

“Golden Spike” Marks Last Pipe Section!

Contact: Troy Larson, Executive Director - 605-368-2400 (work) and 605-310-0560 (cell)

Sibley, IA – July 26, 2024

The Lewis & Clark Regional Water System celebrated a “golden spike” milestone in its construction when just northeast of Sibley today Metro Construction installed the final section of pipe in the System’s 310 miles of transmission pipeline. See five attached photos. Attendees signed the gold colored 12-inch diameter pipe before it was lowered into the trench. Remarks were made by various Lewis & Clark members, as well as officials from the Bureau of Reclamation, Banner Associates and the offices of Senators Grassley and Ernst.

“The first section of pipe was installed on June 14, 2004, so this day was over 20 years in the making,” said Chairman Murray Hulstein of Sioux Center. “Construction on the third and final phase of the water treatment plant is not expected to be completed until 2028, so we still have a ways to go but finally reaching this important milestone is certainly reason to celebrate,” said Hulstein.

“Many people in the early 90’s thought this was more of a pipe dream than a pipeline. Thanks to a lot of teamwork and perseverance we turned that dream into a reality,” said Executive Director Troy Larson.

Sibley is expected to be connected in October when the nearby meter building is completed. They will be the last of the 20 members to be connected. Madison is expected to be connected in early August.

- 34 pipeline contracts were awarded totaling \$309,583,470, so an average of \$1 million per mile. This does not include engineering expenses.
- The first section of pipeline was installed on June 14, 2004 southwest of Vermillion, SD near the Missouri River.
- Pipe diameters range from as small as 6 inches to as large as 54 inches. There is also a very short stretch of 72-inch pipe that connects the water treatment plant with the adjacent high service pump station and clearwell.
- The “main trunk line” between the treatment plant and the Tea reservoirs and pump station is 54-inch diameter.
- Larger diameter segments of pipeline (24-inch and larger) are mainly made of steel with a concrete mortar lining.
- Smaller diameter segments of pipeline are made of PVC (16-inch diameter and smaller).
- A small amount of ductile iron pipe is used at various locations in the system.