



# Community invited to Wetaskiwin Wastewater Treatment Plant grand opening

**Wednesday, September 10, 2025 (Wetaskiwin, Alberta)** — Members of the community are invited to join us Thursday, September 11, for an open house celebrating the completion of the Wetaskiwin Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project.

The event will take place at the facility ([6413 36 Street, Wetaskiwin](#)) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a formal program at 10:30 a.m., and snacks to follow. To RSVP, please email Teresa Hargreaves at [teresa.hargreaves@wetaskiwin.ca](mailto:teresa.hargreaves@wetaskiwin.ca) with the names of all those attending.

Attendees will get the opportunity to connect with Wetaskiwin City Council, [Peace Hills Utilities Inc. \(PHUI\) board of directors](#), and other partners of the project, including [Aquatera Utilities Inc.](#), [Graham Construction & Engineering Inc.](#), and [Associated Engineering](#).

The City was required to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant after Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and [Environment Canada](#) introduced stricter effluent quality standards. Without these upgrades, the City could have faced fines of \$4 million for each release of effluent that did not meet the new regulations.

The City's previous lagoon system was constructed in 1979 and had been in service for more than 40 years prior to the treatment plant upgrades.

## Quick Facts

### Cost

The City has been lucky to receive \$35.831 million in funding toward the \$54.8 million wastewater treatment upgrade project. The City received funding with the help of Maskwacis–Wetaskiwin MLA and Minister of Mental Health and Addiction Rick Wilson, through the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership, and a provincial grant.

### How funding is being spent

The City of Wetaskiwin has received \$35.8 million in provincial grant funding for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Of this, \$12.9 million went to Peace Hills Utilities Inc. for project costs, and \$17 million was invested in late 2024 to earn interest and help offset loan repayments.

This strategy allows PHUI to reduce borrowing costs and avoid an estimated \$4.5 million early repayment penalty, while awaiting the final portion of the grant. By managing the funds this way, PHUI can meet its obligations with Peace Hills Municipal Investment Limited Partnership without increasing utility fees.

### Official tendering process

The City of Wetaskiwin selected Aquatera Utilities Inc. and Graham Construction & Engineering Inc., through a competitive bid process that followed all [provincial](#), [federal](#), and [City tendering requirements](#), to construct, fund, and operate the new wastewater facility under PHUI. Now that construction is complete, Aquatera continues to operate the City's water and wastewater systems through a contract with PHUI.

### Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor

A variety of different wastewater technologies were considered to upgrade the Wetaskiwin Wastewater Treatment Plant to meet current and future wastewater effluent regulations, such as a Membrane Bioreactor System and a Conventional Biological Nutrient Removal System (to name a few). A Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor (MBBR) System was selected as the best solution for the City of Wetaskiwin as it provides the best financial solution for the community with consideration given to both capital costs and long-term operational and maintenance costs.

### Municipally controlled corporation

Peace Hills Utilities Inc is a municipally controlled corporation (MCC), fully owned by the City of Wetaskiwin and is governed by a board of directors with a City-held majority, including City Councillors.

Peace Hills Utilities Inc. does not have any employees. All services are contracted to either the City or Aquatera; the City provides administrative and billing support, while Aquatera manages the operation of the facility.

### Board composition

Peace Hills Utilities Inc. is governed by [a board](#) made up of three members of City Council, one City of Wetaskiwin employee, one member from Graham Construction & Engineering Inc., and two members at large who must be ratepayers to PHUI.

### Questions

For more information about Peace Hills Utilities Inc., the Wetaskiwin Wastewater Treatment Plant, utility billing, and more, please contact the Manager of Peace Hills Utilities Inc., Teresa Hargreaves by email at [teresa.hargreaves@wetaskiwin.ca](mailto:teresa.hargreaves@wetaskiwin.ca) or by phone at 780.361.4144.