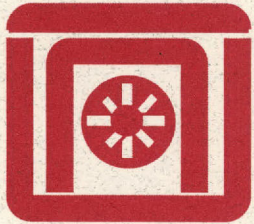


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NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

January 1997



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WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 1997? Projects to Benefit Hudspeth County Residents

Residents of Hudspeth County will soon see their County officials' efforts, combined with benefits payments paid to the County by the Authority, come to fruition.

Since 1994, the County has received \$2.5 million from planning and implementation (P&I) fees collected from Texas low-level radioactive waste (LLW) generators. By statute, the county hosting the LLW facility is entitled to 10% of these charges to generators, to be used for local public projects. In 1997, approximately \$741,000 of P&I money will be used to fund nine projects countywide.

"I'm very pleased to have the money for these much needed projects," says Hudspeth County Judge James Peace. "Without the P&I funds, these projects probably never would've been done," he added.

In particular, Sierra Blanca will have a new public park by early summer. About \$234,640 of P&I funds will be used to partially fund the \$400,000 project. The remainder will be matched by a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The new park will be located south of the courthouse and will feature a pavilion, seven covered picnic tables and grills, a lighted basketball court, two lighted tennis courts, a walking trail, and a watering system. Construction of the new facility is expected to begin in early February.

Sierra Blanca is also expected to have its long awaited sewer system by the end of the year. Construction is expected to begin sometime in late January or early February. About \$230,000 of P&I funds will be used for this project. The Hudspeth County water district will use an additional \$70,000 of P&I monies to expand and renovate the existing office building.

Three other Sierra Blanca projects funded with P&I funds are a new school cafeteria, a school technology program, and a community resource center. The cafeteria project includes the construction of a new building located behind the school gymnasium. The school requested that \$35,000 be allocated to the cafeteria project and any remaining funds would be applied to the fiber-optic technology project that will give the school access to the Internet. At the time of this interview, Superintendent Lewis Rogers did not anticipate the P&I funds would be used for the cafeteria; however, the school might apply the funds to the fiber-optic project. "The difference between the new and the old cafeteria is that the new one is being built as a cafeteria. The old one was not. It was a makeshift building which had previously been used as offices and a study hall," said Rogers. This is going to be a very nice facility," he added.

Countywide, the communities of Dell City, Fort Hancock and Sierra Blanca will soon have emergency paramedic and ambulance services available. The County has contracted with Heart Tri-City EMS Inc., out of El Paso to provide the services on a 24-hour, 7 day a week basis. The \$150,000 service will be paid for with P&I funds.

Fort Hancock can soon expect to have its own Municipal Building to house the sheriff

(next page)



TO THE POINT

-- by Rick Jacobi, General Manager

Later this month, we will accept bids to build a "demonstration cap." The purpose of this cap is to prove that the cap designed to cover the trenches during operations is adequate. The demonstration cap will be built near the meteorological station and close to the trench that was excavated to test construction methods. The point of the meteorological station, exploratory trench and demonstration cap is to test things to ensure that the facility will be safe.

The demonstration cap project will consist of two different cap designs. One will be the Asphalt Barrier Design. This is the cap that has been selected for use during operation of the facility. It has an asphalt barrier sandwiched between thick layers of clay and synthetic liners. The second cap is the Capillary Barrier Design. This cap consists of sand and rocks sandwiched between layers of clay and synthetic liners. There will be a big silo right in the middle of the caps that will be full of instruments to measure subsidence, moisture and other scientific parameters.

By building these things now, we can test our excavation methods, check our construction plans, and assure ourselves that the facility will be a model for radioactive waste disposal. Our commitment is to build and operate the best low level radioactive waste facility in the world.

If you are interested in learning more about the demonstration cap project or the exploratory trench project, call the field office and arrange for Joe or Lindsey to take you on a tour.



ANNOUNCING

1. Beginning with this issue, the newsletter will now be released every other month as opposed to on a monthly basis.

2. Please remember to return the enclosed postage paid postcard as soon as possible, in order to remain on the Authority's mailing list.

Countywide Improvements

(continued from page 1)

deputies, justice of the peace, a secretary, and the Texas Department of Public Safety officers. The facility's design also includes a courtroom, restrooms and a reception area. Approximately \$208,723 of P&I funds are being used for this project. Construction began last October and (at the time of printing this article) was expected to be completed by January 1, 1997.

