



Cheryl Porter
Chief Operating Officer
Water and Field Services
735 Randolph Street, Suite 1900
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: 313-964-9390

Memorandum

To: Honorable GLWA Board of Directors

From: Cheryl Porter, COO – Water and Field Services

cc: Executive Leadership Team

Date: June 14, 2021

RE: Northeast Transformer Failure

On June 5, 2021, at approximately 9:30 pm, there was a transformer failure at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant (NEWTP). The E2 transformer dropped out of service causing a loss in operation for one highlift pump and other process equipment. As part of our emergency response plan, all remaining equipment was loaded onto the remaining transformer (E5) and preparations made for the emergency generators for back-up operations. However, an issue which was found with the emergency generators that was rendering the equipment non-operational was resolved through the development of a manual process for the equipment, providing a back-up power feed in the event something happened to the E5 transformer at the treatment facility. In addition, Northeast Sewer Station (NESS) was having similar issues during this same period and was without power because it shares the electrical trunk lines from DTE with NEWTP. NESS emergency generators were eventually able to supply power to the whole sewer station.

Testing continued on the transformers and a sample analysis was sent out. On June 9, the sample analysis came back indicating a positive test result for the condition of the transformers which allowed DTE the opportunity to re-establish a connection from their unit substation to the transformer.

On June 10, at approximately 1:30 pm, the power to E1 transformer for NEWTP was restored, providing an additional feed to the process equipment. At approximately 8:00 pm, power was restored to E2 transformer, providing a third feed to NEWTP and a power feed to E4 (NESS) in which they were able to remove or split their load off the emergency generators. As we continue to assess matters surrounding this incident, our short term recommended actions include the testing of emergency generators to determine if any changes are needed to the process operation.