



## **The Weekly Update – March 31, 2022**

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***Attachments:***

1. Journal of City Commission Work Session, March 15, 2022
2. Veolia 2021 Annual Report

**JOURNAL OF CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**March 15, 2022**

City Commission Work Session  
Civic Center, Gibson Room 212

Mayor Kelly presiding

**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:30 p.m.

**CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Kelly, Susan Wolff, Eric Hinebauch, Rick Tryon and Joe McKenney.

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson; City Attorney Jeff Hindoien; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler and Grant Administrator Tom Hazen; Municipal Court Judge Steve Bolstad; and, Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Terry Bjork**, City resident, submitted written comments via email suggesting that the Commission create and publish a prioritized ordered list of the Crime Task Force recommendations that it plans to consider during the course of future Work Sessions, with a running measure of what has already been discussed.

**Kevin Weste**, City resident, commented that the Gibson Flats potential arson fire turned into a conflagration because the Fire Department was defunded.

**1. SEMI-ANNUAL LITIGATION UPDATE.**

City Attorney Jeff Hindoien recommended that this portion of the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Mont. Code Ann § 2-3-203(4)(a) to discuss strategy to be followed with respect to a pending litigation matter because an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the City's litigating position. The meeting will be re-opened at the conclusion of the litigation strategy discussion.

**Mayor Kelly moved, seconded by Commissioners Tryon and Wolff, to close the meeting from the public to discuss pending litigation in executive session pursuant to Mont. Code Ann § 2-3-203(4)(a).**

At 5:35 p.m., the meeting continued in executive session in the City Manager's Office with the City Commission, City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Attorney and Deputy City Clerk, for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and strategy.

- EXECUTIVE SESSION - -

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The meeting reconvened into an open meeting. Mayor Kelly called the regular meeting back to order at 6:30 p.m.

City Attorney Hindoien reported that discussion included updates and strategy with regard to pending litigation and claim matters against the City by private litigants. Discussing litigation matters that involve public entities does not require a closed session.

City Attorney Hindoien reported that there is a pending declaratory judgment action against Cascade County regarding the dispute as to the composition of the new governing body entity required as part of the joint City-County Health Department structure. The County has filed a Response to the City's Complaint and the City will be working with its legal counsel to develop a motion seeking to resolve this dispute. The County disagrees with the City that a member of the City Commission can serve as a member of the governing body in the same capacity as a County Commissioner. The County may also assert that this is not a justiciable dispute for purposes of jurisdiction of the court.

**2. CRIME TASK FORCE FOLLOW UP.**

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that there is no additional information to provide to the Commission; however, Police Chief Jeff Newton could provide an update at an upcoming work session.

**2. ARPA FOLLOW UP.**

City Manager Greg Doyon suggested that the Commission consider the following Civic Center upgrades:



1. Commission Chambers – IT upgrades
2. Gibson and Missouri Rooms – audio and visual upgrade and installation
3. Municipal Court – acquisition of additional space proximate to the Civic Center and remodel
4. Fire Department – replace doors at fire stations
5. Planning and Community Development – boiler system upgrade (approximately \$623,000) and HVAC System upgrade (approximately \$528,000)

Finance Grant Administrator Tom Hazen reported that the grant application process has been open for a few weeks and that one application was received. There has been communication with numerous organizations in the community that includes a wide range of topics, eligibility and programs. He reported that there would be an ARPA application process Q&A Session on March 24, 2022 in the Gibson Room and that it would be recorded and posted.

Commissioner Tryon inquired if all of the applications received, as well as the list of eligible City projects would both be considered and prioritized or if a predetermined amount of money would be set aside for community partners.

Mayor Kelly suggested that the cost be determined for the Civic Center upgrades that Manager Doyon recommended, as well as setting aside approximately \$4 million for community partners. He explained that if the community partner projects are not eligible, then the money set aside for them could be utilized for additional City projects.

Commissioner Tryon received clarification that the \$4 million is an arbitrary percentage that Mayor Kelly expects would represent an incredible opportunity for programs from a variety of community partners. Commissioner Tryon expressed support of considering all of the applications and City projects as a whole rather than setting aside a certain amount of money for the community partners.

Commissioner Hinebauch inquired about the deadline and process of the applications.

Finance Grant Administrator Hazen responded that the application deadline is July 15, 2022 and that City staff from different departments would evaluate the applications based upon the scoring scale, build a list of recommendations for review by Manager Doyon and to the Commission for approval sometime this fall.