P&I funds will also be used to upgrade Dell City's water system. The County has directed \$55,000 of P&I funds to cover expenses not covered by a State grant received for that project. An additional \$30,000 of P&I funds have also been allocated for use by the Hueco Volunteer Fire Department to purchase much needed fire equipment and a fire truck.

Upon completion of these projects, the County will still have approximately \$100,000 of P&I funds in their budget. Judge Peace has another list of projects on which some of those funds can also be used. "Some of my goals as far as community projects include renovation of the courthouse, allotment of a utilities budget for the new library, construction of a firehouse, and completion of the Depot's renovation," said Judge Peace. ☺

JANUARY 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY (NATL. HOLIDAY)	2	3	4 S.B. Varsity (Girls) BB vs Faith Christ. (at Faith Christian)
5	6 1st Class Day for 2nd Semester (S.B. School)	7	8 S.B. Beta Sigma Phi Meeting ----- S.B. Nat. Honor Society Mtg. 2:30 PM (Library) ----- S.B. Pre-TAAS Test Grades 3-10	9 Jr. High BB vs Tornillo (in S.B.) 5:00 PM S.B. Pre-TAAS Test Grades 3-10	10 S.B. Varsity BB vs. Balmorhea (at Balmorhea) 5:30 PM	11 SB High School UIL Invitational S.B. Jr. High BB vs Faith Christian (in S.B.) 10:00 AM
12	13 Hud. Cty. Commiss. Court Meeting 9:00 AM ----- TLLRWDA Wrkng. Grp. Mtg., 7:00 PM (S.B. Courthouse)	14 S.B. Varsity BB vs Balmorhea (in S.B.) 5:00 PM S.B. School Brd. Meeting, 6:00 PM	15 S.B. Chamber of Commerce Meeting, 6:00 PM	16	17 S.B. Varsity BB vs Faith Christian 5:00 PM (at Faith Christian)	18 S.B. Jr. High BB vs Ft. Hancock 5:00 PM (at Fort Hancock)
19	20 M.L.K., JR. DAY (NATL. HOLIDAY)	21 Water District Brd. Mtg., 5:00 PM S.B. Varsity BB vs. Dell City (in S.B.) 5:00 PM	22 S.B. Beta Sigma Phi Meeting	23	24 S.B. Varsity BB vs Valentine (in S.B.) 5:00 PM	25 Monahans Speech Tournament ----- Hudspeth County Livestock Show (County Barn) ----- S.B. Jr. High BB Tournament
26	27 Hud. Cty. Commiss. Court Meeting 9:00 AM	28 S.B. Varsity BB vs Dell City (in D.C.) 5:00 PM	29 S.B. Nat. Jr. Honor Society Meeting (Library) 2:30 PM	30	31	

Working Group Meeting -- First of 1997

The first working group meeting of 1997 is scheduled for Monday, January 13 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Sierra Blanca Courthouse. Eric Schmitt, Communication Support Manager for Texas Utilities will discuss overall handling methods of low-level radioactive waste at the Comanche Peak Power Plant. Mr. Schmitt will focus on potential problems caused by LLW and how they're prevented; protective clothing required for personnel; time, distance and shielding with respect to radiation exposure; and examples of LLW generated at Comanche Peak. Everyone is invited to attend.

Neighbor To Neighbor is published monthly by the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority (the Authority). The Authority is the State agency responsible for siting, constructing, operating and eventually closing a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility for the State. The Authority is headquartered in Austin, Texas and also has a field office in Sierra Blanca, Texas.

Please feel free to visit or contact the Authority at the following addresses and phone/fax numbers:

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TELL US ABOUT IT... 

We are working hard to provide you with the most up-to-date and accurate information pertaining to our project. Please feel free to comment, ask questions and/or make suggestions:

Comments/Comentario :

(Lined area for writing comments, enclosed in a red rounded rectangle)



Mail To/Envíe á:

**ATTN: Editor
TLLRWDA
7701 N. Lamar, #300
Austin, TX 78752**

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COMENTARIO...** 

Deseamos ofrecerle la información mas precisa y reciente tocante a nuestro proyecto. Por favor envienos su comentario perteneciente al proyecto y/o a este boletín de noticias.

Name/Nombre: _____

Address/Dirección: _____

Phone/Teléfono: _____

**Texas Low-Level Radioactive
Waste Disposal Authority
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