

Sandblasting gives one of city's oldest water tanks a facelift



Workers from State Painting of Utah blast the paint off of the outside of a water tank in the Foothills neighborhood. The company was hired by the city to strip paint from the outside and inside of the tank and paint the metal vessel. - *News-Record photo by Nathan Payne*

By The News-Record staff

Published: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 12:24 PM MST

The Foothills water tower has been undergoing a facelift for the past several months.

State Painting of Utah has been sandblasting the old paint and coating on the inside and outside of the tower. Crews are priming the exterior before applying a white coating of paint to the 2 million-gallon water tank.

Some lead paint was detected on the 30-year-old tank's exterior and sandblasted off, said Don Gundry, vice president of State Painting.

The City of Gillette assumes all old structures could have lead paint when workers do maintenance, City Administrator Mike Muirhead said. "(It's) one of the oldest tanks in the city," he said.

It is the first time it's been out of service for an overall tune up. Work on the project started in mid-September. The project's finishing date is dependant on the weather.

The entire water tank is being refurbished, including the conduit supports and equipment around the tank.

The project, which will cost \$389,685, is being paid from the Optional 1 Percent Sales Tax.