



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: January 15, 2014
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City of Tucson Dedicates Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) Water Treatment Facility

City of Tucson and Tucson Water officials, along with special guests, gathered today to dedicate the Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) Water Treatment Facility near Irvington Road, west of I-19. Construction of the new 4,500-square-foot facility started in July 2012 and was completed on schedule and within budget. This AOP Facility was constructed adjacent to the existing Tucson Airport Remediation Project (TARP) Plant; together these two treatment facilities will purify up to 8 million gallons of water a day.

Tucson Water Director Alan Forrest hosted the dedication ceremony, which included Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, City Council Members Regina Romero (Ward 1) and Richard Fimbres (Ward 5), Pima County Supervisor Richard Elías (District 5), Tucson City Manager Richard Miranda, and Tucson Water Administrator of the Strategic Initiatives Division Jeff Biggs.

“This new AOP Water Treatment Facility is an important investment in our community’s water quality and long-term water reliability,” said Mayor Rothschild. “Tucson Water’s commitment to ensuring that customers have enough safe, high-quality water today and in the future is a strategic approach that we fully support.”

The new facility features AOP technology which combines ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide to remove 1,4-dioxane from the underground plume at the TARP wellfield. 1,4-dioxane was used as a stabilizer in industrial solvents in aircraft manufacturing facilities in the Tucson International Airport area from the 1940s to the 1970s.

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The AOP Water Treatment Facility is a pro-active approach on behalf of the City of Tucson and Tucson Water to respond to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) health advisory levels. The EPA does not currently regulate 1,4-dioxane, but does issue advisories as guidelines for water utilities. In January 2011, the EPA issued a revised drinking water health advisory for 1,4-dioxane of 0.35 parts per billion – significantly lower than the previous advisory level of 3.0 parts per billion.

Tucson Water Director Forrest pointed out that the water produced from the TARP and AOP treatment facilities meets all federal drinking water standards and is safe for drinking, cooking, and bathing. Tucson Water performs thousands of tests each year on water samples and reports the results to customers, elected officials, and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

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