



Painter's Water Project Update

August 7, 2009

WOW, the hard part is done! Superintendent Don Evans skillfully guided his excavator down the steep slope from Bigelo to the Highway, digging a trench for the water transmission main. All went well until the crew tried to make the connection to the water main in the sidewalk along the Highway. Normally water mains are 4 to 5 feet deep, but the one that they had to connect to was over 8 feet. That wouldn't be a significant problem on flat ground, but was a major issue at the base of the hill. The soils were powdery dust over a layer of round pebbles. The more he dug the hole for the connection, the more dust and round rock slid in. Before it was over, he hauled 14 large dump truck loads of dirt out. The resulting excavation was too deep and unsafe to work in, so a section of the already installed main was removed and all the fittings and fire hydrant were installed above ground and the entire assembly was put into place by maneuvering the pipe chained to the excavator and a backhoe. Jim and Joe quickly made the last connection and the hillside slid in.



Thursday saw Don backfill the trench and climb back up the hillside with the excavator. Many residents stopped to watch and they saw a real professional operator at work. Kudos to the entire crew who worked hard supplying the bedding material, backfill, and water to stick it all together. The disturbed area will receive a coating of hydro seed grass later to minimize erosion.

The floor for the pump station was also poured Thursday.

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