

# WaterOne

Water District No. 1 of Johnson County

Dear Valued Customer:

As we near ground-breaking for our pipeline project along Highway K-7, Hedge Lane, and 175<sup>th</sup> Street, we wanted to provide you with an update and address questions about what to expect during construction. You may recall that this project is necessary to meet growing customer demand in WaterOne's southern service area to improve service reliability for the future. The project will construct over 13 miles of buried pipeline to a new pump station and enclosed 7.5 million gallon reservoir near Hedge Lane & 157<sup>th</sup> Street.

## **PROJECT STATUS**

Currently, WaterOne is in the process of awarding construction contracts, following an open, competitive bidding process. Pending WaterOne board approval, it is anticipated that the following contractors will be awarded work on this project.

1. BRB Construction of Topeka, KS will construct a 48" diameter pipeline along the Highway K-7 and Hedge Lane corridor from Highway K-10 to 127<sup>th</sup> Street.
2. Kissick Construction of Kansas City, MO will construct another 48" diameter pipeline along the Highway K-7 and Hedge Lane corridor from 127<sup>th</sup> Street to 159<sup>th</sup> Street.
3. S.J. Louis Construction of Rockville, MN will construct a 60" diameter pipeline along the Highway K-7 and Hedge Lane corridor from 159<sup>th</sup> Street to 175<sup>th</sup> Street.
4. S.J. Louis Construction of Rockville, MN will also construct a 42" diameter pipeline along 175<sup>th</sup> Street from Hedge Lane to Ridgeview Road.

Construction for all four projects is scheduled to begin as early as March 2014 with completion by December 2015. Each contractor is required by WaterOne to inform property owners a minimum of one week prior to start of construction. The pump station at Hedge Lane & 157<sup>th</sup> is expected to be completed by Spring 2016, but this part of the project will not directly affect your neighborhood.

## **ACQUIRING EASEMENTS**

One of the most critical steps in our project's timeline is acquiring the legal means to lay the pipeline through a section of your property, called an easement. It is WaterOne's goal to negotiate with you for appropriate and equitable compensation for the easements. After the installation of the pipeline, property owners may build driveways, parking lots, or sidewalks, on the easements. The pipeline route will be cleaned up and the site restored to the original, or better, condition.

By now you should have been contacted with details of the proposed easements and pipeline alignments and an agreement for your voluntary (compensated) consent. WaterOne has retained the firms Donohue and Associates and Orrick & Erskine, LLP to facilitate the easement acquisition process, so you may receive correspondence from them on WaterOne's behalf.

If you have already responded regarding your easement, thank you. If you *have not* yet responded to our previous contact(s) regarding your easement, please be aware that WaterOne may soon file a condemnation action seeking legal recourse for easements that it has not been able to negotiate. Condemnation would simply grant WaterOne access as proposed for this project only for the affected strip of land.

*We want to assure you that WaterOne's preference is to work with you directly.* We intend to negotiate with property owners as long as possible – up to the appointed appraisers hearing date. Filing a condemnation action is a precautionary procedure to ensure this critical project remains on schedule.

WaterOne is committed to working with each property owner to coordinate activities through the easement acquisition process and during the construction of the pipeline.

### **STAYING INFORMED**

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding during this critical project. To ensure that you stay informed throughout, **sign-up for water alerts at [www.NotifyJoCo.org](http://www.NotifyJoCo.org)**. (Enrollment in WaterOne alerts is automatic, once you customize your contact preferences.)

You can also follow our progress on the Hedge Lane project at [www.WaterOne.org/projects](http://www.WaterOne.org/projects). Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MyWaterOne](http://www.facebook.com/MyWaterOne) and Twitter at [www.twitter.com/MyWaterOne](http://www.twitter.com/MyWaterOne).

If at any time further questions arise, please contact:

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