

COVID-19 Impacts to Wastewater's Construction Projects

King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

MWPAAC

February 24, 2021

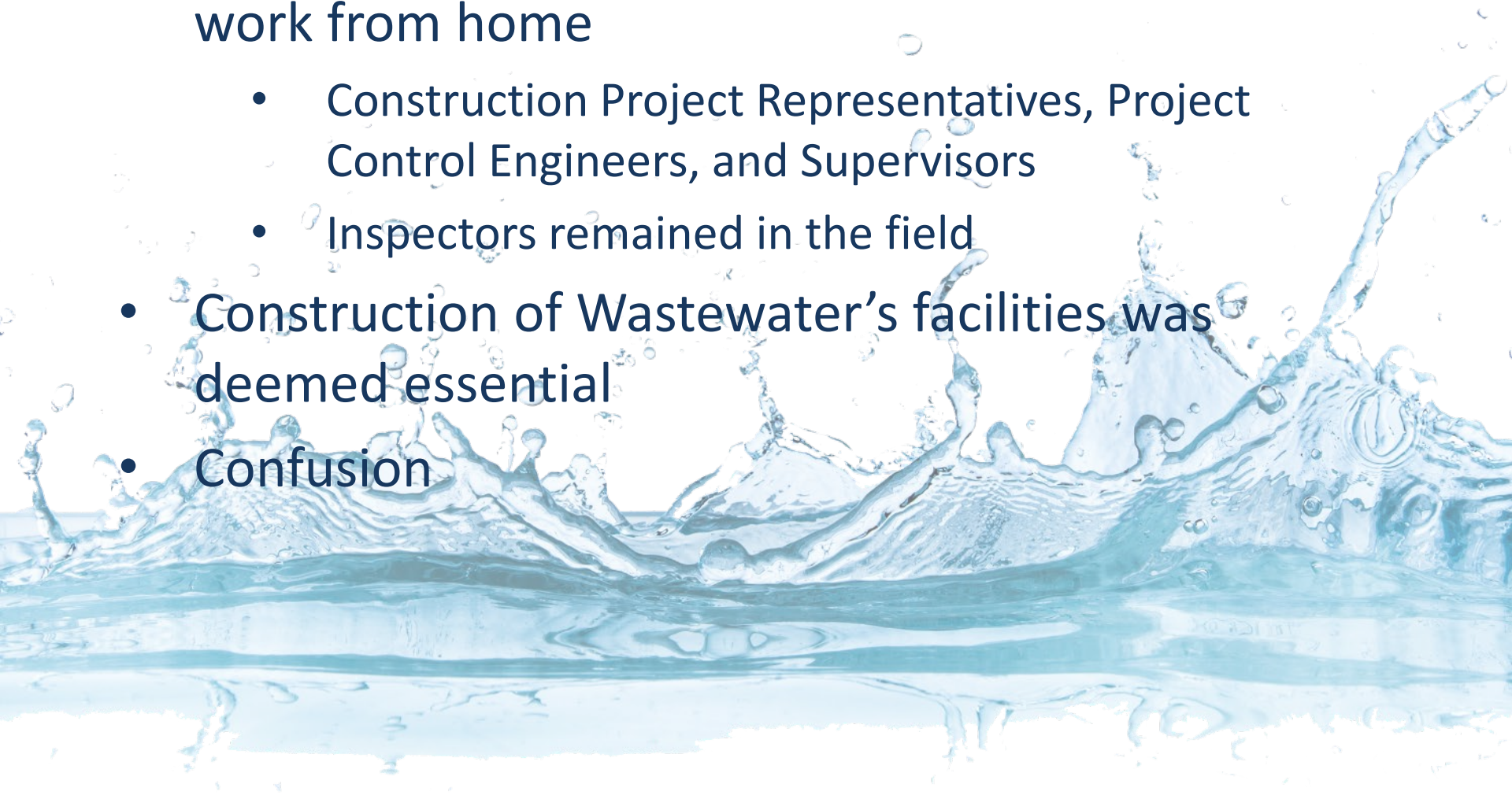
Agenda:

- Onset of the Pandemic
- Construction changes
- Impacts
 - Daily work
 - Changes to construction
- Other actions
- Questions



Onset of the Pandemic – Early days

- King County directed most of its employees to work from home
 - Construction Project Representatives, Project Control Engineers, and Supervisors
 - Inspectors remained in the field
- Construction of Wastewater's facilities was deemed essential
- Confusion



