



## **WATER TREATMENT PLANT SOFTENING ENHANCEMENT PROJECT UPDATE**

The City of Marshall's Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) is required by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to reduce the discharge of chlorides into the Redwood River by 2024. A large portion of our chloride discharge comes from water softener salt that is sent into the sanitary sewer collection system which flows to the WWTF and is discharged into the Redwood River. Since chlorides cannot be removed through conventional mechanical treatment systems, the City of Marshall and Marshall Municipal Utilities (MMU) worked together and studied various options to attain the chloride reduction. After analysis, it was determined that upgrading MMU's Water Treatment Plant to produce a softer water was the most efficient method to attain compliance with the required limits set by the MPCA.

The Marshall Municipal Utilities (MMU) Water Treatment Plant Softening Enhancement Project began in the fall of 2019 and is nearing completion. Beginning **June 1, 2021**, MMU will be delivering water at eight (8) grains hardness compared to thirty-five (35) grains hardness as it does today. While the water hardness coming into your property will be reduced, water softener settings will need to be adjusted accordingly to help meet the State mandate.

### ***What am I being asked to do?***

If you own or rent a water softener in the City of Marshall, your water softener settings should be adjusted on or after June 1, 2021 to minimize salt use.

### ***Why should I adjust my water softener?***

While the water hardness coming into your property will be reduced to eight (8) grains, your water softener settings will need to be adjusted accordingly to avoid unnecessary salt use. The lower salt use will dramatically reduce the chloride levels in the City of Marshall's WWTF discharge to the Redwood River.

### ***How does this softener adjustment benefit me?***

Adjusting your water softener settings will reduce your salt use by an estimated 75%, thereby lowering the amount of salt you need to purchase. In addition, you will use less water due to fewer regeneration cycles.

### ***How do I properly adjust my water softener settings?***

You may be able to adjust your water softener settings by yourself; however, if you have questions, or need assistance, please contact a water softening company or plumber of your choice to assist with making the adjustment. There may be a one-time service charge associated with having a service technician adjust your water softener settings.

### ***Who do I contact if I have questions regarding the Water Treatment Plant Softening Enhancement Project?***

Please contact City of Marshall Public Works by e-mail at [Public.Works@ci.marshall.mn.us](mailto:Public.Works@ci.marshall.mn.us) or by phone at 507-537-6773. For more information, please visit the Wastewater Treatment section of the City of Marshall's website at [ci.marshall.mn.us/public\\_works/wastewater\\_treatment.php](http://ci.marshall.mn.us/public_works/wastewater_treatment.php).