



Board of Directors
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TO: Jaye Quadrozzi, Chair
Great Lakes Water Authority

FROM: Gary Brown, Board Member
Great Lakes Water Authority

DATE: September 28, 2022

RE: Water Main Breaks in Detroit

There has been a significant number of water main breaks in the city of Detroit since the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) crews and contractors have begun work to repair the 120-inch water main break in Port Huron.

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) engineers note there has been an increase in equipment malfunction alerts in the regional system year over year that has caused large pressure fluctuations seen at GLWA's affected facility and in the Detroit distribution system. We also note that the local distribution system is operating at slightly higher pressures than before the 120-inch main break. Both of these factors may be contributing to the increased number of distribution system water main breaks in Detroit. DWSD has asked GLWA to attempt to reduce overall pressures and DWSD is monitoring that change. And, although GLWA routinely sends DWSD email alerts when pumps trip, we believe we have not been notified for every incident.

DWSD requests GLWA to provide near-real time data access for the Water & Sewer Facilities that affect Detroit, such as the water treatment plants, west service center etc. so that we may better prepare for potential issues in the distribution system.

I also respectfully request this matter be referred to the Operations and Resources Committee for discussion and review. I also request that GLWA assemble a working group or task force that includes DWSD engineers to work through this issue and to establish protocols for moving forward.

Thank you for your attention.



GAB/DNP

cc: Members of the Board, Great Lakes Water Authority
Suzanne Coffey, Chief Executive Officer