

Herington makes improvements to public water supply

Herington is located in the southeast corner of Dickinson County at the intersection of Highways 77 and 56. Since the early 1900s, when Mr. Herington successfully got the Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska Railroad to build through town, the railroad has been very important to the city. Herington became a railroad division point with shops, two round houses, freight house, bridge yards, telegraph office and many other buildings.

Water source and water plant

The primary water supply source for the city is Herington Reservoir, located about two miles west of the city. Raw water is pumped to the water treatment plant which provides water to a

population of 2,563. In addition, the cities of Hope and Woodbine are consecutive systems purchasing water from Herington. Also, a line was recently extended to the Latimer area.

The original water plant was built as an

extension of the city-owned and operated power plant. The filters, clearwell, and high service pumps still remain in their original location within the power plant. As a result of improvements to the plant over the years, the clarifiers, chemical storage building, and most recently the chlorine contact basin and chlorine and ammonia storage building are located south of the power plant.

Improvements in the 80s

Actually, the city chose to make a very significant improvement to this system in the early 1980s with the construction of a new water supply lake. The new lake

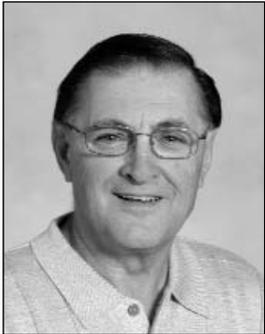
Prevention Act by the city of Herington with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The structure is Lyon Creek Watershed Multiple-Purpose

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(Herington Reservoir) is located to the southwest of the original water supply lake (Lake Herington) in the Lyon Creek drainage basin. The Reservoir was built under the Watershed Protection and Flood

Structure No. 6 and was built for water supply for Herington, recreation and flood prevention.

The drainage area includes 15,853 acres and the lake has a water surface area of 546 acres.



*Bert Zerr
Consultant*



Herington Reservoir, the primary source of water for Herington, Hope, Woodbine, and Latimer was constructed in the early 80s under the auspices of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

Municipal water supply storage is 773,843,000 gallons and total storage is 11,830 acre feet.

Improvements in the 90s

During the early 1990s it became evident that major

capacity of 600 to 620 gpm can operate with a single clarifier when one is taken off-line for maintenance.

Effluent from the clarifiers flows to the filters; then filtered

design of the basin with its varied chlorine feed points allows operators the flexibility needed to control chlorine contact time while allowing for the addition of ammonia to comply with



Above: The Herington water plant is refurbished and sports a new coat of paint. The clarifiers are finally both in good condition.

Above right: Herington Water and Power Superintendent David Gehrke standing on the walkway of the recently rehabilitated clarifier taking a call on his cell phone.

maintenance was needed at the original upflow clarifier. In 1992, in order to provide redundancy and uninterrupted operation, the city decided to add a second upflow clarifier. Maintenance of the original clarifier was delayed due to cost.

Recent improvements

During this past year, several more improvements and additions were made to the system. These include rehabilitation of the original clarifier, construction of a four-channel chlorine contact basin and extension of a water line to serve the city of Latimer and rural users on the line to Latimer. With two upflow clarifiers, the city has more flexibility in this area. The clarifiers can be operated in either parallel or series and the plant with a production

water flows to a new chlorine contact basin. The basin has four channels each with 15 minutes detention at the current production rate of 600 gpm. The overall

trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs) requirements. Water from the chlorine contact basin flows to the 500,000 gallon clearwell.

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Herington makes improvements . . .

Latimer project

The extension of the water line to Latimer was included in the latest project as a result of the discovery of contaminated private wells in Latimer. Several volatile

organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in the well water during sampling of the private wells conducted by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). As a result,

follow-up investigations of the Latimer site and the surrounding area were conducted by the KDHE, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



Above left: The Herington system's new chlorine storage building was constructed recently. Note the ventilation system on the top right of the building.

Above: The system's new chlorine contact basin. The new basin was constructed to allow for compliance with new drinking water rules.



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Contamination source found

It was determined the source of one of the VOCs, trichloroethylene (TCE), to be the Herington Regional Airport (Tri-County Public Airport Site) located about 5 miles to the southeast of Latimer or 7 miles east and 3 miles north of Herington.

Herington Regional Airport was a major support facility during WWII, with heavy industrial use. TCE was likely used as a parts degreaser. The following statement was taken from an EPA report: "It is likely that waste disposal practices and releases from manufacturing

operations led to the contamination of soils in these areas.”

