



the Pipeline

Preparing for Growth— The Future is Now!

It goes without saying that the Powdersville area is growing at an amazing pace. A recent newspaper article had this headline about Powdersville: “Anderson County Community is Powder Keg of Growth”.

A nice play on words, but one that carries a double meaning. Explosive growth can be both good and bad. It can be good in that it brings more jobs and opportunity to the area. But if growth comes at the expense of planning, preparation and the environment, it can have unintended consequences that are just as damaging as any other unplanned explosion.

As your water provider, we are pleased to say that we have

planned for this type of growth for many years. Recognizing the potential pitfalls that sometimes accompany rapid economic development, Powdersville Water has continued to anticipate and plan for the water infrastructure needs of our service district. Over the last 13 years, we have invested millions in system upgrades that have resulted in system fire flows and water pressures that rival any metro area. Even though we have built a good foundation, we still must do more to sustain current service levels to our customers. In this newsletter we will reveal several tools that we utilize to help prepare your water system for the future.

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PREPARING FOR GROWTH *continued...*

DEMAND FORECASTING & HYDRAULIC MODELING

As a water provider, we cannot simply stand back and wait until demand for water exceeds supply and then start planning. Because of the long lead time required to permit and construct the necessary water infrastructure, we must anticipate well in advance the future needs of our distribution system. This leads to the development of well-informed forecasts of water demands that we think will be placed upon our system, sometimes looking out five to ten years in advance. With the use of a computerized model that hydraulically represents our entire piping network, we can model the impact of estimated future demands on various portions of the system and thereby, determine adequate main sizes, necessary interconnections with other pipes, sufficient storage in our tanks, as well as sizing pumps to fulfill the need. Without this technology, we would be doing a lot of guessing about where to build new infrastructure. The hydraulic model is routinely calibrated and it is as close to reality as you can get; a wonderful planning tool that helps direct funding to the right place, at the right time!

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING & FINANCIAL MODELING

As we continually model new water demands, we regularly identify infrastructure upgrades that will

increase capacity or service level in the system. There are always more projects than funds, so prioritization becomes an important part of the process. We always want to build “just in time” projects that make the best use of the available funds. We place the highest priority projects in our Capital Improvement Plan which encompasses a ten year planning horizon. The capital project budget is one of several financial components that make up another valuable tool in the box—our Financial Rate Model. This ten-year model takes into account all operating expenses, debt service costs, current and future capital projects, and even weather in an attempt to project the water rates that will be needed to properly fund the infrastructure that will sustain the level of service that you have come to expect. Our goal in looking at the next ten years every year is to avoid huge rate increases in any one year.

MAKING “GROWTH PAY FOR GROWTH”

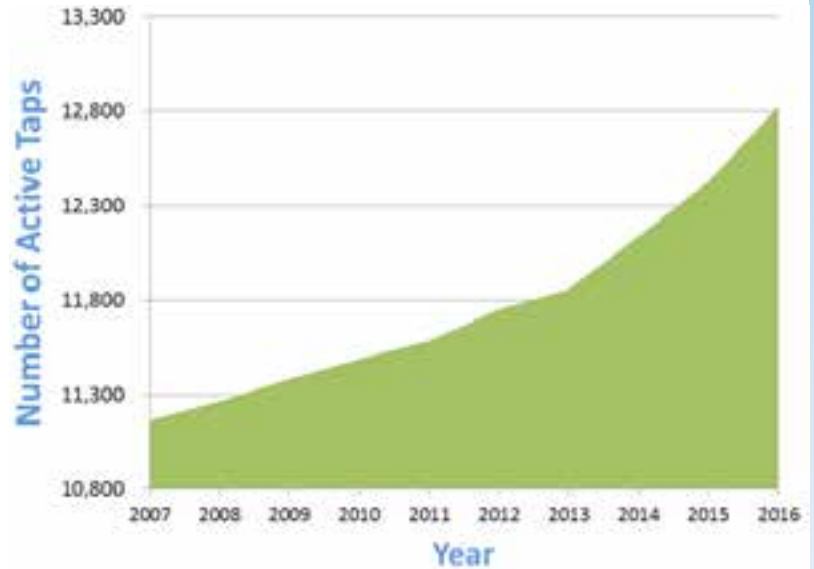
As our community continues to grow, it is important that we ensure that the entities that are causing the impact on our water system are the same ones paying for improvements to the system. Back in 2005, our Board of Directors recognized the need for growth to pay its own way instead of placing this expense solely on the backs of our existing customers. Every time another family, business or other enterprise is connected to our



