
## PROJECT HISTORY

In 1966, the population of New Prague was roughly 2,300 residents. That same year the current wastewater treatment plant was completed. Twenty years later, with about 3,300 residents, this facility was updated and enhanced. No changes have been made since then, yet our current population is about 7,000 residents. And if future projections hold true, New Prague will be a city of more than 16,000 by the year 2030. With this growth in mind, the city has decided to move ahead and build a new wastewater treatment plant, replacing the current facility that is operating at capacity.

## THE NEW FACILITY

The new wastewater treatment plant, which will be a Biological Aerated Filter (BAF) facility will be built on the present site, with the old facility dismantled once the new system is online. The decision to build was twofold — more stringent regulations regarding city wastewater discharges and new technologies that are more environmentally sound.

First and foremost, the city wants to be a good steward of the land by treating its wastewater to the best of its ability. The new technology will not only discharge almost "good as new" clean water back into nearby streams and aquifers, it will also offer some usable by-products, namely wastewater for irrigation, fertilizers, composting materials and fuel.

The new plant will be totally enclosed within one building, eliminating any odors and chemical exposure. It will span 20 acres at its current location on the city's north side (601 12th St. NE). The new facility will incorporate state-of-the-art technology in wastewater treatment, including biological aerated filters, parallel plate clarifiers, membrane filtration and UV disinfection. The biosolids produced at the facility will be dried and utilized as soil amendments or potentially as an alternative fuel source. The existing ponds, which haven't been used for quite some time, will be abandoned, as will the majority of the existing facility structures, providing green space around the new facility.

The city has taken a proactive stance — implementing a forward-thinking vision for this necessary investment in the community. By better treating the city's waste, residents and the environment benefit. Getting clean water back into nature replenishes the surrounding aquifers. With the new plant and its technology, we feel much better about the liquid we are discharging back into the ecosystem. We will also be using technology that calls for less water and electricity, another positive in this step forward.

## PAYING FOR THE NEW PLANT

In 1966, 90 percent of the construction cost to build the wastewater treatment plant came from federal and state grants. Since then, funding has been harder to come by. In 1986, when the current plant was upgraded and enhanced, only 55 percent of funding came from grants. Today, there are no grants available for projects such as these. The city, however, has chosen to take out a low-interest loan at 2.9 percent through the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority.

We are excited to implement new technology and build this new plant. We know the new facility will not only meet the community's growth needs, but will also show another of the city's primary responsibilities — to be good stewards of the environment.

*Note: Some material included in this handout was published in the May 2008 issue of City News.

# ABOUT THE FACILITY

**General Contractor**
Rice Lake Construction
Deerwood, MN

**Project Engineer**
Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Mankato, MN

**Project Construction Cost**
$ 29,785,000*

* Project financing is being accomplished as a low-interest loan through the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority.

**Project Timeline**
Planning for the project began 2005

Final design completed Spring 2008

Bids taken/construction starts Fall 2008

Facility on-line Mid-summer 2010

**Facility Capacity**
1.83 MGD (Population of 10,992)
Expandable to 2.5 MGD (Population of 16,347)

**Facility Size**
Overall building area: 62,000 sq. ft.

**Annual Operating Costs**
$1,000,000

**Staffing**
Employees: 4 full-time