

HOLLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS



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Air Quality Permit Allows Holland Board of Public Works to Move Ahead with Power Options Evaluation

Holland, MI, February 11, 2011 – With State of Michigan approval of its air quality permit for a new, 78-megawatt power unit at the James De Young generating plant, the Holland Board of Public Works will now move forward with the process of deciding how best to meet the community's future base load power generating needs.

"We are very pleased to have the air permitting process completed, because without it we could not realistically consider an upgrade of the De Young plant as one of our viable options," said Loren Howard, general manager of the Holland BPW. "It is a great advantage to the community to have this option, because a decision this important should be made on the most complete information possible."

The greater Holland community is at a crossroads in determining how best to meet its future power needs. Factors at work are long-term growth in power demand, regulatory requirements for the use of renewable energy sources, rising demand for power world wide and the cost and difficulty of maintaining the aging equipment at the De Young plant, which currently produces a significant portion of the community's electricity.

“By the end of 2011 our community needs to make some decisions about how we are going to generate base load power,” Howard said. “Whatever the path or paths we may choose, it takes time to bring new generating resources on line and we need to move ahead with the decision making process.”

The chief options under consideration are to build cleaner, more efficient generating capacity at the De Young plant, buy more power from the open markets or buy a share of ownership in another power generating project.

An expansion at the De Young plant would use circulating fluidized bed (CFB) technology that dramatically reduces emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury, allowing for the very clean combustion of coal. The facility could also support the use of up to 30 percent biofuels such as wood, biomass and others, providing flexibility of use in the future.

The new 78-megawatt power station would replace an aging 11-megawatt pulverized coal generator at the De Young power station that was installed in 1953.

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

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