

***Not Enforcement, Reinforcement
Caution! You're about to enter a No-
Swim Zone ☺***



New Wastewater Operators Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2, April 2011

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

My email victims list is now 209 strong and growing weekly. Last month it was 195. Getting better and better. ☺

Monthly, I'll share some great ideas I see or hear of, at plants around Eastern and Central Washington, and elsewhere. If you have an idea you'd like to share, let me know.

By the way, this effort is done on my own time, because it's fun for me to do.

Equipment to for sale or to give away:

John Lasen, Public Works Director of Royal City, says this SRECO truck-mounted sewer jetter is surplus. He says the water tank is toast and will need replacing, but everything else works. If interested, Royal City's contact page is here:

<http://www.royalcitywa.org/contact.html>



Equipment for sale or to give away, cont.:

Zachary Claussen, Public Works Director of the Town of Conconully has 3 Flygt submersible pumps listed on the AWC (Association of Washington Cities) web site here:

<http://www.awcnet.org/ProgramsServices/GrantsPurchasing/SurplusEquipment/Miscellaneous.aspx>

Just do a search for “Conconully” on that page. Unfortunately, I don’t have a photo of the pumps. Two of them are not so good (except for parts), but the third is in great shape. I don’t have any specs, but they’re large enough to require a loader or boom truck to move around.

Roger Horton, a Senior Operator with the City of Cheney WWTP showed me some interesting surplused items (he said FREE! but check first): In the photo below there’s a small electric air compressor and an air dryer to go with it, and a gas powered portable pump (engine needs governor work, but OK otherwise). There’s also 1.5” factory tested backflow preventer. And three 6” handwheel operated DeZurik plug valves in good shape (can you say “giant wind chime?”). A couple of small centrifugal pumps appear at lower right. Sorry for the cell phone pic. 😊 But wait! There’s more on the next page.



Equipment for sale or to give away cont.:

Cheney also has a 2-ton electric hoist similar to the one in this photo for lifting one-ton chlorine cylinders, surplused. Somebody could adapt it to their shop for lifting heavy stuff, like the engine of your '57 Chevy, Jim. It's an oldie but goody according to Roger H. There are some miscellaneous things too (single-fold paper towel dispensers, bags of plaster, etc.)



Then there are these things—something I've never seen before. They're sludge blanket level (SBL) detectors for clarifiers. Cheney stopped using them because their SBL's were too shallow to detect well, I'm told. They articulate to allow the skimming arm to pass by. They come complete with the control unit (separate photo).

The entire system is called a Milltronics InterRanger DPS 300 Dual Point Interface Detection and Monitoring System For Automated Clarifier Control. The shielded ultrasonic transducers ride just below the water surface of circular or rectangular clarifiers, monitoring SBL's in either primaries or secondaries 24/7/365. The manufacturer's brochure (very interesting) is here: <http://www.lesman.com/unleashd/catalog/envirolevel/Milltronics-DPS300/6879-19.pdf>

The specifications are here: <http://www.lesman.com/unleashd/catalog/envirolevel/Milltronics-DPS300/0120-en-00.pdf>

Cheney Wastewater contact info is here if interested in any of these goodies:

<http://www.cityofcheney.org/site/departments/works/wastewater>



Cool Idea of the Month, April 2011:

We travel to the City of Davenport this month and see a barely visible (in my photo below) a SolarBee™. It's a floating, solar-powered pump. What it does is circulate the wastewater in their 6.5-acre facultative lagoon cell No. 1. It helps keep the biomass mixed up with the "food". Note that the ripple to the right of it is where the influent comes in. SolarBee's Wastewater Division site is here:

<http://wastewater.solarbee.com/> They have much better pictures than mine.



According to Operator Joel Anderson, it works great as long as there's daylight. I figure that rowing out there at night with a giant flood light would result in overtime claims, so they don't do that. 😊

Joel said the SolarBee™ service is very good ("awesome" was the word he used). The company sent a rep to replace a \$1000 circuit card for free when it failed, and they stop by regularly to see how things are going. The initial capital cost is around \$20-25K for the model they have. Installation info for Davenport here: <http://wastewater.solarbee.com/siis/location/197> Their SB2500 unit has been in operation since 2000.

