

Feb 2022 Boil Water Notice

Austin Water and Wastewater Commission | February 16, 2022



Opening Comments

Greg Meszaros

Austin Water Director

Operations Overview

Rick Coronado, P.E.

Assistant Director, Operations

WHAT HAPPENED

- 💧 Crews were filling a basin with water to begin treatment
 - A mixture of water and processed solids was added to “seed” the basin
 - This is a high turbidity mixture that is typically stopped after a few hours
- 💧 “Seeding” was not stopped and continued for most of the night
- 💧 Alarms and sample tests indicating high turbidity were recorded



WHAT HAPPENED

- High turbidity water moved into water filters
- Filters removed particles and produced water that met regulatory standards until they clogged
- Multiple filters exceeded turbidity standards and entered the clearwells (underground storage tanks)



WHAT HAPPENED

- ◆ Supervisory staff were notified to assess situation
- ◆ Plant was shut down
- ◆ Production was ramped up at **Davis** and **Handcox** to keep water flowing to customers
- ◆ Water pressure and disinfection parameters remained consistent and within regulatory standards during this time



Davis
Water Treatment Plant



Handcox (WTP4)
Water Treatment Plant

INITIAL ACTIONS UNDERWAY

- ◆ Meetings have been held with plant staff at each water treatment plant (Ullrich, Davis, Handcox)
- ◆ Examining process control protocols
- ◆ Examining training protocols
- ◆ Reviewing alarm, testing & notification procedures for improvements



An aerial photograph of a wastewater treatment plant. In the foreground, there are large, rectangular concrete basins and walkways. In the middle ground, there are green fields and some industrial buildings. In the background, a dense forest of trees separates the plant from a city skyline with various skyscrapers under a cloudy sky. A semi-transparent blue banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

Questions

