

Wastewater Project Timeline and Updates

September 2025	Drained Aeration Basin 2; continued work on MBR; started the building for the screenings.
August 2025	Pulled old aeration system from Aeration Basin 2; continuing work on MBR and screening.
July 2025	Continuing work on MBR and secondary screening.
June 2025	Drained Clarifier 1 to convert to MBR; continued working on secondary screening.
May 2025	Started work on secondary screening building.
April 2025	Installed new aeration system in Aeration Basin 1.
March 2025	Repair holes in Aeration Basin 1.
February 2025	Drained Aeration Basin 1.
January 2025	Construction on the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades is scheduled to begin.
December 2024	City of Rupert will choose a bid for the project.
November 2024	City of Rupert will choose a bid for the project.

September 2024	City of Rupert begins the upgrade process by publishing advertisements seeking bids for Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades. Brewster Cheese repairs continue and their factory waste loadings drop considerably. Brewster Cheese repairs are scheduled to be completed this month.
August 2024	City of Rupert meets with concerned residents and sends engineered plans for upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Department of Environmental Quality. After a series of interactions, Brewster Cheese submits plans to fix its internal factory components causing an overloading of the City's wastewater treatment facilities and begins repairs.
June 2024	City rents an emergency and temporary, semi-portable aeration system as a stop-gap measure until the permanent unit can be installed. Industrial wastewater loading that is entering the plant quadruples. City penalizes industrial customers who are overloading the wastewater treatment system.
May 2024	City of Rupert was notified we would not be receiving the aeration system by the end of May. Installation would be postponed until September 2024.
April 2024	City of Rupert started the bid process for the installation of the aeration
	system and met with concerned residents.

Nov 2023 - March 2024	Engineers work on design and needs of a new aeration system, go through bidding process to purchase. City of Rupert was advised the new aeration system would be provided by the end of May 2024.
October 31, 2023	<p>Based on testing, the engineering firm confirmed the catastrophic failure of the existing aeration system at the plant. Aeration is a vital component of the wastewater treatment process, which promotes the growth of enzymes that break the organic solids down in the water allowing for them to be more easily removed at further stages in the treatment process.</p> <p>The City rushed to get expedited grant funding pre-purchase approval for a replacement aeration system; this funding was authorized by IDEQ.</p>
October 2023	All system sensors indicated that wastewater treatment components were all working as designed adding to the mystery about odor problems. City of Rupert purchased additional metering equipment to troubleshoot, double check systems, and explore other potential issues that may be causing odors. City crews reported readings outside of specifications to the engineer to narrow down the root cause of odors.
Winter – Early Summer 2023	City of Rupert engages Forsgren engineering firm to further investigate why the treatment plant was experiencing odor issues.

2022	Engineers, consultants and wastewater staff continue troubleshooting to find possible other causes of odor problems. In June 2023, magnesium sulfate was added during the wastewater treatment process to further enhance
	the coagulation and promote further precipitation of solids from the wastewater to offset odors.
Spring/Summer/Fall 2022	City receives notice of a grant award of approximately \$16.8 Million to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant. The City petitions the District Court for authorization to take on debt necessary to finish the upgrade (Oct. 2022). The Court granted borrowing authority on November 29, 2022.
Late 2021- Early 2022	Odor begins to be noticed at wastewater treatment. Chemical Engineer is consulted. At recommendation of engineer, polymer is added in the clarifiers for several months to accelerate the settling of solids suspended in the wastewater entering the plant in order to fix odor problems.
2019-2020	City officials begin plans to renovate the wastewater treatment facility to upgrade to Class A Reuse water in response to failure of lagoon liners north of Rupert near the cemetery.