



NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

PROJECT CLOSEOUT FACT SHEET

Project:	Construction, Expansion and Rehabilitation of the Water Treatment, Water Supply, Wastewater Collection and Treatment System		
Location:	City of Donna, Texas	Certification Date:	June 24, 1998
Type:	Water and wastewater	Operation Startup:	March 11, 2007
Population Benefitted:	20,000	Closeout Date:	August 4, 2021

Pre-project Conditions

In 1998, the City of Donna provided water service to about 99% of its residents, while many of the 20 *colonias* surrounding the city received water service from two private water supply corporations (WCS).¹ The Donna water plant built in 1918 and upgraded in 1947 and 1987, had the capacity to treat 3.42 million gallons per day (mgd), which was considered insufficient to meet the future water needs of this rapidly growing community. In addition, the plant had been cited for numerous violations by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The City also provided wastewater services to approximately 50% of the population. Its wastewater treatment plant had a capacity of 2.3 mgd, which was insufficient to meet the needs of the growing population, as well as the *colonias*, which did not receive service. *Colonia* residents often used septic tanks or open-pit privies to dispose of their sewage, which resulted in contamination of surface water resources.

Project Objective

Expand and improve the existing water treatment and distribution system to provide safe and reliable drinking water to residents. Expand the wastewater collection and treatment system to address unserved areas, and thus eliminate risks for surface water contamination and human exposure to untreated discharges.

Project Scope

Phase I water system improvements consisted of the construction of a new water treatment plant with a capacity of 4.5 mgd, an elevated storage tank with a minimum capacity of 200,000 gallons and an interconnection with the North Alamo WSC to provide an additional 1.5 mgd of treatment capacity, as well as expansion of the water distribution system to serve six *colonias*. Phase II improvements included replacing deteriorated waterlines. Wastewater system improvements consisted of increasing treatment capacity from 2.3 to 2.7 mgd, eliminating 10 of the 13 existing lift stations, replacing two of them and building a new lift station in the south *colonia* area, as well as expanding the collection system to accommodate additional flows and extend service to the surrounding *colonias*.



¹ *Colonias* are communities on the U.S. side of the international border with Mexico that lack critical infrastructure, such as paved roads, water distribution lines, sewer systems, flood protection and/or public facilities.

Project Results

Outputs	Indicator	Target in 1998 (at certification)	Actual (2009)
Drinking Water System			
New treatment system capacity	mgd	4.5	4.5
New storage capacity	gallons	200,000	200,000
Distribution lines installed	miles	9.03	8.82
Wastewater System			
Collection system lines installed	miles	1.97	0.44
Wastewater connections installed	number	530	500
New or improved lift stations	number	3	3
New treatment system capacity	gpd	400,000	400,000

An interconnection to the North Alamo WSC was also built to provide an additional 1.5 mgd in water treatment capacity.

Outcomes	Indicator	Target in 1998 (at certification)	Actual (2009)
Population benefitted	number	20,000	20,000
Additional water treated	mgd	1.08	1.08
Increased access to wastewater collection service	connections	530	500
Additional wastewater treated	gpd	222,660	210,000

The improvements to the water treatment plant brought it into compliance with state regulations. Moreover, reducing the number of wastewater lift stations from 13 to 3 improved the operational efficiency of the utility by reducing its maintenance requirements, energy consumption and operational costs.

Project Financing (USD)

Sources of Funding	Estimated at certification	Actual Amount
NADBank BEIF construction assistance grant*	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,518,317
NADBank BEIF transition assistance grant**	2,200,000	1,089,048
Other sources***	19,645,000	19,645,000
Total	\$ 23,845,000	\$ 22,252,365

* Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by NADBank

** BEIF transition assistance is used to help pay system debt associated with the project, so that user fees can be raised gradually to the level required to make the system self-sustaining.

*** Grants from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).