



03/30/2020 – IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HANNIBAL BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS GAC TRANSITION UPDATE

The Hannibal Board of Public Works has decided to delay the transition away from chloraminated water due to the COVID-19 outbreak that is affecting the nation. This was not an easy decision to make at this juncture, but was made with the safety and health of the customers and staff in mind. The Board of Directors is doing this out of an abundance of caution to protect the health of our staff and customers. There is nothing we take more seriously than the public health of our community.

Since adoption of the Revised Proposition 1 Resolution in September 2017, HBPW staff, engineers and contractors have worked diligently to meet the April 1, 2020 deadline. All involved were ready to show the results of their hard work as the system is ready to be put into operation on March 31, 2020. The final step in this transition process is to turn off the Ammonia feed, this is simple and straightforward task. Once this is completed additional testing will need to be completed both at the plant and out in the distribution system. This will require additional staff to be at the water plant including outside contractors and consultants to assist with the transition.

Increased monitoring and change in water quality will require more staff to be in contact with the public, as well as other staff members. These interactions could result in customers and staff being unnecessarily exposed to this potentially deadly virus. However small the risk is, the Board of Directors felt that it was too much considering the current health crisis sweeping the nation and in light of the other precautions that are currently being implemented right here in Hannibal. Again, the Board of Directors following the words of the Mayor is focusing on taking all necessary steps to protect our customers and staff, as a price cannot be placed on human lives. HBPW staff must be kept healthy in order to continue to provide the citizens of Hannibal with essential services and to be able respond to unforeseen emergencies should they arise.

The Board of Directors will be closely monitoring the developments of this outbreak and conferring with others within the water industry and regulatory communities to determine a date when the transition can be safely made. Once this decision is made, an announcement will be made.

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