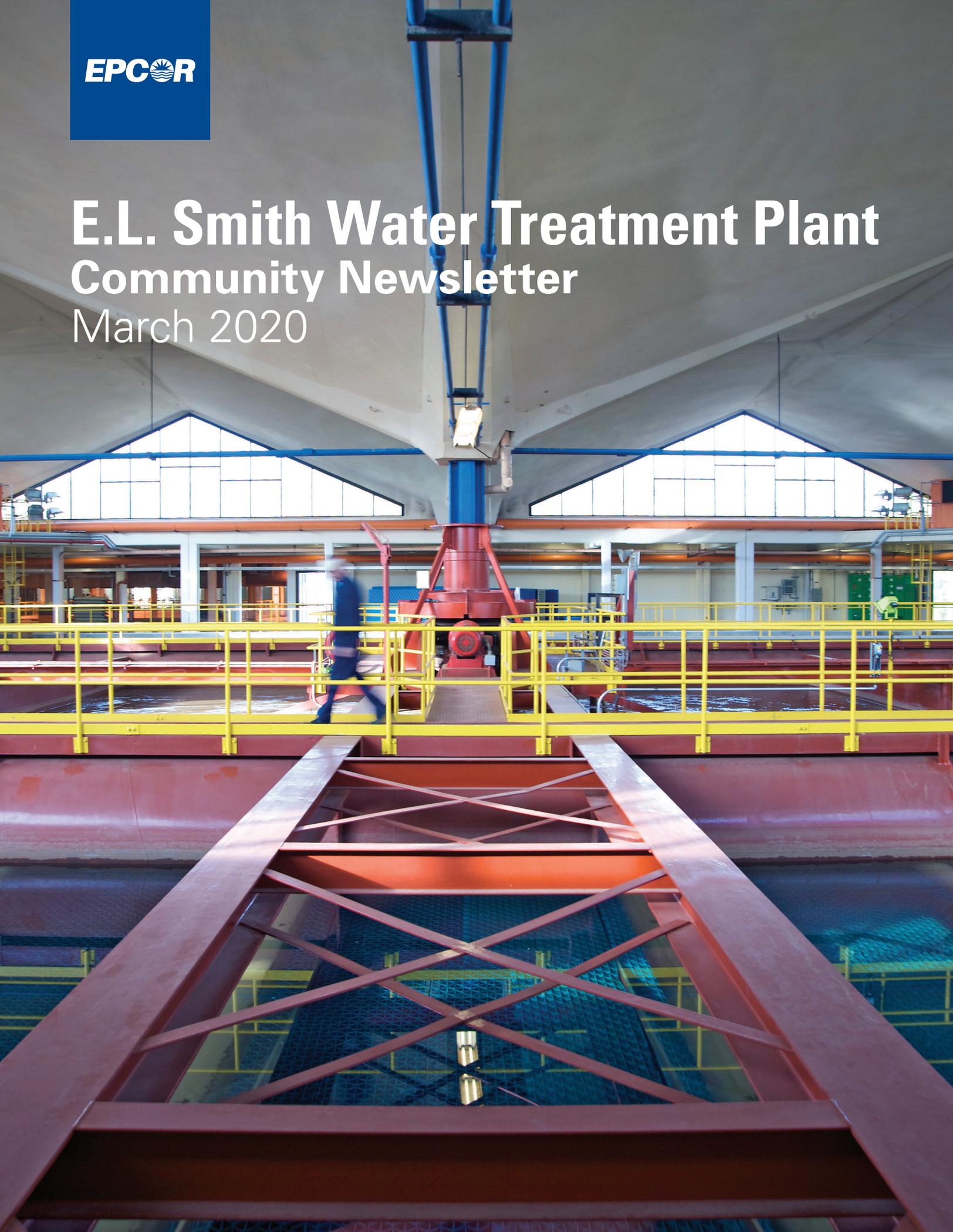




# E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant Community Newsletter March 2020



# 2019 IN REVIEW

## BEST TASTING TAP WATER

Last year was an exciting one for us. We were named People's Choice Winner for the best tasting tap water in all of North America. Water that is treated right here in Cameron Heights at the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant was recognized. We were also named Western Canada's best tasting tap water in both 2018 and 2019, which means that we will be defending our People's Choice title in June of 2020.