Status/future for Latimer project

The Latimer water line project included a pump station and a 75,000-gallon elevated storage tank. City Distribution Superintendent Bret Beye was the inspector on the project. “The project went very well and at this time, all but one of the Latimer potential customers have connected to the system. Currently there are 24 customers on this line and two more will be added in the near future,” Superintendent Beye said.

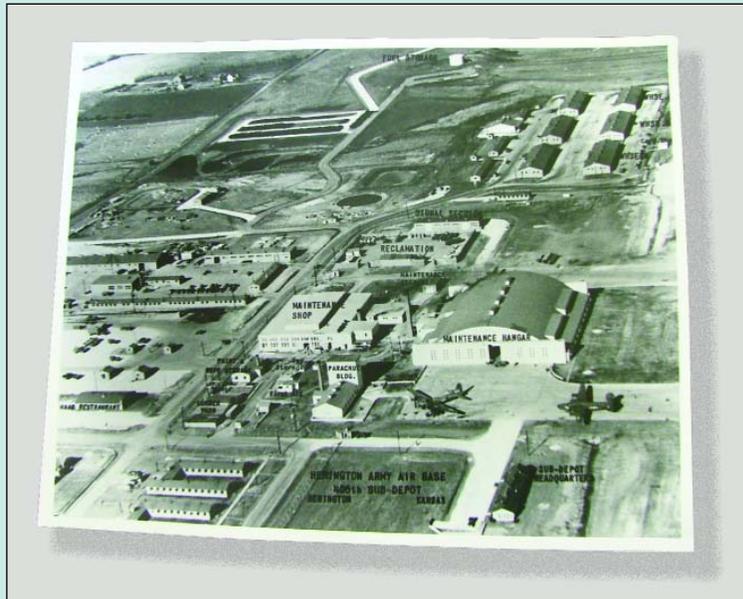
“Future improvements will include either rehabilitation or replacement of the filters and possibly placing covers over the clarifiers,” Water and Power Production Superintendent David Gehrke explained. “We fully expect to have problems with algae growth in the clarifiers but we want to operate them for a full summer before spending the money on covers, especially since water plant upgrades were just completed and we are currently in the process of a \$1.3 million dollar upgrade at the power plant.”

2007 Conference & Exhibition

The KRWA Conference is the largest and best in the Midwest. Plan to be in Wichita at Century II March 27 – 29. Learn more about maintaining proper chlorine residuals in a distribution system and much, much more.

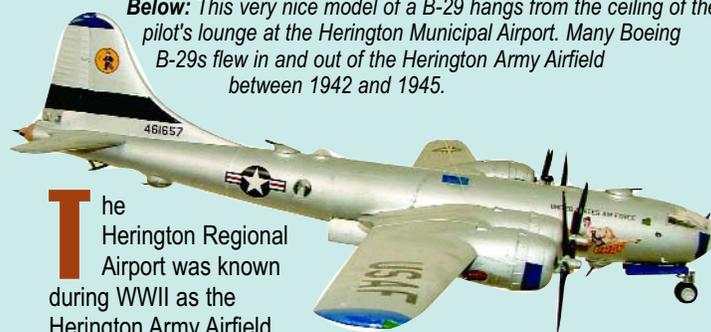
If you have questions regarding a wastewater system or its performance call the KRWA Office at (785) 336-3760 or e-mail krwa@krwa.net.

Herington Army Airfield has quite a history



Above: A Herington Museum photo of the base when it was in use by the Army Air Corps.

Below: This very nice model of a B-29 hangs from the ceiling of the pilot's lounge at the Herington Municipal Airport. Many Boeing B-29s flew in and out of the Herington Army Airfield between 1942 and 1945.



The Herington Regional Airport was known during WWII as the Herington Army Airfield

and was utilized by the Department of Defense between 1942 and 1947. During this time the Army Air Corps built and used the airport as a major staging base, first for the B-24 Liberator bomber and its crews, then later for B-29 Superfortress bombers.

Approximately 60 to 70 percent of the B-29 bombers going to the Pacific left from the Herington airbase. Some important considerations in selecting Herington as a base site were the town's location as a rail center, very little fog, the land was flat and easy to build on, and it was an inland location. The Herington Army Airfield was quite large and some of it remains today. There were three 6,700 foot runways and the concrete parking ramp was 900 feet wide and 3,000 feet long.

Private aircraft currently use the airport. The city is promoting the area as an industrial park.