

Transition to New WWTF is Right Around the Corner...

After nearly two years of construction, the City of Willmar's new Wastewater Treatment Facility is nearing completion, approximately six months ahead of schedule. The final steps include testing the systems before the City takes ownership and then bringing the new WWTF into full operation by incrementally adding waste product to the new WWTF

Testing of the new Wastewater Treatment Facility began Monday, August 16. The testing consisted of running the liquids portion of the new Treatment Facility for seven days with water. This will demonstrate the equipment systems and associated facilities for the liquids portion of the systems are operational. The testing was successful, and the City assumed ownership of the Facility on August 23. Upon completion of the successful seven-day run and the transfer of ownership to the City, the transition of flow from the existing Wastewater Treatment Facility to the new Facility will begin. Wastewater from the existing Wastewater Treatment Facility will be added incrementally to the new system beginning with the introduction of Industrial wastewater at the rate of 200 gallons per minute. This will be slowly increased to 1,130,000 gallons per day over the course of two weeks.

Following the introduction of Industrial wastewater, residential waste will be introduced to the new system beginning with waste from the south area of the city at a rate of 70,000 gallons per day for two weeks, followed by 1,130,000 gallons per day from the southwest area for two weeks, and ending with 1,200,000 gallons per day from the northeast area of the City.

Although residents will be unaware of when the wastewater is routed to the new Facility, there is a small chance that minimal odor issues may occur from the existing Wastewater Treatment Facility. Residents are asked to be patient with the odor issues, keeping in mind the transition phase is underway.

An Open House for the new Facility is scheduled for late October.