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Craven County

**Administration Building**

406 Craven Street
New Bern, NC 28560
Fax 252-636-2728
hr@cravencountync.gov

Commissioners 252-636-6601
Manager 252-636-6600
Finance 252-636-6603
Human Resources 252-636-6602

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Amber M. Parker
(252) 636-6602

Craven County Potable Water Supply and Treatment Facility Ribbon Cutting

Craven County, N.C. – Craven County Government will hold a ribbon cutting event to unveil the new Craven County Potable Water Supply and Treatment Facility on Monday, October 16, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. The facility is located at 280 Mill Dam Road in New Bern.

The Craven County Potable Water Supply and Treatment Facility is a \$31 million dollar nanofiltration facility with a three million gallons per day (3mgd) production capacity that can be expanded to five million gallons per day (5mgd) to provide for future growth. Craven County Manager Jack Veit stated, “The facility is adaptable and equipped to handle future regulatory changes or raw water quality changes. This process began approximately 10 years ago when the Board of Commissioners and the former County Manager had the foresight to construct a facility that ensured a long-term solution for Craven County’s water needs.”

Every 24 hours, this new water supply and treatment facility can withdraw raw water from the Castle Hayne Aquifer through eight different wells. It treats the water using low-pressure reverse osmosis membranes, calcite stabilization and free residual chlorination disinfection and has 3mgd of fresh potable water ready for distribution to 14,000 to 15,000 households and businesses in Craven County.

The necessity for construction of this water supply and treatment facility became evident in 2002 when the State of North Carolina established the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area that required Craven County, along with fifteen other coastal counties, to reduce their water extraction from the Black Creek aquifer by up to 75% before the year 2018 because more water was being withdrawn from that aquifer than it was able to replenish. This led to Craven County identifying the Castle Hayne Aquifer as an excellent alternative water source; however the raw water from the Castle Hayne Aquifer contained a much higher concentration of minerals, salt and iron, which required much more treatment of the raw water to make it suitable for drinking than the raw water Craven County was withdrawing from the Black Creek Aquifer.

In addition to the Craven County Potable Water Supply and Treatment Facility, the project included installing approximately 19,000 feet of 10 to 24 inch raw water transition mains to bring the raw water from the eight wells to the supply and treatment facility. It also included approximately 8,000 feet of 18 inch finished water transmission mains to transmit the potable water to homes and businesses.

The project also required approximately 21,000 feet of 16 inch concentrate mains to bring the water treatment byproduct of fresh water and natural minerals removed from the treatment process to an area of the Neuse River that has tidal exchanges and a relatively high saline content which serves as a perfect match for the concentrate.

Craven County's decision to find an alternative water source not only played a part in improving the rate at which the Black Creek aquifer recharges itself; Craven County also has an excellent source of water to meet the community's needs today and for 20 to 25 years of projected growth.

For more information contact Rusty Hayes, Water Superintendent, at (252) 636-6615.

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