

Wasilla Pool Service Interruption August 11-16, 2019 Report

The Wasilla pool pump/mechanical room was found flooded late Sunday evening, Aug 11, 2019. Orion Construction (firm that performed the recent renovations) was on site Monday morning, Aug 12, 2019 and pumped out the water in the pump room (over 17,000 gals). It was determined the pre-existing sump pump's electronic switch had failed which prevented the sump pump from operating. As a result, the pump room filled with water which then destroyed the main pool pump and controls.

Orion removed the main pool pump and had it rebuilt. New controls were express shipped from the Lower 48. The rebuilt pool pump and new controls were installed and repairs complete on Friday, Aug 16, 2019. During the repairs, investigation revealed that the pre-existing waste line used to discharge water during the backwashing of the pool's main filters was clogged. This waste drain line and the associated dry well were not part of the construction project and have been in use since 1981.

There was a water sensor in the pump room however, that was off-line at the time of the incident. It was determined the water sensor was off-line due to multiple power interruptions to the unit. Even after extensive research, we're not exactly sure why or how these multiple power interruptions occurred. Regardless, had the water sensor gone into alarm mode, it would not have mattered though as that alarm was not designed to send out messages. This issue has been addressed. A newly installed alarm now sends messages to three different MSB employees.

New preventative measures now in place include -

- A backflow preventer was installed in the waste line.
- A new electronic switch for the sump pump was installed.
- Secondary water sensing alarm was installed that texts and emails a minimum of three employees.
- A pre-existing abandoned waste line was capped.
- A back-up power supply was installed.
- The waste line between the dry well and leach system was snaked.
- Drain rock in the dry well was removed to allow access to the waste line and to increase storage capacity.

Final thoughts and background –

Wasilla Pool was turned over to the MSB in May of this year. Every week since May, pool staff have conducted backwashing of the pools' sand media filters. This process removes all the waste that ends up in pool water. The water used in this process is drained into a dry well which leads to a leach system.

- The dry well and drain lines are the original lines built in 1981.
- The last backwash occurred Aug 8, 2019.
- The failed pump and clogged lines were not part of the contractor's pool scope.
- The pool pump room that houses mechanical hardware for the pool is the same room used for the old pool.
- Orion Construction remedied issues that were not part of the original project scope and had the pool back online as quickly as possible.
- Numerous measures were put in place to prevent another similar occurrence.

Jude Bilafer

Director, Capital Projects Department

September 3, 2019