Project

Lake Belton Water Treatment Plant Standby Generation

Description

This project includes the installation of about 11,000 feet of 6 inch gas main, purchase of Oncor transformers, Atmos large metering station, and the installation of 16 Generac 625kW units to provide up to 10 megawatts of standby power at the Lake Belton Water Plant.

Purpose

In February of 2021, the District set a new daily record regarding gallons of treated and delivered water at a little over 67 million gallons. However, it wasn't until our power delivery improved toward the end of the arctic freeze before we had the capacity to reach this volume. This experience taught us that partial capacity standby generation is not sufficient. In an arctic event the extreme temperatures cause extensive water loss through main breaks in customer delivery systems, air relief valves, etc. Maintaining each customer's contract allocation is critical to minimize impact to our customers and the residents they serve. Whether it's an arctic event or a 4-hour outage in August, this project will allow us to continue delivering water when the electric grid is down. This project adds complete resiliency for about 290,000 water users, including schools, health care facilities and fire departments during electrical outage situations.

Updated

The project is estimated to cost $15,000,000. The majority of this cost ($11,625,000) is part of a contract with RPower LLC, Woodlands, Texas. The Atmos meter station and the Oncor transformer purchase will be direct expenses of WCID 1 and are estimated to be $1,350,000.

Status

Engineering of the 6-inch gas main and the installation of the 16 Generac units is underway. Atmos has a design and estimate for their large meter station and Oncor has been in contact regarding the sale of their transformers.

Look Ahead Schedule and Activities

Work is progressing in each aspect of the project. The largest component remaining for a final estimate is the 6-inch natural gas main.

Participation

Every WCID 1 entity has formally entered into contract addendums in support of this project. Bonds were issued on July 27, 2022 with full funding expected by September 15, 2022.

A Defense Economic Assistance Adjustment Grant (DEAAG) was awarded for $5,000,000. This grant will provide a direct offset to the estimated $15,000,000 project expense.