

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 15, 2022
TO: Christopher Constant, Anchorage Municipal Assembly, District 1
THRU: Amy Demboski, Municipal Manager
FROM: Mark A. Corsentino, P.E., General Manager, AWWU
SUBJECT: AWWU Written Response to Assembly Questions re Fluoride in Girdwood

In preparation for the February 17, 2022 Assembly Enterprise Committee Meeting, AWWU's written responses to the Assembly Member Christopher Constant's Girdwood fluoride questions are provided herein.

The specific questions and responses to the questions emailed to me on February 4, 2022 are as follows:

1. Out-of-service period.

Is AWWU's fluoridation system located in Girdwood operating now?

No

If not, for how long has it been offline?

A fluoride chemical dosing pump failure in March of 2021 caused a several month outage until the replacement pump arrived. It was installed in July of 2021 and operated for a month before it was determined the pump alone was not a suitable fix to the system as it provided unreliable and inconsistent results.

When was it last operational?

August of 2021.

2. Cause of the problem.

You indicated that as of January 21, the system was broken. Can you describe the nature and cause of the problem?

The existing system is approximately 20 years old, is high maintenance and has had multiple components replaced over time. As a result, it is no longer providing consistent or reliable fluoride dosages and is in need of replacement.

What part or malfunction prevented (or is preventing) the system from operating?

It is no longer a complete and whole system as was originally installed in 2002, as such critical components (calibration column, dosage pump, flow meter, static mixer, fluoride analyzer, etc.) no longer provide reliable operations or consistent dosages. The system needs to be replaced with a reliable engineered manufactured system.

3. The fix.

If the system is still offline, how is AWWU planning to address the system failure?

AWWU is actively analyzing and designing a replacement system to be installed as part of the active Girdwood Well Upgrade Project. The existing system is at a point of failure for all practical purposes.

What needs to happen to bring the system back online?



Complete the ADEC required Girdwood Well Upgrade Project and incorporate the fluoride system into the design and construction.

4. **Timeline.**

If the system is still offline, what is AWWU's estimate of when the system will be brought back online?

Construction of the Girdwood Well Upgrade Project, with the new fluoride system is anticipated to be under construction in 2023 with commissioning and completion in 2024.

5. **First quarter budget revisions.**

Do you anticipate that the Assembly will need to make adjustments to accommodate repair of the Girdwood fluoridation system when it considers first-quarter budget revisions?

No, the project is funded. The addition of the fluoride system to the Girdwood Well Upgrade Project is approximately \$100k.

