



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Howard S. Lazarus, City Administrator

**CC:** Craig Hupy, Public Services Area Administrator  
Molly Maciejewski, Public Works Director  
Brian Steglitz, Water Treatment Plant Manager

**DATE:** November 20, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Barton Dam Embankment Seepage and Raw Water Break

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This past weekend, there have been two issues within the Public Services Area.

- 1) The embankment of Barton Dam has been suffering seepage along the downstream face. Staff has been aware of the seepage and monitoring it with the assistance of outside consultants. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) was informed of the issue and have approved the monitoring plan that is being followed. The purpose of the monitoring plan is to determine the underlying cause of the seep so an appropriate mitigation can be affected.

Late on Friday, 11/17/17, as part of the monitoring plan, a routine inspection located another area of seepage. City staff and the consultants were on site on Saturday to assess the situation. FERC was notified of the situation. In conjunction with FERC, an increased monitoring plan was instituted. Other mitigation includes placing additional soils at the location of the seepage. The placement of the soil will be done under an existing service contract.

The additional seep will accelerate the investigation to determine the ultimate mitigation. This accelerated investigation will likely require a resolution to City Council for additional funding. If necessary, as soon as a revised work plan is designed and a corresponding cost determined, a resolution will be presented for City Council's consideration.

- 2) The other issue is one of two water mains that run cross-country from Barton Pond to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) broke. These water mains bring raw water from the Huron River to the WTP for processing into drinking water.

Crews have been on the site continuously since Saturday. Attempts were made to isolate the section of broken pipe without success. An outside contractor was contacted and has come on site to install linestops that would isolate the main from the rest of the system allowing a repair to be made.

The City has a standing contract with the linestop contractor for this type of work. However due to the large size of this main, the work will exceed the authorized value of the current contract. In December, staff will be presenting to City Council a resolution confirming the additional expenditures to address this issue.

At this time, the linestops have not worked. Staff is looking at alternate locations for the linestops in attempt to isolate the break. If the isolation cannot be affected, the community maybe asked to restrict water use. This decision on voluntary restricted water use would be made in the next 24 to 48 hours. Restricted water use means to limit the use of water such as deferring washing clothes, not flushing liquid waste down a toilet, limiting the length of showers and other similar actions. The quality of the City's drinking water is not affected.

In both of these circumstances, staff has been available and working around the clock in less than favorable weather.

The dedication and commitment from staff is greatly appreciated.