

Utilities & Infrastructure Partnership Meeting
Meeting Summary
March 4, 2010, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Attendees:

- Tom Black, City of Fountain Electric
- Vince Guthrie, Fort Carson Utilities
- Jared Harp, Colorado Springs Utilities
- Kate Hatten, PPACG
- Roy Heald, Security Water & Sanitation
- Larry Patterson, Fountain Utilities
- Lisa Rosintoski, Colorado Springs Utilities
- Kellie Smith, Colorado Springs Utilities
- Sarah White, PPACG

Growth Plan Phase 2 Update:

Sarah White started introductions and led the discussion. Kate Hatten provided a brief overview of the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan (“Growth Plan”) and the Phase 2 status. Although, utility issues are not specific task areas in the Phase 2 project, PPACG continues to monitor the needs of utility providers related to Fort Carson growth. PPACG recognizes that new needs have arisen since the initial phase of the Growth Plan.

The Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), the Department of Defense helps communities conduct planning to address military growth, but OEA does not fund infrastructure projects. However, last year the agency requested growth communities to provide project needs assessment lists (PNA), including infrastructure, directly related to military growth impacts. The PNA lists allow OEA to communicate to other federal agencies regarding priority funding needs to assist growth communities. With community partner feedback, PPACG submitted a list to OEA with prioritized projects, including utility project needs. PPACG will send around the latest updated version of the PNA list to the group for review and revision.

Fort Carson Construction and Infrastructure Update:

Vince Guthrie provided updates regarding construction and related utility issues on Fort Carson. Fort Carson may still see additional growth and has been asked to submit plans regarding how the post could accommodate additional units. The installation could house potential new units at the Wilderness Road complex currently being built, although the complex would require the construction of more facilities, barracks and potential family housing in the area. The Army has not made any decision about additional units at this time.

Construction of a gas line to Gate 6 will commence in June 2010. Colorado Springs Utilities will provide a water service line from Gate 1 to Gate 6. Gas and water should be online in October or November 2010. Fort Carson gas and water systems have enough capacity for the currently planned growth, although utility needs might need to be revisited if additional units come to the installation.

Fort Carson is trying to meet its 75 percent renewable energy goal by 2027. Because the surrounding communities do not share the same ambitious sustainability goals, headway on receiving more energy from renewable sources has been slow. If communities shared the same or similar renewable energy goals, economies of scale would reduce the cost of renewable energy to a cost competitive rate for Fort Carson. The current price point for wind power is not economically feasible for the installation.

On/Off-Post Utility Needs:

Fountain Utilities continues struggle with declining revenue because of decreased tap fees. Fountain is in discussions with homebuilders to address tap fee costs. There are also initiatives to help homebuilders market energy efficient houses by offering discounted utility rates.

It is anticipated that the Southern Delivery System (SDS) will significantly increase rates by as much as 15-18 percent a year until 2016, when the pipeline is scheduled to be online. Fountain will have town hall meetings to discuss options for rate payers to address the increased rates and revenue shortfalls. Projects that Fountain proposed for the PNA list were reviewed. It was noted that one of Fountain's two listed projects is stalled because of a lack of funding; Fountain Utilities is working with Security Water District to move forward with the other project (the Bandlely Road connection).

Discussion:

There will be a large number of deployed Soldiers in 2010 which will impact the rental market, particularly in the Fountain Valley. Periodic information regarding deployment numbers and impacts is very useful for utility providers. PPACG will send the latest deployment figures along with the web link to the draft housing analyses to the group.

Next Steps

Future Utilities and Infrastructure Partnership Group meetings will be scheduled as needed. Additional information regarding Fort Carson troop projections will be provided via e-mail. The Fort Carson Community Partnership Town Hall will be on April 16th from 3:00 – 6:00 pm at the Double Tree Hotel Colorado Springs – World Arena. For more information about the event, click [here](#).

The next CDMC meeting is April 21st from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.