

H₂Oobserver



DeSoto Regional Transmission System Extension Benefits All

With one major facility expansion done and another in the works, the Authority is also concentrating efforts on making sure the region's supply is connected for increased reliability. The next transmission system the Authority will be working on is the DeSoto County Regional Pipeline Extension.

This transmission project will include a subaqueous crossing of the Peace River, providing water to areas of the region on the east side of the Peace River for the first time. This 20-inch diameter, five-mile pipeline will supply water from the Peace River Facility to the DeSoto County utility system. It will run parallel to County Road 761 and then run south along U.S. 17 to the Wal-Mart distribution

center near the DeSoto/Charlotte County line. This pipeline will benefit DeSoto County and the entire region, with the opportunity to eventually link the regional system to south Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda.

The Authority Board recently awarded the construction contract to Rockdale Pipeline, Inc. for \$2.6 million. Engineering design and construction services for the project are provided by PBS&J. The Southwest Florida Water Management District is providing cooperative funding in support of this project which is scheduled for completion by April 2005.

Integrated Loop System Study Approved

The Authority is moving forward with the feasibility study phase for the Integrated Loop System project. This initial phase will investigate the feasibility of pipeline routes to interconnect the major public water supply sources in the region through an integrated loop system. The study will provide for a phased implementation of construction over the next decade.



Ron Prue (left), maintenance technician at Peace River Facility, and an employee from Bob Dean Supply work to repair a transfer pump.

Authority Moves Forward with Regional Expansion Program

The Authority Board adopted a consensus statement presented by the county administrators from the member governments of Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota to move forward with the Regional Expansion Program in a two-phase approach. The first phase will include a new off-stream reservoir and expanded treatment capacity to provide the region with an additional 10 to 12 mgd by the year 2008. The second phase will consist of additional treatment capacity and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) to build out the Peace River Facility to its permitted capacity of 32.7 mgd.

The Authority is committed to developing future water sources beyond the Peace River Facility build-out. The Water Planning Alliance will complete its "Regional System Planning and Engineering Study" in late 2004, which will identify future water supply configurations. The Authority will be ready to move forward with implementation planning of these resources in cooperation with the members of the Water Planning Alliance.

Employee Spotlight – Doug Leath



Doug Leath was recently promoted to maintenance supervisor at the Peace River Facility.

The Authority recently created a new position and then filled it with a familiar face — Doug Leath was promoted to maintenance supervisor at the facility. In this new position, Doug will be in charge of all mechanical and electrical working of the facility as well as a staff of four.

Doug has been with the Authority for almost 12 years. Prior to his appointment, he was the instrumentation technician. Doug earned an

electronics degree from the Electronics Institute and is currently pursuing a degree at Edison College.

Doug enjoys the challenges of working as a maintenance supervisor — particularly, building different monitoring scenarios.

Doug is a resident of DeSoto County, and in his spare time enjoys spending time with his wife, nine-month old son and three dogs.



Gary Molnar, a shift operator at the Facility, collects a water sample for analysis.

Water Planning Alliance Identifies Alternative Sources

The Water Planning Alliance has identified more than 85 potential water supply sources to provide future supply to the region. The consultant for the project, Greeley and Hansen LLC, is evaluating all the alternatives in accordance with criteria established by the Technical Advisory Committee. Public workshops have been held in each of the four counties and public information remains available on our Web site at www.regionalwater.org.

Did you know?

Meeting agendas and minutes are available at www.regionalwater.org.

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