



# HOLLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

## NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **HBPW mobilizes quickly to restore power to Electric Customers**

Holland, MI, July 12, 2011 – As of Tuesday Noon, fewer than 500 Holland Board of Public Works (HBPW) customers remain without electric power.

“The restoration of power, repair and replacement of utility equipment following Monday’s severe storm is moving along,” reports Loren Howard, general manager of the Holland BPW. “We anticipate that as a result of our crews working close to around the clock and with the additional assistance from Grand Haven and Zeeland utility workers as well as Kent Power, we have been able to move quickly in getting power to our customers.

“Unfortunately, we’ve got a lot of damage. Work on Pine Avenue between Ninth Street and the River Avenue Bridge may take a week or longer to fully restore the utility poles and lines. No customers are out of power as a result of the continuing work along Pine Avenue. This is part of our 138 kilovolt distribution system which is looped around our service territory so we can feed two ways into our large substations” Howard indicated. “Our hope is that the City will be able to open a lane along the impacted section of Pine Avenue once the area has been cleared of fallen debris.” It is estimated that Seventh Street (near River Avenue) will re-open to traffic within the next couple of days.

- Clean-up and repairs continue at the James DeYoung Generating Plant.
- All circuits have been restored with only isolated outages remaining. An estimated total of 10,000 outages resulted from the storms on Monday, July 11, 2011.
- Significant damage to three small utility buildings occurred at the James DeYoung Generating Station. No personnel were injured.
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant lost power at the initial outbreak of the storm, resulting in a sewage overflow that was contained at the site. Power was restored within a couple of hours, and recovery of the overflow was completed by late afternoon. Waste water lift stations had very few operating problems.
- No damages or injuries occurred at other HBPW facilities.
- Isolated traffic signals are non-operational. Drivers should treat these intersections as four-way stops.

Estimates of the cost of the damage to HBPW facilities and equipment are being determined. The City is also doing a damage assessment to determine if a Declaration of Disaster is needed.

General Manager Loren Howard indicated that he is pleased with the efforts and skill being demonstrated by HBPW crews and personnel in handling the storm event and with the many others including neighboring businesses and contractors who pitched in and helped with the initial management immediately after the storm.

“We maintain an organized plan that addresses the variables, resources and available tools that are necessary during a natural disaster,” he said. “That plan went into action immediately upon the initial response to the storm event. Coupled with a lot of support from City Departments and other Michigan municipal utilities as well as our investment in outage-restoration technology, has resulted in our continued ability to stay customer-focused.”

As the power is restored, work remains. Part of the restoration performed is temporary. As clean-up continues, the temporary repairs must be permanently fixed. The HBPW will continue to assess the remaining workload; with plans to conduct a post-storm follow-up.

Established in 1893, the Holland Board of Public Works is a community-owned enterprise providing utility services to the Holland area. We are committed to improving the economic and environmental quality of the community in partnership with our customers, providing reliable services at the lowest rates achievable through innovation, efficiency, and professional operations. We provide electric generation and distribution, water and wastewater treatment to the City of Holland and selected areas.

For more information on all of the power, water, broadband and wastewater treatment services provided by the Holland Board of Public Works, please visit our web site at [www.hollandbpw.com](http://www.hollandbpw.com)

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