Onset of the Pandemic - Spring 2020

- Department of Labor and Industries
 - Division of Occupational Safety and Health Directive 1.70 issued
- Contractor Health and Safety Plans updated
- Inspection staff closely monitoring COVID-19 safety protocols



Impacts to WTD's Daily Work

- **Only Inspection staff are physically reporting to jobsites on a regular basis**
- **In-person meetings and carpooling are not allowed.**
- **Health screening prior to reporting to work**
 - **Mandatory quarantining for employees who are sick or who have been potentially exposed to a COVID-19 positive case**
- **More frequent virtual meetings with “office” staff**
- **COVID-19 Safety Checklists**



COVID-19 Construction Site Inspection Checklist for King County Construction Sites

Version Dated: 04/15/2020

The Washington State Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order for COVID-19 protections addresses essential work that continues when designated as "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers" to help state, local, tribal, and industry partners as they work to protect communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. Accordingly, the County will continue County maintenance and public works projects, consistent with the "essential" designation, when it is possible to comply with CDC and Public Health guidance. Contractors will be required to update safety plans as part of this process. **County inspectors will check compliance with CDC and Public Health guidance and will provide workers with contact information if workers are concerned that guidance isn't being followed.**

This document provides guidance to County inspectors consistent with direction from the CDC and Public Health on COVID-19. According to County contract documents, the Contractor is responsible for and controls access to the site and enforcement of safety and hygiene protocols as specified in each contract document and the most recent COVID-19 safety guidance and requirements. While these requirements remain the Contractor's responsibility, King County will monitor and provide notifications of any known life safety concerns and issues while not directing contractors related to site safety means and methods or corrective measures.

This checklist is intended to assist County inspectors in monitoring Contractor activities related to CDC and Public Health guidance and requirements. County inspectors should share this list with the contractor's site safety officer. In the event that a County inspector observes non-conformance with the latest CDC and Public Health safety guidance and requirements, they should immediately notify the Contractor's on-site representative, contact the County's assigned Project or Technical Representative along with noting the issue on the checklist and document the incident in their Daily Inspection Report.

Date	
King County Contract Number and Project Name	
Project Location	
Contractor Firm Name	
Contractor Representative Name & Contact Information	
King County Department/Division	
King County Project Representative & Contact Information	
King County Inspector & Contact Information	
Contractor was notified to provide a written update to the project specific Health and Safety Plan (HASP) to protect workers from the threat of COVID-19. Receipt and acknowledgment of Contractor's updated HASP.	Date of Contractor Notification
	Date of accepted HASP updates
Comments:	
This checklist prepared by: <i>[Inspector Name]</i>	

COVID-19 Construction Site Inspection Checklist for King County Construction Sites

Version Dated: 04/15/2020

COVID-19 Construction Checklist	Frequency	Yes	No	N/A
1. All construction personnel have been issued required PPE <u>and</u> instructions on use. (As applicable to the assigned activities, <u>duties</u> and updated HASP.) Follow-ups are incorporated into new worksite employee orientation.				
2. Single use PPE is being disposed of properly.				
3. Reusable PPE is disinfected properly per current requirements.				
4. Employees and site visitors <u>are able to clean their hands</u> as provided in the current guidance and requirements with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol or wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Soap and water are the current guideline preference if hands are visibly dirty.				
5. Soap and water and alcohol-based hand rubs are readily available in the workplace. Adequate supplies are maintained. Hand sanitizing rubs are in multiple locations to encourage adequate hand hygiene.				
6. Identify specific locations and practices for daily trash such as: paper, hand towels, food containers, etc. Workers responsible for trash removal are provided the current guidance and requirements in proper PPE, <u>sanitization</u> and hand washing practices.				
7. All construction personnel (including new personnel to the site) have been advised to follow the current personal hygiene practices that include frequent hand washing with soap and water and/or hand sanitizer; avoiding contact with facial mucous membranes surfaces such as the eyes, nose and mouth (don't touch your face is the general rule); and directions to eat in designated lunch, break areas or personal offices. Confirm current CDC and Public Health guidelines have been communicated and are adhered to.				
8. Distancing: All personnel have been instructed to and are maintaining safe distances when interacting with County staff, consultants, contractors, vendors, and other site visitors. Six feet is generally considered a safe separation for all interpersonal verbal communications. Do not congregate.				
9. Verify extensive daily cleaning of shared workspaces and break rooms is scheduled to occur daily. The cleaning includes all shared horizontal surfaces and the equipment that is used on those surfaces, such as tables, handles, keyboards, controls, etc.				
10. Verify vehicles are routinely cleaned after each use and prior to use by another user, including all surfaces, handles, controls, knobs, etc.				
11. Verify construction equipment is routinely cleaned after each use and prior to use by another user, including all surfaces, handles, controls, knobs, etc.				
12. Tools are not being shared unless properly decontaminated per the manufacturer's recommendations or with 0.05% chlorine solution (1-part				