I did a search for "Washington" and found out that Kettle Falls also has a SolarBee™ unit.

Cool Idea of the Month, April 2011, cont.:

Joel Gassaway, Public Works Director for Kettle Falls, also verified that the service is great. Their installation info is here: <http://wastewater.solarbee.com/siis/location/199>

Their SB2500 unit has also been in operation since 2000. Check the site—cool photos.

Big dam Saaaalutes! to the City of Davenport and the City of Kettle Falls for utilizing this very green technology to help treat their wastewater. They don't have to pay a dime in electrical costs to operate these SolarBee™ pumps.

All information on the sites noted are copyright SolarBee, Inc. 2011.

Special Note:

Chad Noah, Chief Operator at the Soap Lake WWTP says that changing to recyclable plastic BOD bottles has made excessive DO depletion in his blanks “go away”.

Another Special Note:

Lynn Lawson, Chief Operator at the Brewster WWTP sent me this link about L&I fining the City of George, Washington, \$15,750 for the death of their late public works director last year. Very sad stories here: <http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2011/apr/09/li-fines-george-after-death-of-public-works/>

Hey, my Public Works brothers and sisters, please be careful out there. The cost of not following safety rules is way too high.

Informal Poll:

Water/Wastewater Operators: I was asked if I know of any municipal water or wastewater facilities whose budgeted funds had been (partially) hijacked by other departments on occasion, either legally or illegally. I have not witnessed that, so Question #1 is:

“Does (or has) your mayor/council/governing body/director divert(ed) funds from your facility budget for non-revenue generating utilities such as streets and parks?”

Many of us would say that we have “plenty” of governmental oversight (federal and state). But how about a follow-up Question #2:

“Do you think an optional requirement in your water/wastewater permits to report the quantity of funds spent on operations and maintenance annually to regulatory agencies is a good or bad idea?”

Send any replies to these questions to my personal email address: flash@bigdam.net . Or call my personal cell number: 509-846-3493 . If it ain't in writing, it didn't happen, right?

The source and municipal entity of any communications about this will be strictly confidential. I'll report the number of “yeas” and “nays” in the next newsletter.

Hey Darrel! (you might be asking, if you live out of the region). Where does that “big dam” thing come from? Well, I live in sight of one of the biggest, Grand Coulee Dam, which reminds me of the Great Wall of China from where I live (if I squint). Here it is, spilling last June. The windows at lower right are 40 feet tall for a frame of reference.



Check out the video of a 2000-ton rotor pull in the 3rd power house here: <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/grandcoulee/> . Just awesome! Lots of great info on the site. Non-renewable energy source, indeed—color me skeptical. Here’s another shot (frontal) from last June.



Hach Company has a contest going for a total of \$140K worth of Hach equipment.

For complete contest details and rules, please visit www.hach.com/bigpicture.

Hey! Keep up the good work. See you next time.

**All the best,
Darrel Fleischman**

P.S. If you want off this list for any reason, just let me know. And thanks for any feedback—I appreciate you and your opinions.

P.P.S. All previous newsletters are available on request, via email.

P.P.P.S. One parting shot on the next page...

On the way to Conconully on 4-22-2011:

This is the Scotch Creek Basin. This is a “close-up”. Amazing geological features.



Speaking of Conconully: If you have a kid or grandkid you want to take fishing, the Conconully area is where. There are several good trout lakes in the region. On opening day weekend (April 30), they have a fishing derby with lots of fish to catch. This is sponsored by the town and at least one resort (adding to the fish planting). Of course, you might ask “If this is tourist season, why can’t we shoot ‘em?” 😊

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife has a great site here (click on the map of the state to see what water bodies are open and when, in your region):

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/weekender/#region2>