

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019



Kitsap County Public Works | Sewer Utility



Kingston Treatment Plant serves households and businesses in Kingston



Suquamish Treatment Plant serves Suquamish and the Clearwater Casino



Manchester Treatment Plant serves households and businesses in Manchester

INSIDE WASTEWATER TREATMENT OPERATION

Your Sewer Utility receives and treats an average of four million gallons of sewage, or wastewater, each day at our treatment plants. Most of us don't think about where our wastewater goes once it leaves our homes and businesses. Certified wastewater operators think about this every day. It is their job to control the treatment process, make sure our plants are properly maintained, meet environmental regulations, and protect the Puget Sound.

Why do we need treatment plant operators? With advances in technology, these jobs are not quite as "hands on" as they used to be (think manually raking out things that should not be flushed!), but they are a vital part of our sewer systems. With more automation comes more regulation, so having properly trained staff is more important than ever. Treatment plant operators in Kitsap County must be certified by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The Sewer Utility employs 14 operators at all levels from Trainee to the highest certification at Group IV. Operators are required to complete continuing education to stay certified or obtain certification for an advanced level.



Central Kitsap Treatment Plant treats 3.5 million gallons of wastewater per day from Central Kitsap, Silverdale, Keyport, Bangor Naval Base, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, and the City of Poulsbo.

4 MILLION GALLONS

of sewage, or wastewater, is treated daily at Kitsap County wastewater treatment facilities.

Want to know more about the treatment process? Free tours of the Central Kitsap Treatment Plant are available. Visit kitsapgov.com/pw for more information.

Wastewater operators operate, monitor and maintain wastewater and odor control equipment and facilities. They rely heavily on the County's laboratory staff to provide daily data to assure optimization of plant performance. They work closely with mechanics and electricians to keep equipment maintained and work with consultants and engineers when plant upgrades are needed. Specific duties depend on the size and type of treatment plant. Central Kitsap Treatment Plant (CKTP) is a regional facility requiring multiple operators with specialized duties, treating an average of 3.5 million gallons of wastewater per day. Smaller treatment plants in Kingston, Manchester and Suquamish receive an average of 109,000 to 231,000 gallons per day and have one operator maintaining the process at each plant. It's been said that treatment plant operators are among the first to protect the environment...

-Story Continues Other Side

Who would want to treat wastewater? People that choose this career tend to be detail-oriented with good mechanical skills and interest in math, science, and technology. A high school diploma and state certification is required along with treatment plant experience. Experience can be gained through on-the-job training, internships or even volunteering. Once these skills are obtained, there is a lot of longevity in a career in wastewater treatment. Kitsap County treatment plant operator Bob Irish recently received a lifetime achievement award for 40 years of service!



Bob Irish received a lifetime achievement award from the Pacific NW Clean Water Association for 40 years of service to Kitsap County.

As long-term employees begin to retire and our communities continue to grow, there are more opportunities for careers in wastewater treatment. If you are interested in this career field, or just want to know more about the treatment process, call Kitsap1 at 360.337.5777 to schedule a tour of your local treatment plant. For more information on the Wastewater Operator Certification Program, visit www.ecology.wa.gov.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY GRANT AWARDED TO CKTP



L to R: Dave Montgomery (PSE), Stella Vakarcs (KCPW), Chris Sheridan (KCPW), David Brown (PSE), Commissioner Rob Gelder, Commissioner Charlotte Garrido, Corey Corbett (PSE), and Commissioner Ed Wolfe. Photo courtesy of PSE.

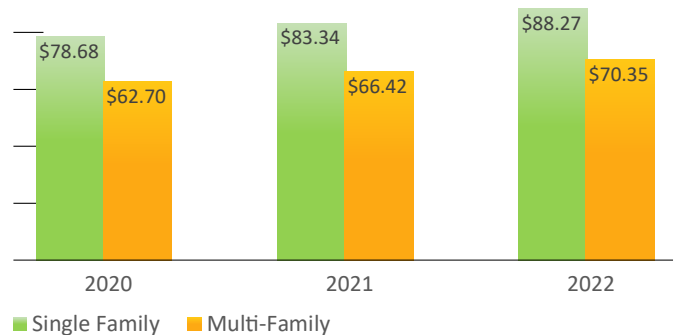
The UV Disinfection System at Central Kitsap Treatment Plant was recently upgraded to a more energy efficient system. The estimated energy savings of over \$57K per year qualified for a utility incentive from Puget Sound Energy for \$208,625. The “big check” from PSE was presented at the Board of Commissioners meeting on October 28, 2019.

SEWER RATES INCREASE IN JANUARY

The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners approved a new three-year sewer rate schedule on December 9, 2019. Most residential customers will see a 5.92% increase from 2019 rates. Due to the bimonthly billing cycle, some customers will receive a bill with 2019 and 2020 rates combined.

Customers that qualify for the Assessor’s Senior Exemption Program for property taxes may now receive a 25% discount on their sewer account. If you qualify for this exemption through the Assessor’s office, please contact Utility Billing at 360.337.7127 to request the discount.

The resolution and full rate schedule is available online at <https://www.kitsapgov.com/pw/Documents/sewerrates.pdf>.



Monthly Sewer Rates 2020-2022