Manager Doyon added that some City projects that have costs determined could be considered with regard to the budget process.

Commissioner McKenney commented that Manager Doyon has the expertise and is aware of the City's maintenance and improvement needs. He supports Manager Doyon's recommendations for the Civic Center upgrades and requested that it be discussed at the April 5, 2022 Work Session.

Commissioner Wolff suggested that the Commission notify Manager Doyon if there is anything on the prioritized list that it believes is important.

**DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS**

Due to a lack of time, there was no discussion about upcoming work session topics.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal work session of March 15, 2022, at 6:50 p.m.



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Great Falls, MT



Veolia North America  
Serving the City of Great Falls  
Since 1977

2021  
ANNUAL REPORT

City of Great Falls  
Wastewater Treatment Plant



Mayor

Bob Kelly

City Commissioners

Rick Tryon

Eric Hinebauch

Joe McKenney

Susan Wolff

Key City Staff

Greg Doyon, City Manager

Chuck Anderson, Assistant City Manager

Paul Skubinna, Public Works Director

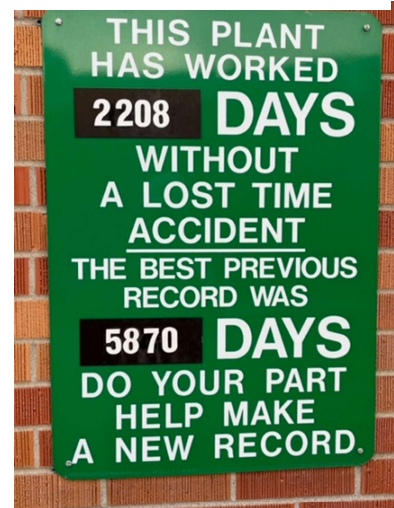
Annual Report Prepared by  
Veolia North America, LLC  
1600 6<sup>th</sup> St. NE  
Great Falls, Montana  
406-761-7004

## 2021 Executive Summary

2021 was another successful year at the Great Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant as Veolia North America completed 44 years of operating and maintaining the facility. Veolia and its staff in Great Falls are proud to serve the City and particularly appreciate the cooperation and active support from all members of the City of Great Falls staff. Some of the more significant accomplishments that occurred in 2021 are as follows:

As of December 31, 2021

- On December 14<sup>th</sup>, plant employees reached 22 years with only one lost time accident. As of May of last year, facility staff had worked 17 years with only four recordable accidents.
- Veolia entered into a new 10-year contract; January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2030.
- In 2021 a new four year Collective Bargaining Agreement was negotiated with the local Great Falls Employees Crafts Council. The year was completed without a single union grievance being filed.
- Weekly meetings were held in the plant conference room with Paul Skubinna, City of Great Falls Public Works Director, Jason Fladland Contract Administrator, and key Veolia staff. These meetings were extremely beneficial in keeping the lines of communication open between the City and Veolia.
- Veolia continues to assist the City of Great Falls Industrial Pre-Treatment group with sampling and reporting responsibilities for several industrial users that discharge wastewater to the collection system.



## Operations/Personnel

In 2021, Veolia employees fulfilled all regulatory requirements, completed a number of other projects and assisted with several inspections. These and other accomplishments are listed below:

- All required annual reports were submitted on time to the proper agencies to include: Monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports; Air Emissions; Biosolids and Stormwater Compliance.
- After more than 40+ years with Veolia, Dana Audet, Plant Manager, retired on March 5, 2021. Rodney Lance, Assistant Plant Manager, was promoted to the Plant Manager position. He has been with the company for 10+ years, all at the Great Falls, MT Wastewater Treatment Facility. Rodney brings forth years of expertise and knowledge as the Operations Manager/Assistant Plant Manager that will help him to lead the Wastewater Treatment Plant and continue to provide outstanding service. Joseph Fayden, O&M Technician, was promoted to the Operations Manager. Rock Rayl, Electrical/Instrumentation Tech also retired in 2021, but has been operating on a consulting basis as needed. Three new personnel were also hired in 2021: Robbie Regennitter (Maintenance Machinist), Corey Matthews (Electrician/Instrumentation Technician), and Kristin Japar (Operation & Maintenance Technician).

