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Improved Water System Shines



Inclusion of windows in the tower's base required customized concrete forms and precise placement and alignment between concrete lifts during construction.



The exceptional length of the bore under Belleville Lake, 50 feet of elevation change and varied ground conditions made directional drilling activities challenging.

Van Buren Township's water system improvements were recognized as a 2010 Project of the Year by the Michigan Chapter of the American Public Works Association, Downriver Branch. The project included a new 2.0-mg water tower, five miles of new water main, and water main improvements to address capacity and flow issues identified in their Water Master Plan.

Using Drinking Water Revolving Fund monies that qualified for 40% American Recovery and Reinvestment Act principal forgiveness, portions of the community were looped into the system to improve water quality, reliability and available fire flow while sections of low or inconsistent pressure main were improved. In addition, the new storage capacity will help offset water demand from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) during peak times and enable the Township to renegotiate their contract with DWSD for a lower wholesale rate.

Pipe bursting, directional drilling and traditional open cut methods were used to construct the new water main including a crossing of Belleville Lake as one continuous, 1,500-foot-long installation. The concrete base of the water tower was built to exacting standards for strength, finish and consistency. The addition of windows in the structure posed a unique challenge for the contractor. The windows enhance the interior space that is intended to accommodate future Township offices and telecommunication company tenants.

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