# Fountain Utilities

Your Hometown Utility

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## 2018: A Year In Review

Providing safe and reliable service is the pinnacle of our commitment to this community. Throughout 2018, our focus has been on implementing solutions that provide a sustainable future for our customers.

## Improving Infrastructure

One of the many ways we provide reliable service is by making continuous improvements to infrastructure. This year, we began the extension of an 115,000 volt transmission line, which originates from our north substation and extends toward the site of a future substation, located east of Fountain near Kane Ranch. The transmission line is part of a planned loop that will ensure reliability and support future growth. The construction of the transmission line was coordinated with the City's transportation improvement project, which will ultimately connect C&S Road to Duckwood Road.

#### Maintaining Water Quality

Additionally, we found long-term solutions to address the treatment of our contaminated groundwater. On June 18, 2018, we celebrated the start-up of the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) treatment units provided and paid for by the Air Force. These units play a critical role in providing safe water to our community. Throughout the summer these units removed contaminants to non-detectable levels and will soon have their GAC filter media replaced, well in advance of any potential breakthrough.

The Air Force (through the Army Corps of Engineers) also entered into a contract for the construction of a comprehensive groundwater treatment plant.

Construction is expected to begin next spring near the northern boundary of Aga Park in downtown Fountain. This is an important milestone for Fountain, as this codifies the Air Force's financial commitment to provide long-term treatment, and solutions, for our community's groundwater.

# **UtiliNews**

DECEMBER 2018

Improving Infrastructure

Maintaining Water Quality

**Keeping Rates Low** 

Helping You Prepare for Winter



Installation of the 115kv transmission line

### Keeping Rates Low

One of the most important topics for our customers is rates. As a local utility that does not generate its own electricity, a key element of long-term rate stability is our ability to negotiate and enter into beneficial service contracts with our wholesale providers. In 2015, we negotiated a power supply contract that resulted in a twelve-percent (12%) reduction on the average utility bill.

When our contract matures in 2027, power supply will still cost less than it did ten years prior. And if that wasn't enough, we've also entered into a 30-year contract for power produced by the newly constructed Pueblo Hydroelectric Plant. This diversification in our portfolio is expected to yield a cost-savings of 3% when the facility reaches full production next spring.

These are just a few highlights of our time spent serving you in 2018, and as we enter into 2019, I encourage you to follow us on social media and stay tuned for events and updates. It has been a pleasure serving you.

Curtis Mitchell, P.E. Utilities Director



Annie Oatman-Gardner, Regional Director, US Senator Bennet; Curtis Mitchell, P.E., Utilities Director, City of Fountain; Mayor Gabriel Ortega, City of Fountain; and, Councilmember Sharon Thompson, City of Fountain, toast as they celebrate the start of the Granular Activated Carbon filtration unit located at Aga Park.

Installation of the large turbine, aka "Papa Bear" in the Pueblo Reservoir Hydroelectric Facility.



# Are you ready for winter?

Winter storms can bring extreme cold, snow, ice and high winds. Here are a few things you can do to prepare yourself and your home this winter:

#### **Prepare**

- Prepare your home to keep out the cold by insulating, caulking and weather stripping.
- Plan for batteries, food, water and other supplies to meet your needs if the power goes out during a storm.
- Sign up for local alerts and warning systems.

#### **During a Storm**

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.
- Do not use a gas stove to heat your home.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- Monitor local weather alerts and emergency information.





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