- In 2021 our response to the COVID-19 pandemic was at the forefront and still continues to be. Veolia responded effectively in terms of planning and executing contingency plans to ensure the essential wastewater treatment service remained un-impacted and compliant with all operational, environmental and safety requirements. Veolia held weekly COVID-19 meetings, enforced social distancing guidelines and wearing face masks which resulted in no reported cases of COVID-19 that originated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. There was only one employee who contacted COVID-19 in 2021 and that occurred while he was on vacation.
- 11 out of 14 plant employees are required to carry a Class I State of Montana Wastewater License. To maintain that license, these employees are required to pass a certification exam and attain 2.0 Continuing Education Credits every two years. This translates to 20 documented hours of training related to the field of wastewater treatment.
- GPD Engineering was contracted by the City of Great Falls to design and engineer a new HVAC system for the Solids Handling building. This study is complete and the design is at the 30% stage. A correctly designed and functional HVAC system is vitally important in the digester building due to the ammonia emitted from the biosolids during dewatering using the centrifuges. The ammonia creates a corrosive atmosphere that corrodes the electrical wiring in the building. The corroded wiring causes equipment to malfunction or even become inoperative.
- A systematic asset condition assessment review was completed for City of Great Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility in Great Falls, Montana. A condition assessment process allows identification, warranty repairs and maintenance/replacement prioritization of facility assets based on condition. The assessment provides a condition rating from advanced detection techniques by comparing detected values to standardized rating criteria adapted through a combination of industry best practices and Veolia operating experience. The end ratings are highly useful in a number of areas associated with the operation of the plant and maintenance planning, these include;
  - Prioritize Corrective Work Orders to reduce Operation and/ or Compliance Risks
  - Long Range Planning
  - Capital and Maintenance Budget Planning, Scoring 4 – 5
  - Contract Renewal
- Veolia corporate technical design personnel continued a process control study to determine to what level the plant as it is currently configured is able to remove nutrients. Wastewater contains nitrogen and phosphorous from human waste, food and certain soaps and detergents. Although the current discharge permit does not require removing these pollutants, we are required to test for them and it is anticipated that future permits will require the Great Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant to reduce the concentration of these nutrients in the effluent to relatively low levels. The study is ongoing with the hope that minimal modifications in online process monitoring in the Bioreactors could potentially provide some limited ability to reduce current nitrogen and phosphorous levels without major plant upgrades.

# Process Control Data

## Plant Overview - Design Information

Design Influent Flows and Loads	Value
<b>Flows (mgd)</b>	
Annual Average, 2012	10.5
Annual Average, 2030	13.3
Maximum Month, 2030	16.0
Peak Day, 2030	24.0
Peak Hour, 2030	36.0
<b>Loads, Maximum Month 2030 (lbs/day)</b>	
CBOD	26,005
TSS	27,600
Ammonia	3,085

Effluent Parameters	Units	Permitted Effluent Limits <sup>(1)</sup>		
		Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily
CBOD5	mg/L	25	40	--
	lbs/day	2,773	4,437	--
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	30	45	--
	lbs/day	3,328	4,991	--
<i>E. coli</i> , summer <sup>(1,3)</sup>	cfu/100 ml	126	252	--
<i>E. coli</i> , winter <sup>(2,3)</sup>	cfu/100 ml	630	1,260	--
Oil and Grease <sup>(4)</sup>	mg/L	--	--	10
pH	s.u.	6.0 – 9.0 instantaneous minimum and maximum		
Total Recoverable Arsenic	ug/L	19.8	--	19.8

1. Summer period is April 1 through October 31.
2. Winter period is November 1 through March 31.
3. Report geometric mean if >1 sample is collected during the reporting period.
4. Instantaneous maximum value.
5. Current Average Monthly and Maximum Daily limits are being contested.

