

Innovation in West Michigan

Water



The Holland area’s access to abundant reserves of freshwater is unimaginable in many parts of the world. The Holland BPW takes seriously our role as both a supplier of this vital resource to our customers and a steward charged with maintaining its quality and integrity.

Drawing from Lake Michigan as our source, the HBPW water filtration and distribution system contains 230 miles of water main and supports approximately 13,000 service connections and more than 2,300 fire hydrants. Our water supply is continuously monitored and tested to assure public safety. In recent years we have made several upgrades to systems and equipment to ensure there is always a reliable supply of safe drinking water “on tap.”



Award Winning Leadership
Jim Van De Wege was nominated for the national award by the AWWA Michigan Section. The AWWA is the world’s oldest nonprofit educational society dedicated to the improvement of water quality and supply.

Water Quality Report
In 2008, the Holland BPW earned the AWWA Michigan Section’s Annual Water Quality Report Award.

The honor, administered by the section’s Customer Satisfaction Committee, is designed to recognize excellence in drinking water utility customer outreach programs, with specific emphasis on the annual Water Quality Report.

Since 2005, the Water Filtration Plant has employed a process that optimizes the use of treatment chemicals. The process has reduced landfill-bound waste byproducts by up to 30%. Significant savings also have been achieved in related hauling and landfill charges.

In 2008, the BPW also renewed a water agreement with Laketown Township. This contract increases delivery from 1.2 million to 1.8 million gallons of water per day. The agreement contains terms under which an additional water filtration plant could someday be built in the township.

In 2008, the BPW completed installation of a new water transmission main below Lake Macatawa. This three year effort supports the transmission of up to 15 million gallons of water per day. During construction, the BPW employed directional drilling technology to install a 30-inch 3,200 ft. long, high-density polylene pipe.

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<p>In 2009, outdated and corroded sand filter panel instrumentation was replaced with five strategically situated wireless access points located throughout the water filtration plant. Using laptop computers, on-site staff now manages the filters wirelessly from any location within the plant and monitors the building’s overall operation and performance. In addition to creating new water management efficiencies, this project was completed significantly under budget.</p>			<p>In August 2009, the plant installed an online Ultra Violet (UV) monitor. The fully automatic and precisely calibrated UV 254 system monitors organic material in water and provides advance warning of any changes in water quality. All HBPW records are now digitized and available to our field service teams. This enables our staff to access the information immediately from any location and respond to service calls faster and more accurately than before.</p>		