

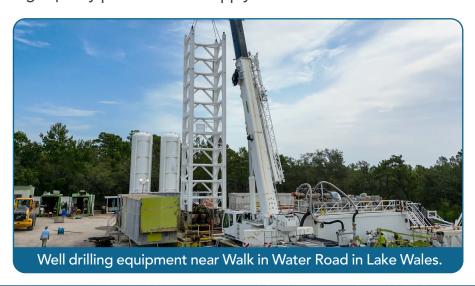
Providing clean, safe water for Polk County now and for future generations.

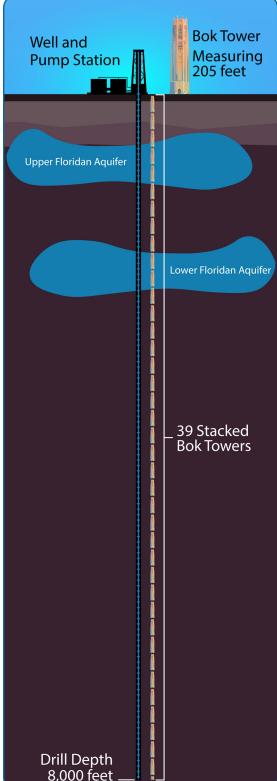
May 2024

Well Drilling Update

Visible above the tree line for miles around Lake Wales, Bok Tower's signature pink and gray edifice stands 205 feet tall. But it would take just over 39 Bok Towers stacked end to end to equal the depth of the injection well that Polk Regional Water Cooperative (PRWC) is constructing off Boy Scout Camp Road. At 8,000 feet deep, it will be one of the deepest injection wells in the state, extending into the cretaceous zone that was formed millions of years ago when what's now Florida was under an ancient sea. The well will be used to pump a saline concentrate into the ground. The concentrate will be a byproduct of the Lower Floridan Aquifer water treated by the Southeast Water Production Facility (SEWPF). The well is designed to receive approximately 2.5 million gallons of saline concentrate a day from the SEWPF. Injection well drilling began in June 2023 and it is expected to be completed in December 2024.

PRWC has also completed drilling and testing of a water production well along Walk in Water Road. The test provided valuable water quality and quantity data that will be used to determine the final design of the SEWPF reverse osmosis plant, which is anticipated to be operational in 2028. The planned reverse osmosis treatment facility will utilize brackish groundwater from the Lower Floridan Aquifer to produce a high-quality potable water supply for its members.





POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE

Whats Next?

Design plans for the SEWPF and Water Transmission Main are nearing 90 percent completion. Meeting this significant milestone means that both will soon be under construction.

In fall 2024, pipeline construction will begin along two (2) segments in Lake Hamilton:

- On the west side of Detour Road, from the intersection with Lake Hatchineha Road to just south of the intersection with CR 546 E/Kokomo Road.
- On the east side of Alford Road, from the intersection with Lake Hatchineha Road to the intersection at Weiberg Road/Edwards Road, then continuing on the south side of Weiberg Road/Edwards Road to the intersection at Hillside Road.

This winter, construction on the reverse osmosis water production facility will begin off Boy Scout Road, just north of the intersection with State Road 60. The SEWPF's reverse osmosis plant will



mechanically filter groundwater from the Lower Floridan Aquifer through semi-permeable membranes to remove dissolved minerals. The first phase of the water production facility will deliver 7.5 million gallons per day of high-quality drinking water.

Getting it Done

The PRWC property acquisition team is contacting residents along the Southeast Water Transmission Main's pipeline route to discuss acquiring necessary utility easements. After the pipeline installation is complete, property owners will continue to have access to their property and can continue most uses within the easement that do not prevent access to the pipeline for future maintenance. When needed, the typical easement will be 30 to 40 feet from the roadway right of way and within building setbacks.