# National Pollution Discharge Elimination System

## AVERAGES FOR THE YEAR 2021

Month	Effluent Flow (mgd)	Effluent BOD (mg/l)	Effluent TSS (mg/l)	BOD % Removal	TSS % Removal	Effluent E.Coli(#/100ml) Geo. Mean	Effluent pH
January	7.647	7	7	96.5	96.8	84	7.19
February	7.779	5	13	97.7	93.4	36	7.14
March	7.915	4	5	98.2	97.5	46	7.14
April	7.886	4	5	98.6	98.8	46	6.92
May	9.107	3	3	98.9	99.2	72	6.88
June	9.503	3	4	98.7	98.9	101	7.14
July	9.613	3	3	98.1	98.2	65	7.21
August	9.281	2	3	98.8	98.3	80	7.19
September	8.513	3	4	98.2	97.4	92	7.18
October	7.938	4	5	98.2	98.1	76	7.12
November	7.496	4	3	98.2	98.8	75	7.10
December	7.060	10	4	96.6	98.3	80	7.08
<b>Average</b>	<b>8.312</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>7.11</b>
<b>NPDES Limit</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>&gt;85%</b>	<b>&gt;85%</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>6.0/9.0</b>

## City of Great Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant

### Miscellaneous Daily Averages for 2021

Month	Influent BOD	Influent TSS	Digest. Feed	Digester Volatile Solids Reduction	Methane Prod.	Waste Gas (Sent to Flare)	Methane Boiler	Cake to Landfill	Centrifuge Cake
	lbs/d	lbs/d	lbs/d	%	ft <sup>3</sup> /d	ft <sup>3</sup> /d	ft <sup>3</sup> /d	Wet lbs	%TS
January	12720	13865	17485	60.8	138209	53988	84221	46225	20.2
February	14095	12724	17172	61.9	131295	42989	88307	42214	19.8
March	13718	12792	16311	56.3	131931	52508	79423	42077	19.2
April	17530	25506	17589	55.1	133854	63268	70586	49785	20.2
May	20400	28761	16413	50.3	126420	72422	53998	51900	20.6
June	18035	27706	19746	53.0	141614	107346	34268	45780	21.0
July	11992	12768	22459	56.7	95326	94009	1622	38035	21.3
August	12704	13708	27255	49.5	88082	88079	3	51713	19.7
September	12517	11510	25209	44.7	89158	85786	3371	44869	18.9
October	15215	17754	29788	39.4	96485	56901	39583	42430	18.1
November	14884	16884	30174	44.3	112776	44971	67805	47136	17.1
December	19517	15307	22695	27.7	129484	55743	73741	53540	17.3
<b>Average</b>	<b>1527</b>	<b>17440</b>	<b>21858</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>117886</b>	<b>68168</b>	<b>49744</b>	<b>46309</b>	<b>19.5</b>



# Great Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant

## 2021 Key Consumables

Month	Total Plant KWH	Total Plant Natural Gas ft <sup>3</sup> /day	Hypochlorite gal/day	Polymer (Liquid) gal/day	Polymer (Dry) lbs/day	Polymer lbs/dry ton
January	17084	34608	64	7	191	40
February	17029	57865	15	6	197	44
March	16671	29248	8	6	239	45
April	17067	30046	13	7	247	47
May	17187	25517	9	6	232	54
June	18293	3066	10	6	229	53
July	17910	6721	9	4	187	38
August	17806	7634	7	5	262	43
September	17813	6891	8	5	229	45
October	18529	4205	9	1	257	52
November	18400	25546	5	1	270	51
December	18013	40783	5	7	285	61
<b>Average</b>	<b>17650</b>	<b>22678</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>48</b>

## Client/Community Relations

### Active Participation

- Montana Water Environment Association
- Water Environment Federation
- Montana Officials Association
- Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
- Bootlegger Trail Water Board
- Stockholm Junior Water Prize
- Regional Science Fair Judging
- Uptown Optimists
- Uptown Optimists Board of Directors
- Great Falls Development Authority

### Tours/Visitors/Contractors

- Alluvion employee to provide flu shots for Veolia employees
- Andritz Employees for servicing centrifuges
- AT Klemens for servicing AC unit for the administration building
- ATT employee to replace the firewall
- Beabout Brock Easley salesman
- Calumet Refinery Employees for inspection and security of their fence line
- CECO employees
- Charter Spectrum employee regarding internet service
- City of Great Falls Fire and Rescue employees for a Fire Inspection
- City of Great Falls Public Works employees
- Colonial Research salesman
- Culligan employee for servicing of water softener systems
- Dusty Sprinklers' employees repairing and replacing the irrigation system
- Endress+Hauser service technician to commission the ORP probes.
- Engineers from HDR

