

City of Fremont Update

Date: June 25, 2021

To: City Employees/ City Boards/ Mayor & City Council

New Peak for Electricity Set

As Fremont grows, so does Fremont's demand for electric power. This was evident last week when Fremont set a new record peak for electricity at 107.29 megawatts (MW) on June 17. The chart below shows the prior two peaks set in July, 2012 and on June 16, 2021.

	July 24, 2012	June 16, 2021	June 17, 2021
Peak Demand	96.7 MW	102.74	107.29

Here are several questions regarding Fremont's electric demand. First, will an even higher electric peak be set this year? I suspect the answer is yes, if the oppressive heat continues through July and August.

Second, are there things that electric consumers can do to help lower the peak? Yes, several things including postponing activities that use large amounts of electricity (like washing clothes, running the dishwasher, drying clothes, cooking dinner in the oven, etc.) until later in the evening when it is cooler. Typically, the demand for electricity is the highest between the hours of 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., so anything you can do to curtail your use of electricity during this period of time helps lower the peak.

Third, how much power can Fremont's power plants produce and are we at risk of exceeding our electric generation resources? The maximum output from all three plants is 120 MW. So, while we are not at risk of exceeding our electric generation resources just yet, we are certainly getting close to the day when that occurs. In fact, we plan to seek proposals for a power purchase agreement (PPA) for 25 MW of power from other electric generation sources within the state this year.



City Receives AA- Credit Rating

In keeping with prior credit ratings over the past several years, the City again received an AA- credit rating by S&P Global. The rating is tied to the City's plan to refinance \$66 million of taxable and nontaxable utility bonds. S&P Global noted the outlook for this rating as stable and said the credit rating was based upon operational and financial information from the City.

The City pays S&P Global to conduct a credit rating of the City because a rating, especially a credit rating of AA-, will not only yield a lower interest rate, but the credit rating helps to attract more institutional investors who will buy the City's bonds. As I mentioned in the October 16, 2020 Update, the City has maintained an AA- credit rating for the past 15 years.

There is no job so important and no service so urgent that we cannot take the time to do the work safely!

Painting Stripes & Lines

As shown in the picture on the right, the Street Department is busy painting traffic lines on City streets, a task that is done annually. Mark Vyhlidal, City Street Superintendent, said road markings and striping serve as an important part of daily traffic flow and safety requirements. He said over time sunlight and tire markings cause road markings to fade and become black. That is why the City repaints road stripes and lines with fresh paint.



In case you're wondering, the first "white" strip was required to be painted down the center of rural state highways in Michigan, Oregon, and California in 1917. Later that year, a yellow centerline was used because people complained that white paint was not visible during dark and stormy nights.

Fire Department Trains in Trench Rescue

Working in trenches, especially trenches without shoring (a means of keeping the banks of the trench from collapsing), can be very dangerous and even fatal if the trench is deep and the banks of the trench cave in and cover a worker in the trench. The training for the Fire Department, provided by Metro Community College, covers the proper techniques of digging out, shoring, and rescuing a worker stuck in a collapsed trench. The Fire Department maintains a complete set of tools and shoring equipment inside a special trailer with custom-built shelves for trench rescue.



The picture on the right was taken this week at a site near the Darrel G. Marshal Generating Station on South Johnson Road. City crews dig the trench and then use a manikin to simulate a cave-in situation where the manikin is needing to be rescued.

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