



Maine Water Announces Groundbreaking of New Saco River Drinking Water Treatment Facility

- The Facility, Expected to Be Operational In 2022, Will Serve Approximately 40,000 Residents in Southern Maine
- Virtual Groundbreaking to Celebrate the New Facility Included Remarks from Mayor Alan Casavant, Mayor William Doyle, Senator Angus King and Maine Water President Rick Knowlton, among others

Saco, ME – July 30 – Today, Maine Water announced the company has broken ground on the new Saco River Drinking Water Treatment Facility. The new treatment facility, scheduled to become operational in 2022, will replace the existing water treatment facility which has served Southern Maine communities of Biddeford, Saco, Old Orchard Beach, and Scarborough since 1884.

“The Saco River Drinking Water Treatment Facility is a major improvement to the water infrastructure of Southern Maine,” said Rick Knowlton, the president of Maine Water. “While the current plant has continued to meet all state and federal water quality and safety guidelines, it is one of oldest water treatment facilities in the country. Estimates to renovate and maintain the existing facility confirm that a new facility is actually less expensive to own and operate over the next 50 years. The new Saco River Drinking Water Treatment Facility is not only a smart investment from a public health perspective, but from a financial perspective, and we are excited to play a part in continuing to improve this water system and deliver reliable local infrastructure.”

The new water treatment facility will be located on South Street in Biddeford, across the street from Maine Water’s existing treatment facility. As part of the project, more than 250 acres of forest land will be preserved to provide the community with access to open space, to protect the Saco River source and to preserve valuable wetland habitat. The new location also allowed Maine Water to move this important drinking water facility out of the Saco River flood plain, which eliminates the risk of disruptions from flooding.

Celebrating the Groundbreaking of the New Facility

In accordance with state guidelines, Maine Water celebrated the groundbreaking of the new facility virtually today. The celebration video – which premiered on Maine Water’s Facebook page – featured prominent elected officials and business leaders including:

- Mayor of Biddeford, Alan Casavant
- Mayor of Saco, William Doyle
- Senator Angus King
- Rick Knowlton, President of Maine Water
- Jim Salerno, Senior Project Manager, MWH Constructors

Senator King, Mayor Casavant, and Mayor Doyle joined Maine Water to describe the benefits the new facility will bring to the community and share their support for the project. Click here to view the video: <https://youtu.be/acMfcdDuXfs> .

Construction of the facility is expected to generate approximately 150 jobs through 2022 and maintain 7 permanent jobs upon completion. The total cost of the project is over \$50 million. Maine Water will look to recover that cost in customers' water rates over the next 50 years, consistent with Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) practice to spread utility construction costs over the useful life of a facility. Cost effective design has controlled the initial construction costs and will deliver operating efficiencies going forward. The Company will propose a rate recovery strategy to the MPUC that seeks to manage the impact on customer bills so that upon completion, the cost of drinking water to the typical residential customer will be about one penny per gallon, or just over a dollar a day.

The Saco River Drinking Water Treatment Facility has been approved by all federal, state, and local regulatory bodies, including Maine DEP, US Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Biddeford and Saco River Corridor Commission. The facility is expected to be fully operational by the Spring of 2022.

Please contact Rick Knowlton at 207-282-1543 with questions.

###

About Maine Water

The Maine Water Company is a public water utility that owns 12 public water systems engaged in the collection, treatment, and distribution of drinking water for homes, businesses and fire protection service. The Maine Water Company serves approximately 85,000 people in 21 communities across Maine. The Biddeford Saco division of Maine Water Company is the second largest public water system in Maine, serving a population of approximately 40,000. For more information, visit www.MaineWater.com

Contact

Richard Knowlton, President
The Maine Water Company
207-282-1543
rknowlton@mainewater.com