

Lanigan water and wastewater systems project flowing towards completion

With extensive work already done and the project nearing an end, residents and businesses in Lanigan could have reverse osmosis water by the beginning of 2019. Lanigan Chief Administrative Officer Jennifer Thompson said the Town of Lanigan's \$6.1 million water and wastewater systems project has reached its final stages and is now in the home stretch.

Construction crews were busy throughout the summer installing and pressure testing the raw waterline to ensure it would be operational. "Hoover Street was also rehabilitated with paving being completed just in time for the weather change and the reverse osmosis trains were delivered and are currently being installed," said Thompson.

In addition, the well control building has recently received power and can now enter the final stage of completion. "With power to the site we will be able to use well water soon."

With an estimated target date for the changeover of the water system set for the middle to end of December, Thompson said, "The patience and understanding of the Lanigan community is appreciated as work continues to complete this project, which has now expanded the town's wastewater capacity, and will ensure high-quality drinking water for residents, businesses and visitors."

During the final phase of the changeover of the water system, Thompson said residents and businesses can expect that precautionary drinking water advisories or water restrictions may be temporarily put in place to help the upgraded water treatment plant and related systems become operational.

As the system is changed over, work will continue to be done in the water treatment plant, finalizing the new process and completing the retrofit of the existing water treatment plant to ensure safe, quality drinking water is delivered to the community.

"The project is still on track to be completed in early 2019 and we are currently working with our engineers regarding a protocol to be followed to ensure a smooth transition between our existing treated water and the new reverse osmosis water."

With the massive water and wastewater systems project funded through the Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component – National and Regional Projects, the federal and provincial governments are each contributing up to \$2.045 million with the Town of Lanigan funding the rest.

Thompson said as the multi-million dollar water and wastewater expansion is completed, residents and businesses will see an increase to the cost to supply the service effective Jan. 1, 2019. With the water and sewer rates set back in September 2016, the current charges for water, sewer and infrastructure are \$90.80 per month. "The new charges will be \$92.60 per month. As billings are every two months, customers will receive a bill for \$185.20 as a minimum charge which allows for usage of 8,000 gallons. Water and sewer rates are approved by the Saskatchewan Municipal Board. Our water and sewer fund is self-funded and also provides for some capital renewal and upgrades. The infrastructure fee remains in place at \$60 per billing to fund renewal and upgrades. Total water and sewer assets are valued at approximately \$26 million. The infrastructure fee is used to renew or upgrade these assets."