- Engineers from Morrison-Maierle, Inc.
- Engineers from TD&H
- Enterprise Electric employee
- Forde Nursery employee for landscaping
- GPD engineer for evaluation of HVAC system in digester building
- International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Local 88, representative for union negotiations
- International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 400, representative for union negotiations
- J&V Restaurant and Fire Supply employees for Fire Extinguisher Inspection
- KoneCranes of Spokane employee for servicing the hoists and cranes throughout the plant
- Krohne salesman
- Kustom City Fiberglass employees repairing heating line in Westside Pump station
- Laborer's International Union, Local 1686, representative for union negotiations
- Liberty Electric employees
- M&H Lewis employee
- Motion Industries salesman
- Northwest Energy employees
- Polydyne, Inc. representative to conduct jar tests on the centrifuge feed sludge
- Quality Control Services employee to provide calibration and servicing on lab equipment
- Rambull employees for inspecting/checking Calumet Refinery monitoring wells/recovery pumps
- Rust Automation salesman
- Safety Kleen for parts washer
- SAM Construction employees painting the inside and outer doors throughout the plant
- State of Montana Elevator Inspector
- Think Environmental employees for inspecting/checking Calumet Refinery monitoring wells/recovery pumps
- Transformer Services Inc. employees for cleaning the oil in the electric transformers
- TW Enterprise employee to service generator
- Williamson Fencing employees to replace front gate
- Vega salesmen demonstrating new radar level controllers
- Veolia technical and performance representative conducting a site visit



**Bioreactor #3**

# Maintenance

## *Completed Maintenance Tasks*

In 2021, there were over 4000 individual preventive maintenance tasks and 220 corrective maintenance tasks completed. Some of the more significant maintenance tasks completed by Veolia personnel include:

- Installed new controls and expansion tank for Solids Building boiler.
- Replaced the front gate to the Wastewater Treatment plant. The gate was hit by a vehicle whose occupant then fled the scene of the incident in their damaged vehicle.
- Replaced check valves on pumps #5, #6, and #7 at 6<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Station.
- Replaced VFD for centrifuge #1.
- Replaced sump pump at Lift Station #4.
- Repaired broken water pipe on air gap system at Lift Station #7.
- Repaired broken potable water line in UV building that feeds an emergency shower and eyewash unit.
- Replaced a Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) gas detector in Raw Wastewater Pump Station.
- Replaced an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) at Lift Station #11. It provides temporary emergency power to a load when the mains power fails.
- Replaced a level transducer at Lift Station #25.
- Replaced a solenoid valve on the barscreen compactor at Lift Station #15.
- Replaced bearings in motor for pump #2 at Lift Station #30.
- Replaced two Rinnai tankless water heaters in the Administration building.
- Replaced translucent cap and calibrated Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.) sensor.
- Replaced drive belts on all six (6) draft tube mixers in the Primary/Secondary Digesters.
- Adjusted the overtorque magnet on the barscreen in the Raw Wastewater Pump Station.
- Rebuilt Gravity Thickener pump #1. Installed new bearings, stator, and rotor.
- Changed out the peristaltic hoses on Gravity Thickener Pump #2 and #3.
- Replaced solenoid valve and added glycol to chiller unit in the Digester building.
- Rebuilt Muffin Monster grinder in the Digester building. The grinder has steel cutters that rotate grinding down large solids into smaller particles helping to prevent clogging caused by solids, rags and wipes.
- Replaced numerous UV bulbs that surpassed life expectancy in the UV system. The UV system is designed to use UV light to sterilize waterborne pathogens without the addition of chemicals into the system.
- All the inside and outside personnel doors, entrance ways and stair runners throughout the plant were painted one color, blue. In the past there were many different color schemes and this ensures conformity going forward. The garage doors are currently scheduled to be painted in 2022.
- Started to replace and repair broken irrigation lines and sprinklers throughout the plant grounds for aesthetic purposes. There were a lot of broken sprinkler heads and several irrigation lines were broken. This project will be completed in 2022.



Rinnai water heaters



Muffin Monster

# Capital Improvement Projects

## *General Capital Improvements*

The City of Great Falls allocates \$150,000 per year for specific small capital improvements at the facility. Veolia manages the projects, which includes any necessary bidding, hiring of sub-contractors and overseeing of each project. Some of the less extensive work related to the capital improvements are performed by in-house plant personnel. Plant management meets annually with city staff to review and plan for the capital needs of the facility.

In the year 2021, several capital improvement projects were completed.

- Replaced standpipes in both Gravity Thickener basins with a complete rebuild of the electrical components. Resurfaced both catwalks with non-skid paint to alleviate slipping hazards during the winter months.