COVID-19 Construction Checklist	Frequency	Yes	No	N/A
household bleach to 100 parts water) prior to transfer between users. Tools are not shared if decontamination will result in damage.				
13. Common water coolers are not used. Provide individual water bottles or instruct workers to bring their own.				
14. Instructions have been provided to workers to change work clothes prior to arriving home; and to wash clothes before next use.				
15. Employees who are visibly sick are removed from the jobsite. Contractor must notify KC inspector and Project Representative.				
16. Workers are provided with contact information. <i>If workers are concerned that guidance isn't being followed, they can notify KC inspector or technical representative along with inclusion in the Daily Inspection Report.</i>				

COVID-19 Guidelines & Reference

COVID-19 guidelines continue to evolve as federal, state, county and local direction is updated. **Guidelines and links provided here are not regulations and may have been revised.**

Reference links from key CDC and Public Health recommendations:

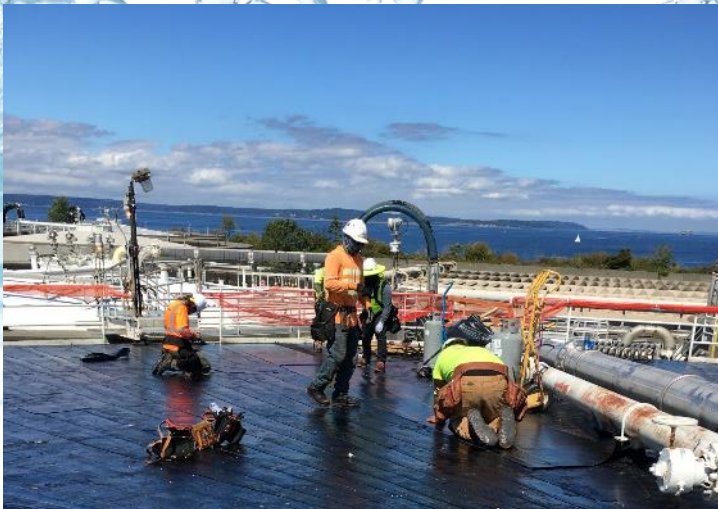
- Provide concerned workers and site visitors with key CDC and Public Health recommendations (and monitor signage and notices where appropriate):
[How to Protect Yourself](#)
[CDC Coronavirus](#)
[Social Distancing](#)
[If You are Sick](#)
[COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Health Promotion Materials and posters / notices for the entrance to your workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen:
[staying home when sick](#)
[cough and sneeze etiquette, and hand hygiene](#)
- Washington State Department of Health
[DOH 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak](#)
- State of Washington Labor and Industries Occupational Safety Reference
[Washington Labor & Industries COVID-19 Resources](#)
[OSHA Guidance for Preparing a Workplace for COVID 19](#)
- AGC of America has assembled general guidance and links to information from our federal agency partners and health organizations.
[AGC Inland NW COVID-19 Resource Center](#)
- Seattle/King County Building and Construction Trades Council and Washington Building Trades has issued guidance, links to these documents can be found at:
[Links to be established](#)

Changes to Construction

- **Health and Safety Plan Updates - Safety guidelines continue to evolve as we learn more about the virus**
- **Major changes adopted to date include:**
 - Identification of a COVID-19 Site Safety Supervisor
 - Health screenings
 - Common areas are disinfected
 - Face coverings are mandatory
 - Social distancing is maintained to the extent feasible

Changes to Construction

- **Major changes adopted to date include**
 - Use of common areas prohibited
 - Mandatory quarantining
 - Carpooling is forbidden or highly discouraged
 - Tools and equipment must be disinfected between users
 - PPE and handwashing facility availability



Changes to Construction

- Most contracts experienced only minor delays(days) and additional costs (<\$10k)
- A few contracts experienced supply chain delays due to factory shutdowns
- Three larger contracts are still negotiating delays and cost impacts
- Very few active contracts left which bid before the pandemic



Conclusion

- Numbers of COVID-19 positive cases among Construction Management and Contractor staff have been minor; spread has happened outside of the workplace
- Most contracts experienced only minor delays and financial impacts
- COVID-19 changes is not expected to impact the completion of our active construction projects
- Several contracts are bidding this Winter and Spring
 - COVID-19 impacts should be incorporated those bids.



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