system, the demand on the water infrastructure is increased. This means that sometime in the future, system improvements must be made to meet this demand and replace this capacity. At Powdersville Water, we ask that every new connection pays its share of these needed improvements. We call this a capacity fee, since these new customers are paying now for the capacity in the system that one day must be replaced. These funds have been instrumental in paying for needed upgrades and for mitigating water rates for our existing customers.

As you can see, we have quite a tool box that has helped us plan for the future. This process has placed us in an enviable position for a public water utility in a region that continues to see change. Our future is very bright and we look forward to serving you with quality drinking water as we grow together.

POWDERSVILLE WATER Increase in Active Taps—Last 10 Years



MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER



This newsletter highlights various initiatives Powdersville Water has taken to prepare for the future. Although growth can be a good thing, it also brings with it challenges that involve more than just larger water mains. It also means increased infrastructure needs such as road improvements, sewer capacity, additional schools, medical support facilities, and more recreational facilities. It also impacts the environment in such areas as air quality, storm-water control, litter prevention and water quality in our streams and rivers. All of these issues ultimately contribute to our quality of life. The management and Board of Directors understand that when we provide drinking water and fire protection to the general public, our job does not stop there. We challenge ourselves to stay abreast of all levels of government that effect our community and seek to promote and guide quality development to the extent appropriate. We seek to serve as environmental stewards not only of water, but of all the areas of life that water touches. I believe our challenge comes down to two choices: We can stand back and watch our community grow rapidly and just accept what we get—or, we can become engaged in the process, stay in touch with the news, go to the public meetings, have an opinion and serve in some capacity that will have an impact on our future quality of life. Good communities do not happen by accident. There are always “unsung heroes” in the background that make a difference in the way things happen. I encourage each of you to be one of those citizens. Let’s embrace the challenge and make a good difference together! Thank you being one of our customers and I wish you an enjoyable summer!

Thank you,
Dyke Spencer,
Executive Director

SPOTLIGHT



Chris Rasco and Evan Landreth receive the 2017 AWWA SC Section Safety Award on behalf of Powdersville Water



Gordon Brush, Director of Finance and Administration, receives the 2016 Director of the Year Award from the Easley Chamber of Commerce



Introducing Our
New & Improved
Website



www.PowdersvilleWater.org

Who We Are

Powdersville Water is a special purpose district operated by an accomplished team of professionals. We are dedicated to serving our customers in the most efficient manner.

Mission Statement

The mission of Powdersville Water is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water to the community, and to all customers within our service area. In providing this service, we seek to provide abundant and affordable drinking water in a manner that promotes efficient and reliable service.



Powdersville Water offers paperless billing

In an effort to reduce mailing costs and the printing of paper bills, Powdersville Water now offers the e-bill paperless option. Powdersville Water customers who choose this option can visit the new website and select Customer Forms from the drop down list under the Customer Service Tab. The Go Paperless E-Bill form can be completed and authorized online.

Powdersville Water customers who choose this option will receive an email each month with a PDF attachment of the bill statement. Adobe Reader will be required to open the attachment. If you would like additional information, please check our website or contact our Customer Service Department at 864-269-5440, option 4 or email us at info@powdersvillewater.org.

www.PowdersvilleWater.org