Before



After non-skid paint was applied

- Installed new energy efficient LED lights in the administration building. There was also an occupancy sensor installed in the break room for energy savings. This is an ongoing project that will be completed in 2022.
- Installed de-raggers at Lift Stations #4 and #12. The de-raggers are vital in that when the pump has a blockage the de-ragger senses it and spins the pump backwards for a few seconds in order to clear the blockage. By having the de-raggers installed it saves wear and tear on the pumps while eliminating the need for employees to respond to the blockage.



New LED light

## *Contingency Funding Projects*

As part of the new O&M Contract with the City of Great Falls, a contingency funding clause was introduced to provide additional funding for projects that: do not meet the definition of a capital item such as: 1) non-routine expenditures > \$25000 2) items integral to the City's facilities and 3) items not addressed by the terms of the contract agreement. These projects are fully arranged and managed to completion by Veolia staff. The projects that were completed in 2021 under this clause are:

- The oil in 12 of 14 electrical transformers were analyzed and cleaned in order to protect the transformers from burning up. The oil had water and particles in it that needed to be removed for proper operation of the transformers.
- Ran new 2400V electrical cable to Westside Pump Station. The old 2400V electrical cable was over 40-years old and failed an inspection creating an unreliable and unsafe condition. All three legs of the electrical cable were replaced.

- Ran new 480V electrical cable from administration building to the Primary Motor Control Center, a distance of over 300 ft. An old transformer and switchgear that were no longer properly functional were abandoned which required the installation of the new 480V electrical cable. The 480V electrical cable supplies power to both primary basins and the primary/scum pumps.



## Safety and Training

Veolia has always emphasized the importance of safety in the workplace. The wastewater industry has many hazards including rotating and reciprocating equipment, high voltage electrical gear, toxic chemicals, and working in inclement weather conditions. We have learned to recognize these hazards, and to develop ways to work safely. These safe work practices have become integrated into the culture of our operation. The Veolia Safety Program represents a sincere desire to eliminate all personal injury and occupational illness. Employee safety is of the highest priority. In Great Falls these company goals have been carried out as evidenced by a stellar safety record. As of December 14, 2021, local staff had worked over 22 years with only one lost time accident and 17 years with only four recordable accidents. On 34 different occasions, Veolia Great Falls staff has worked at least one complete year without a lost time accident.

Every other year, a complete Safety Audit is conducted by Veolia regional personnel. The audit, which is very thorough, reviews every aspect of the Veolia Great Falls program to include: safety records; monthly safety inspections; safety meetings; training; hazard recognition; site specific written OSHA policies; and much more. In the off-year when the regional audit is not conducted, local safety coordinators conduct an internal audit, focusing on the same issues. The audits ensure the plant is in compliance with all OSHA and Veolia safety and health requirements.

Considerable time and effort is also expended conducting non-safety related training. This training keeps both management and staff up to date on any new regulations, new equipment installations, changes in operating or maintenance procedures as well as updates to company policies and procedures. A summary of both safety and non-safety related training is as follows:

**Jan:** Veolia West Region Monthly Health and Safety (H&S) Webinar; HazCom: What You Need to Know; Housekeeping & Maintenance.

**Feb:** Veolia West Region Monthly H&S Webinar; Lockout / Tagout: Put a Lock on Hazardous Energy.

**Mar:** Veolia West Region Monthly H&S Webinar; Fire Prevention and Response; Fire Extinguisher Use.

**Apr:** Veolia West Region Monthly H&S Webinar; Workplace Violence; Anti-Harassment Training for All Employees; Confined Spaces: Entry Team Training – Maintenance Activities.

**May:** Veolia West Region Monthly H&S Webinar; Fall Protection for General Industry; Emergency Eyewash and Shower Use; Hazardous Substances: Incident Spill Responses; Montana Rural Water Conference.

**Jun:** Veolia West Region Monthly H&S Webinar; Heat Stress; Power Tool and Extension Cord Safety; NFPA 70E Electrical Safety Training; Safety Stand Down – Back Safety.

**Jul:** Veolia West Region Monthly H&S Webinar; Compressed Gas Cylinders; Hot Work; Safety Operations Training; Flotation Basin Swap Training; TPC Course 302: Lubricants and Lubrication; TPC Course 303.1: Power Transmission Equipment; TPC Course 383: Maintaining Wastewater Equipment.

