

BWW 2010 Status

Berlin Water Works Improvements

The City of Berlin Water Works (BWW) and its Board of Commissioners has prepared this article in an effort to inform our customers of the upcoming 2011 improvement projects. BWW's mission is to comply with Federal and State regulations, improve fire protection capabilities, improve system performance by replacing old mains, and reducing winter running situations. Significant improvements have been made to the system over the recent past which has improved performance and significantly reduced the number of water main breaks. A majority of the improvements have been funded with State and Federal grants and low-interest loans. The majority of the construction work has been completed with BWW staff (force account construction) which has allowed BWW to keep the work local and reduce the overall costs. These cost savings have been accrued by BWW and can now be utilized for other system improvements.

Improvements planned for 2011 include:

1. **Continued water main replacement work:** This years' focus is on upper Riverside Drive, the completion of upper Champlain Street, the Hi-pressure line along The St Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad / Dead River, and Main Street from Abenaki to Eighth Street with a new Androscoggin River crossing.
2. **Complete Phase II Godfrey Dam improvements:** This will include the resurfacing of all of the intake and waste gate section of the Dam and the installation of an access bridge.
3. **Upgrade the Brown Farm Well Facility:** Includes the replacement of the well pump, well motor, the VF Drive, back-up generator(natural gas), and some other energy improvements.
4. **Green Energy projects:** This includes a new hydroelectric generator at the Ammonoosuc Water Treatment Facility and a solar and / or wind turbine at the Godfrey Dam. These projects are being funded by a special "Green Energy" NH State Revolving Loan with 45% forgiveness.
5. **BWW Office Building and Maintenance Garage improvements:** This project includes upgrades to the existing Office Building to meet all applicable building codes including ADA access, improve safety for customer access, and significantly improve the energy efficiency of the building as well as demolition of the existing maintenance garage near the railroad tracks due to many code and safety concerns and construction of a new maintenance facility. Also proposed for this project is the use of photovoltaic solar panels to reduce the net energy use in combination to the energy efficiency upgrades to both. The energy improvements for these buildings may be funded by the "Green Energy" NH State Revolving Loan.

Due to various funding sources and accrued funds from force account construction, there will be no impact to the current water rates. BWW has not had a rate increase since 1998 and does not expect any change in the near future.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to a productive construction season.