



Dear Customers,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, our office remains closed to the public. Despite this, be assured that we are operating at full capacity with our crews and line workers available to respond to outages or service calls. As we have throughout the pandemic, we remain fully committed to keeping the lights on and the water running while also keeping our employees and customers safe.

I am confident that brighter days are ahead of us and look forward to seeing many of you in person during the latter half of 2021!

Penny Jones
General Manager

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

As authorized under Act 1 of 2021, the Annual Meeting of the Village of Morrisville will be postponed until August 16.

REINSTATEMENT OF DISCONNECTION MORATORIUM

Understanding that COVID-19 is creating financial hardships for many, the Public Utility Commission has reinstated the disconnection moratorium so we will not be disconnecting service at this time.

However, payment for services is still required. We ask that you please submit your payment as soon as possible. If you are unable to make payment at this time, please contact us by calling (802) 888-3348 or emailing customersupport@mwlvt.com to make a payment arrangement. If you are experiencing a financial hardship it may be possible to obtain financial assistance with paying your bill by calling Capstone at (802) 888-7993.

GREEN RIVER RESERVOIR UPDATE

Last fall MW&L requested that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) declare Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources' (ANR) opportunity to incorporate the water quality certification into the FERC license be waived. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act provides that its certification requirement "shall be waived" if a state certifying agency "fails or refuses to act on a request for certification, within a reasonable period of time (which shall not exceed one year) after receipt of such request." ANR took almost two years to act on the Village's request for certification, thereby waiving their certification authority.

Unfortunately, FERC denied our waiver petition. We strongly disagree with this decision and have filed a petition for review with the Court of Appeals. The bottom line is the unfortunate situation around the Green River Reservoir has not changed. ANR's water quality conditions make it financially impossible for MW&L to continue to operate the dam as we have for decades. We will continue to engage in internal discussions regarding next steps and will keep you apprised as we move forward.

DO NOT BLOCK VIEW OF ELECTRIC METERS

The electric meters on or near your house may not be the most attractive or decorative objects, but are a necessity in providing your home with power. Clear unobstructed access to the meter is also a necessity. The National Electric Safety Code and the Vermont Utilities Electric Service Requirements Manual, Section 7-04C state, "A clear area of three (3) feet is required in front of the meter and six (6) inches of space shall be provided around meters to allow for testing, reading, and repairing." Please be sure that any new construction or remodeling does not encroach on these clearances. Also, please keep trimmed any overgrowing shrubbery and limbs that obstruct our meter readers' ability to read the meter from afar.

Also, MW&L does not allow the installation of any devices in the meter socket for connecting generators, solar panels or other such things.

KEEPING YOUR DRAINS CLEAR

The build-up of grease in the plumbing system creates sewer back-ups and overflows that can damage your home and the environment. Grease washed down sink drains sticks to the insides of sewer pipes both on your property and in the municipal system. Over time, the build-up can block the entire pipe resulting in sewer back-ups and overflows. Grease that makes its way to the wastewater treatment facility prevents the system from running efficiently and drives additional costs to treat the sewage.

Please do not pour any grease products (meat fats, lard, cooking oil, shortening, butter/margarine, sauces and dairy products) down sink drains, garbage disposals or into toilets. Be aware that chemicals and commercial additives (including soaps and detergents) claiming to dissolve grease can actually clog sewer lines in another area. Be cautious! By following these simple guidelines, home and commercial property owners can make a significant difference in preventing sewer back-up and overflow by keeping grease products out of the sewer system.

Your help with this matter will ensure both your sewer lines and our sewer systems can continue to operate efficiently and with fewer back-ups and overflows. Please call us if you have questions.

STAFFING UPDATES

After more than 30 years of dedicated service, Ed Cote decided to hang up his climbing hooks to try his hand at a well-earned retirement. Ed started his career with MW&L in September 1990 as a general laborer/brush cutter, he worked for a spell as a standby power plant operator and eventually became a first-class lineman. We wish Ed a heartfelt thank you and all the best in the next chapter of his life. He will be missed.



Ed Cote

MW&L is pleased to announce the hiring of two apprentice linemen, Patrick Sikora of Stowe, a 2019 graduate of the Linemen Institute of the North East, and Kyle Johnson of Morrisville, a 2018 graduate of the Southeast Lineman Training Center.



Patrick Sikora



Kyle Johnson