



CITY OF
TUCSON



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: August 13, 2012
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PIPELINE MONITORING SYSTEM DETECTS POTENTIAL PROBLEM

Tucson Water has installed monitoring systems along large diameter pipelines that are designed to notify Tucson Water maintenance personnel of conditions that could lead to failure of a section of pipe. Monitors recently detected a series of events on a section of pipe that indicate a potential weakening of the pipe structure. The segment of pipe is located along a transmission main that moves water from a reservoir located in Starr Pass into other parts of the City.

Tucson Water has taken steps to isolate the affected segment of pipe in order to allow maintenance crews access to conduct an inspection. This action has resulted in the temporary closing of water supply from the reservoir. In order to ensure water delivery is not affected by the closing of the reservoir, groundwater wells have been turned on to meet demand while the condition of the segment of pipe is investigated.

Tucson Water Director Alan Forrest stated the monitoring system has worked as planned. "Because so much of our infrastructure is below ground, we were often unable detect weaknesses in our pipes until a break occurred. The investment in this monitoring system has brought a potentially serious situation to our attention in time to avert a problem."

Tucson Water crews will begin to excavate around the affected pipe as soon as permits are secured, and alternate water delivery capabilities are in place.

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