drinking water. We closely watch the live cameras installed as part of the WaterSHED Monitoring Program to better prepare for runoff to arrive. The breakup of nearby creeks like Strawberry, Rose, and Tomahawk can give our water treatment plants 8-10 hours of warning before a possible rise in colour in the river as it enters Edmonton.

You can find more information about the monitoring program, and view the live camera footage, on the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance's website at www.nswa.ab.ca. The cameras provide a virtual tour of our North Saskatchewan Watershed all the way from Siffleur River near the Columbia Icefields to the Vermillion River near the Saskatchewan Border. This is a great way to learn more about the river and how its appearance and the surrounding landscape changes as it moves through our province.

FLUORIDE INTERRUPTION

Earlier this year, EPCOR notified the community served by the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant about an interruption in fluoridation due to a plant upgrade project. EPCOR will be postponing the reintroduction of fluoride at our E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant. Currently, we anticipate this will be postponed until later this year. The project, which began in September 2019 to rehabilitate the fluoridation facilities, has been temporarily delayed due to COVID-19.

Completion and start-up of the new fluoride treatment system at the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant requires our staff to work and conduct specific training in close contact to one another for a prolonged time.

EPCOR made the decision to temporarily postpone commissioning our fluoride system in order to ensure our staff are able to maintain the correct social distancing guidelines during this COVID-19 situation.

If you have questions or would like more information on the health benefits of fluoride please contact Alberta Health Services Health Link 24/7 by dialing 811. For up to date information on our fluoride addition please visit epcor.com/fluoride

ORTHOPHOSPHATE FACILITY

In March, we shared our plans to start work on a new orthophosphate facility to help protect against lead present in some Edmonton's older water systems or as a result of lead components in some household plumbing fixtures.



LEGEND

- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Bypass Main Project Area

Due to COVID-19 and design enhancements, we are now planning to delay construction of this project until next summer and have it operational in 2022. EPCOR has continued to make progress on other aspects of our lead management program. Visit our website at epcor.com/lead for additional information.

BYPASS MAIN

In March, we mentioned our plans to begin work on installing a new bypass water transmission main that will run around the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant and connect to an existing water main. Once installed, the new water main will ensure we are able to continue providing you with drinking water in the event of an emergency that compromises the main line that comes into the water treatment plant. The majority of work will take place within EPCOR's property; however, a small portion at the far north end will be located in EPCOR's utility corridor.

We began work on this project in late June 2020, and expect it to be complete in the fall of 2021. This work will take place in two stages, as shown on the map. The area shown in blue will take place this year, and the portion shown in orange will take place next year. Both portions of work require excavating a trench, laying new pipe, and restoring the excavated area. All of the excavated soil will be stored on site at the water treatment plant.

Before excavations started EPCOR invited Indigenous partners to begin this work in a respectful way and to acknowledge the pending ground disturbance at E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant. Indigenous engagement on the Bypass Main project includes an invitation to 29 Indigenous Nations and communities in the region to request participation in the archeological excavations planned at the site. Additionally, participating Indigenous communities will also have an opportunity to contribute to the final archeological report and will be engaged throughout the life of the project.

During construction, you may notice activity that is typical to construction, including company/ contractor vehicles and equipment along E.L. Smith Road. All work areas will be maintained in a safe and secure manner. All construction activities will be performed in accordance with the City of Edmonton bylaws, Occupational Health and Safety requirements and EPCOR's health, safety and environmental procedures and guidelines. This type of work may be noisy at times; however, we will comply with the City of Edmonton's Community Standards Bylaw for Noise Control.

If you are recreating in the area, we ask that you adhere to the directions posted on our signage and exercise caution around any construction areas.

If you have any questions or concerns about this work, please contact us at (780) 412-3599.