Prior to making an offer to acquire the necessary easements, a PRWC real estate appraiser will contact those property owners to arrange an onsite property inspection. PRWC encourages property owners to be present during the inspection and give the appraiser any information that might affect their property's appraised value.

To learn if your property is on the pipeline route, visit the PRWC Project Alignments Map online at https://prwcwater.org/projects/. To use the map, click the green button labeled Open Project Alignments Map. Then, use the search box on the top right side of the map to input the address where you would like to see the pipeline alignment. When the map search is complete, the property address is marked with a gray circle and the blue line identifies the pipeline route.

If you have questions about this process or would like to begin discussions with PRWC's property acquisition team now, contact PRWC by phone at (863) 248-7388 or email at info@prwcwater.org. For more details about this vital water supply project, please visit the website at www.prwcwater.org.

POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE

Water Conservation Counts

Florida's summer rainy season is almost here so it's time to check your irrigation system settings. Outdoor water use accounts for more than 50% of water consumed by households.

The water conservation program has been approved to receive \$150,000 in funding for the next fiscal year. PRWC will collaborate with other member governments in the cooperative to encourage local participation in the Conservation Program through irrigation audits, smart irrigation controller rebates, and other conservation measures. For tips on how to use less water on your landscaping or yard, visit the PRWC webpage https://prwcwater.org/water-conservation/conservation-tips/.



Current Water Restrictions

Lawn irrigation is allowed twice a week in Polk County and in the cities and towns of Auburndale, Bartow, Dundee, Eagle Lake, Fort Meade, Frostproof, Highland Park, Hillcrest Heights, Lake Alfred, Lake Hamilton, Lakeland, Lake Wales, Mulberry, Polk City, and Winter Haven, according to the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Lawn watering days and times are as follows unless your city or county has a different schedule or stricter hours in effect:

- Even addresses may water on Thursday and/or Sunday 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m.
- Odd addresses may water on Wednesday and/or Saturday 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m.
- Locations without a discernable address, such as rights-of-way and common areas inside a subdivision, may water on Tuesday and/or Friday 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m.
- Hand watering and micro-irrigation of plants (other than lawns) can be done on any day and time.

Lawn irrigation is allowed once a week In Davenport and Haines City.

- Addresses ending in the number 0 or 1 may water on Mondays before 6:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m.
- Addresses ending in the number 2 or 3, may water on Tuesdays before 6:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m.
- Addresses ending in the number 4 or 5, may water on Wednesdays before 6:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m.
- Addresses ending in 6 or 7, may water on Thursdays before 6:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m.
- Addresses ending in the number 8 or 9 or locations with no addresses, may water on Fridays before 6:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m.
- Properties with 2 acres and greater may water before 8:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m. on each allowable watering day.
- HOA's with common areas may water on Friday only
- No watering is allowed within 24 hours after rainfall
- Water utility customers are required to curtail irrigation when rain has occurred within the last 24 hours. Hand watering and micro-irrigation of plants (other than lawns) is limited to the minimum necessary and to the permitted hours set above.

To read the full list of circumstances covered by water restrictions, visit the SWFWMD website: WaterMatters.org/Restrictions.

POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE

Get Involved

PRWC Board of Directors meetings are open to the public and held at Lake Myrtle Sports Complex, 2701 Lake Myrtle Park Rd, Auburndale.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Wednesday, July 24, at 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 18, at 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 20, at 2:00 p.m.

Meetings are also broadcast over Zoom. For login details, please visit the PRWC events webpage at https://prwcwater.org/news-events/.



for the Southeast Transmission Water Main.



Check out our website!

Visit the PRWC website's news and events page a few days before each scheduled board meeting to see the agenda.



WaterWise Fact:

Did you know that turfgrass is the single largest irrigated vegetation grown in the United States? If you plant drought-tolerant or Florida Friendly grasses and shrubs, you can reduce your outdoor water use by 20% to 50%. For more water conservation tips, visit <u>SavePolkWater.org</u>.