## UPGRADES

In 2019, we made a number of operational improvements to maintain safe working conditions at the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant. These changes included replacing a number of pipes and valves, improving paving and grading around the site, and upgrading our HVAC system to ensure good ventilation and air quality for our water treatment plant team. We completed repairs on one of our raw water intake pipes, which brings water from the river to the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant. We also replaced a number of turbidity meters so that we can continue providing you with safe, reliable and high quality water services.



## SOLAR FARM

We held two workshops in early 2019 for the E.L. Smith Solar Farm Project to understand how to best integrate the project into the surrounding community. The workshops were attended by special interest groups, residents, and community leagues. Thank you to everyone who attended – your feedback was used to refine our project plans. For more information about the designs that came out of these workshops, visit us online at: [epcor.com/elsmithsolarfarm](http://epcor.com/elsmithsolarfarm)

Throughout the year, we conducted more wildlife studies around the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant to better understand the potential impact of the solar farm project. In April, we hosted Elders from seven First Nations at the project site and conducted ceremonies to recognize the disturbance of the land, ask for forgiveness for those disturbances, and seek safety and protection for those who would be working there.

## TEMPORARY FLUORIDE INTERRUPTION

In September we started a major upgrade to our fluoride room tanks, piping and equipment. You may have heard that we temporarily stopped the addition of fluoride to the water treated at the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant in order to complete this work. We're planning to start adding fluoride back into the water again in April 2020.

## RIVER MONITORING

In 2019, we also celebrated the official launch of the WaterSHED Monitoring Program in partnership with the Government of Alberta, City of Edmonton and the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance. The program aims to better understand the North Saskatchewan River and will help inform future decision-making about our water resources.

# LOOKING TO 2020

In 2020 we plan to continue our focus on improvements to plant infrastructure. Our planned construction projects include starting work on a new orthophosphate facility to help protect against lead present in some of Edmonton's older water systems and due to in home plumbing fixtures which can contain lead. We're also planning to begin work on a new bypass water transmission main, which will ensure we are able to continue providing you with drinking water in the event of an emergency. We'll provide you with more information about these plans in the upcoming months.

## GROUNDWATER MONITORING

As part of our ongoing groundwater monitoring program, we are also planning to install new groundwater monitoring wells in nine locations around the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant. Each location will monitor both shallow and deep groundwater flows.

These wells are necessary to allow us to better understand groundwater patterns around the water treatment plant, and will inform our operational plans. The wells will stay in place for up to two years after installation so that we can record all the conditions of ground saturation experienced in the area (e.g. wet, frozen and dry).

We expect this work to take under a week to complete, and will begin in the late spring. During installation of the wells, you may notice activity that is typical to construction, including company/ contractor vehicles and equipment along E.L. Smith Road.

All work areas will be maintained in a safe and secure manner. All construction activities will be performed in accordance with the City of Edmonton bylaws, Occupational Health and Safety requirements and EPCOR's health, safety and environmental procedures and guidelines. This type of work may be noisy at times; however, we will comply with the City of Edmonton's Community Standards Bylaw for Noise Control.

If you are recreating in the area, we ask that you adhere to the directions posted on our signage and exercise caution around any construction areas.

If you have any questions or concerns about this work, please contact us at (780) 412-3599.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

You may have seen us at the Cameron Heights winter and summer family fun days last year. At the winter event, we brought our friends from Yellow Fish Road, and shared information about watershed protection and the water treatment process. For more information about how to protect our local watershed or to learn more about what you can do, please visit [epcor.com/environment](http://epcor.com/environment).

During the summer event, we welcomed approximately 40 community members into E.L. Smith to see our water treatment plant in action. We also brought our tank of award-winning water and offered a chance for event goers to recharge in our water lounge.

