

From: [Terri DiMartino](#)
To: [Castaneda-Kerson, Melissa \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: UTC case #UW-240-151 comments from my neighbors that live next door to Cascadia's massive 33 foot concrete water tower
Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 1:10:46 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot_20240605_213605_Gallery.jpg](#)
[52996.jpeg](#)
[52980 \(1\).jpeg](#)
[52981 \(1\).jpeg](#)
[53003.jpeg](#)
[52822.jpeg](#)
[52986.jpeg](#)
[52989.jpeg](#)

External Email

Dear Melissa Castaneda-Kerson:

I have been in contact with several of the neighbors that homes are right next door to Cascadia's massive 33 foot concrete water tower, and I must tell you if I lived within feet of this eyesore and the ongoing construction activities, you would of gotten a call and email from me every day.

I was recently looking for the Estates Water June 18 water shut off notice on Cascadia's website. It's not posted, but I laughed when I read this statement by Cascadia's Manager Culley Lehman, "Cascadia Water operates long-time family run utilities, and we're very connected to the communities we serve." This perception Lehman has is not any where close to being accurate or true.

Here's how Cascadia's connects with their customers during a massive \$1 million construction project built smack dab in the middle of an established neighborhood:

1. Hours of noise and diesel smells from idling and running concrete trucks, delivery trucks, employee vehicles, dump trucks, and a vacuum extraction truck being the most deafening sound. A vacuum extraction truck can exceed decibels of over 90 dPA. All nearby neighbors reported they left there homes when this machinery was operating.
2. No preconstruction warning that the project was starting. No construction sign posted or foreman to report problems too like random low water pressure, or losing your home Internet because buried cable were severed. You'd assume Cascadia would of had the courtesy to contact each household near the construction site and give them a heads up on what anticipate. No such action occurred.
3. Home views diminished. One neighbor had a mountain view, now they look at a 33 foot water tower. Another neighbor has a 180 degree of the work site. These people are wondering if this will impact their home and property investment. I've never seen a massive 33 foot water tank built in the middle of a neighborhood. Please see attached pictures.
4. Loss of privacy and security. A steady stream of contractors and curious eyes has been non stop at the construction site. One person told me they keep their blinds shut so passers by can't see inside their home or they leave their home. Imagine how'd you feel about strangers walking by just feet from your property and driving up your private road on a daily basis.

5. Visual pollution. The former site was grassy and well maintained. Now there are large pipes, empty welding tanks, caution tape, rebar laying around, and large holes underneath the existing pump houses. Please see the attached pictures. These neighbors have asked Cascadia when will this project be completed? Cascadia response is "we don't know."

6. "Worksite dirt and dust are a constant on my home, vehicles and I have to keep my windows closed". A common complaint stated by everyone. Wind is common when you live near the Salish Sea and little dirt devils are frequently created when you leave mounds of dirt uncovered.

I think the rate payers above who continue to live through project are being taken advantage of by Cascadia since late December 2023. It is my opinion Culley Lehman has let these neighbors down. He's done nothing to assist these neighbors with the human and irreversible construction impacts of this water tower.

I hope the UTC acknowledges the Estates Water System hasn't been a family run water system that's connected to its communities for years now. It's owned by a private equity firm called NW Holdings LLC, NYSE NWN. Justin Palfreyman is the legal owner of record for the property the water tank was built on. He has demonstrated his company is not a good neighbor. This project might take months or years to finish all at the expense of the neighbors that have to deal with the ongoing construction noise and other unforeseen nuances.

It's hard for me to believe the existing underground water tanks couldn't of been repaired or savaged. Was this 33 foot concrete eyesore the only option? As a rate payer, I would of appreciated other options over this mess, and one that wasn't so costly. I hope the UTC commissioners tell Cascadia that building a 33 foot concrete water tower was a poor business decision and Cascadia, not the rate payers, can foot the bill on this disaster.

Terri DiMartino