

Water Storage Expert Dustin Dowdy of Lebanon Explains How to Match the Right Tank Design to Your Utility for HelloNation

How can a water utility be certain that it has selected the right tank design for its specific operational needs?

LEBANON, TN, UNITED STATES, January 8, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- How can a water utility be certain that it has selected the right tank design for its specific operational needs? [A HelloNation article](#) addresses this question by featuring insights from Water Storage Expert Dustin Dowdy of Southeastern Tank in Lebanon, Tennessee. In a HelloNation article, Dowdy explains how tank design, construction methods, and maintenance considerations work together to help each water utility choose a system that performs reliably and efficiently for decades.

According to the HelloNation feature, selecting the correct tank design begins with understanding how a utility will use its storage system. Before any procurement or design stage, decision-makers must ask whether a given tank is the right match for the specific application. A design that performs well in one environment may be unsuited for another. For example, areas with frequent high winds might require added structural rigidity, while remote communities might prefer bolted steel construction for easier installation.

Dowdy explains that every type of municipal storage tank serves a unique purpose. Welded steel tanks offer a seamless interior that reduces the risk of leaks, making them ideal for large, permanent installations. Bolted steel tanks, however, allow for faster assembly and possible relocation if system needs change. Concrete tanks provide durability and excellent thermal stability, while composite tanks combine materials to increase corrosion resistance. The HelloNation article emphasizes that the best choice depends on aligning these structural characteristics with the operating conditions and environmental realities of each water utility.

Cost alone should never be the deciding factor in tank selection. The HelloNation feature notes that while initial pricing can be attractive, long-term costs tied to maintenance and coating



Dustin Dowdy of Southeastern Tank

replacement may turn a low upfront bid into an expensive investment. Dowdy advises utilities to review life cycle cost data that includes inspection frequency, coating life expectancy, and service intervals. A responsible tank supplier provides this data clearly, helping utilities evaluate the true total cost of ownership over time rather than focusing on immediate savings.

Operational usage also affects design choice. Some utilities depend on potable water storage primarily for balancing peak demand, while others rely on it for fire protection, emergency supply, or system pressure control. Each use pattern affects water movement, coating wear, and internal mixing needs. The HelloNation article explains that an experienced tank supplier will account for these operational factors and may suggest adjustments in inlet and outlet placement or recommend mixing systems that maintain uniform water quality throughout the tank.

Environmental factors play an equally important role in choosing a tank design. Tanks located in areas with significant temperature fluctuations may need insulation or specialized coatings to prevent condensation and thermal stress. Coastal utilities face exposure to salt-laden air that can corrode unprotected materials, requiring coatings tested for salt spray resistance. For utilities in seismic zones, Dowdy points out that reinforcement and anchoring details must be part of the engineering plan from the start to ensure long-term safety and regulatory compliance.

Maintenance access is another key consideration that is often overlooked during the early design stages. The HelloNation article underscores that ladders, platforms, and entry hatches should be placed to support safe inspection and repair work. Without proper accessibility, even basic inspections can become costly or unsafe. Dowdy explains that good maintenance planning starts with design and continues through the tank's entire service life. A reliable tank supplier should include a full inspection and service schedule along with detailed documentation outlining how coatings, hardware, and joints will be maintained over time.

Documentation and regulatory compliance are inseparable from design. Every municipal storage tank must meet state and federal standards for potable water storage. Dowdy emphasizes that a transparent supplier will provide full design calculations, certified materials lists, and construction records. These documents confirm that the tank meets both engineering and public health requirements. The HelloNation article adds that such transparency gives utilities confidence in both the safety and durability of their investment.

The article also highlights that choosing a tank is not the final step—it marks the beginning of a long-term partnership between the utility and the supplier. Dowdy notes that a dependable provider will continue to support the project after installation, assisting with commissioning, inspections, and future system adjustments. This ongoing relationship allows utilities to adapt their tanks to changing needs, such as adding mixing systems, upgrading coatings, or expanding storage capacity.

Reliability, Dowdy says, is the ultimate goal. Each tank design represents a long-term commitment to both safety and sustainability. The HelloNation article explains that every design decision—from material choice to coating system—affects how effectively a tank will serve its community across decades of use. By asking critical questions early about performance, maintenance, and life cycle cost, utilities can avoid unexpected challenges and ensure that their potable water storage systems remain dependable.

Dowdy concludes that there is no one-size-fits-all solution in tank selection. Each project requires a balance between performance, maintenance, and long-term economic efficiency. The right design meets not just today's capacity needs but also tomorrow's operational demands. In doing so, it protects both the public's water supply and the utility's financial investment.

[How to Match the Right Tank Design to Your Utility](#) features insights from Dustin Dowdy, Water Storage Expert of Lebanon, Tennessee, in HelloNation.

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