

Dredging Clears Pond Of Solid Waste Sediment

A recent dredging operation has cleared the plant's settling pond of solid waste sediment, so that it can now operate effectively for another five to 10 years.

The operation was necessary for environmental reasons, since the settling pond plays a key role in the removal of solids in the water being returned to the river.

The process, which took about two weeks, removed an estimated 500 tons of solids, pumped it through specially laid pipe, through two receptor basins, and back to the settling pond, a total distance of about half a mile.

Two receptor basins, each covering about a half acre, were prepared north of the plant entrance. Two lines of pipe were laid on top of the ground, one from the settling pond to the first receptor basin, and the other from the second basin back to the settling pond.

A dredge was used to dig and suck up the solid waste from the bottom of the one-acre settling pond, and pump the waste at a rate of two thousand gallons per minute through the pipe to the receptor basin.

As the solids were being pumped, a chemical was injected to cause the solids to rapidly settle out in the receptor basin. By the time the water overflowed from the first basin to the second, the solids had settled out, leaving the water clean.

This clarified water was then pumped from the second basin back to the settling pond.

Jim Henderson, Process Engineer, and Bob McBee, Power Engineer,

directed the operation. The actual dredging took five days, with the assembly and disassembly of equipment taking four days.

When the sludge accumulated in the first basin has dried, testing will be done to determine whether the silver content is great enough to warrant recovery. Very little sludge accumulated in the second basin.

This was the first dredging of the settling pond, although some digging of solid waste and removal was done with a crane and dragline over a part of the pond several years ago.

The dredging was done by Hydrarch, Inc., of Jacksonville, Fla.



Barge in settling pond pulls dredge out of water to show how it will work.



Pipe lines parallel entrance to plant.



Black sediment is pumped into receptor basin



Clarified water is pumped back into settling pond.

Thrift Plan Offers Easy Way To Save

Each month, 804 employees, or just over 63 per cent of the Brevard Plant employees, add to their security through payroll deductions in a savings program called the Thrift Plan.

Linda McCants, who handles the sign up for the plan, says employees save for different reasons.

Some employees save for a trip, car or boat, or other special needs. For others, it means additional money for retirement years.

The purpose of the plan is to encourage and assist employees in following a systematic savings program suited to their individual long and short-term financial objectives, and to provide an opportunity for them, at no cost to themselves, to become stockholders in the Company.

How does it work? After at least one year of continuous service, an employee is eligible to participate. The employee

should see Linda in Employment and Services to sign up. If the sign up is done before the payroll closing date, the plan goes into effect the following month.

The employee decides to save from one to 10 per cent of his regular monthly earnings. In addition, the Company contributes 50 cents for each dollar saved, up to six per cent.

The employee savings and company contributions are invested into four funds, according to the employee's instructions.

Fund A: U. S. Savings Bonds, Series E, which mature at five years with a six per cent rate of return. This is a good plan for short term savings with low risk.

Fund B: A fixed income fund with principal and a fixed rate of interest guaranteed by the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States. This



Linda McCants checks latest information on Thrift Plan.

(Continued on page 3)