**Aug:** Veolia West Region Monthly H&S Webinar; Lead with Strengths Training; Personal Protective Equipment: Employee Essentials; Managing Within the Law – Virtual Session; VNA Drug and Alcohol Policy; Incident / Injury Reporting Procedures: Crisis Management; Introduction to High Risk Management Standards; High Risk Management Standards; High Risk Activity: Traffic Management; Improving Performance of Biological Wastewater Treatment Systems.

**Sep:** Veolia West Region Monthly H&S Webinar; Asbestos Awareness Training; Ladder Safety for General Industry; International Health and Safety Week (ISHW) – Safety Videos: Confined Spaces; Electricity; Excavation & Trenching; Hazardous Materials - Delivery, Storage & Handling; High Pressure Water - Hydroblasting & Jetting; Hot Works; Lifting Operations (Cranes, Hoists, Etc.); Lock Out - Tag Out; Traffic Management; Work at Heights; NAPO - OIRA Risk Assessment; NAPO - Risky Business; TPC Course 304: Bearings.

**Oct:** Veolia West Region Monthly H&S Webinar; 2021 Great Shakeout – Earthquake Drill; Crane Safety for General Industry; Material Handling Safety; Compliance 2021 Training Program; High Risk Management Standard – Lifting Operations; TPC Course 301: Basic Mechanics; TPC Course 901: Maintenance Organization.

**Nov:** Veolia West Region Monthly H&S Webinar; Cold Stress; Winter Safety: Working & Driving in Snow, Ice, & Extreme Cold; TPC Course 307: Basic Hydraulics.

**Dec:** Veolia West Region Monthly H&S Webinar; Bloodborne Pathogens: Safety in the Workplace; Office Safety; High Risk Management Standard – Control of Hazardous Energy; Walking-Working Surfaces: What Employees Need to Know; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Discovery & Assessment Phase; TPC Course 274: Force, Weight, and Motion Measurement; TPC Course 306: Piping Systems; TPC Course 905: Effective Communication for Supervisors.

Several safety hazards were corrected in 2021. Some of the more significant are as follows:

- Replaced several tubes in the hypochlorite peristaltic pumps. The tubes failed causing hypochlorite to leak out.
- All plant hoists and cranes were professionally inspected in July 2021.
- Replaced several inoperable overhead lights plant-wide.
- Installed new hinges on the hatch for the wet well at Lift Station #14.
- Repaired the Waste Gas Burner pilot light system. It was causing the flame to go out, which then allowed unburned digester gas to be released to atmosphere.
- Repaired two inoperable mercoid switches to Digester feed pumps #1 and #2. The repairs alleviated the potential buildup of pressure causing damage to the pumps and piping.
- Backfilled a hole near the main backflow preventer alleviating a falling hazard.
- Replaced several damaged and weather worn safety signs throughout the plant.
- Replaced the hose bib on Gravity Thickener pump #1 in order to test the mercoid switch to ensure proper operation.
- Repaired the retreat safety switch on the Solids Building northwest garage door.

- Installed railing on the top side of the elevators at Lift Station #15 and Westside Pump Station. This was a safety issue identified by the elevator inspector and is required for employees to be able to service the elevator.
- Re-plumbed the Sodium Hypochlorite tank in the UV building eliminating the need to refill the tank from a ladder. Employees are now able to fill the tank from ground level eliminating fall hazards.



The line was originally plumbed directly down and the tote had to be filled from the top.



The line was re-plumbed to allow filling of the tote from ground level.

## Summary

As every year, 2021 was extremely busy, with considerable accomplishments and achievements. But primarily, the plant operated well, equipment was maintained properly, and most importantly, employees continued to work safely. Looking forward to 2022 provides considerable challenges. Some of those challenges include: ensuring the continued effective operation of the septage receiving station; continuing to implement the new MPDES discharge permit; completing contingency projects as assigned; continuing the focus on safety to ensure employees are not injured; and of course, as has been done since 1977, continuing to operate and maintain the facility and 32 lift stations to the optimum level possible.

In addition, Veolia would like to once again thank the City of Great Falls Public Works Department for all of the assistance throughout 2021 and previous years. They assist us greatly with such items as troubleshooting lift station problems, jetting plugged lines, facilitating grease removal at both the lift stations and the main plant as well as lending us their boom truck on occasion.



Solids Building