



# HOLLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **Holland BPW To Take Legal Action to Move State of Michigan To Fulfill Regulatory Responsibilities**

HOLLAND, MI – August 11, 2010 – Following three and a half years of regulatory delays by the State of Michigan, the Holland Board of Public Works of the City of Holland today approved a Resolution to take legal action, by filing a complaint in the Ottawa County Circuit Court to compel the issuance of the Air Emissions Permit to Install ( PT1) for the James DeYoung Generating Station.

“Our permit application has long been administratively and technically complete, and we have worked tirelessly to address the state’s ongoing requests regarding the application, even when those requests were not legally justified,” said Loren Howard, general manager of the Holland Board of Public Works. “Action on our air permit is way overdue, and issuance should be made without further delay.”

Howard added that calling upon state regulators to issue a permit to install modifications at Holland’s James DeYoung power generating plant would lead to lower emissions, cleaner air and a secure energy future for Holland area residents and businesses.

Although the HBPW has not yet made a decision on whether to move forward with the DeYoung project, a valid permit to modify the facility is critical to the decision making process on how to best meet the future needs of the Holland community. Howard indicated that the board is still working with state regulators to bring the permitting process to a successful conclusion.

The HBPW submitted its application for the installation of a new circulating fluidized bed (CFB) boiler at the DeYoung facility in January 2007. The new CFB boiler would replace an aging, less efficient, pulverized coal-fired boiler and will lead to substantial decreases in SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, mercury, lead and other emissions. Late in 2008, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (then MDEQ) determined that it had all the information required and issued a draft permit for public comment on November 26, 2008. After two public information sessions and two public hearings, the public comment period on the permit closed on January 30, 2009.

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Reliable, affordable power is an essential element of economic development and growth. The job growth recently announced in new manufacturing facilities being developed by JCI-SAFT and LG Chem is highly dependent upon a predictable, cost-effective power supply. Any uncertainty in power supply can have a significant negative impact on the area's ability to attract new jobs.

"There are no materials permitting issues that are unresolved, and we have fulfilled every other requirement in Michigan's permitting process," Howard said. "The technology we are proposing would lead to significant reductions in virtually every harmful emission. The fuel technology would be far cleaner than the fuel technology we use today, and it is time for the state to act," he said.

The HBPW has worked with leading experts in the power industry to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the Holland community's long term energy needs. Modification of the DeYoung plant is one option under consideration for meeting those needs. The board is also developing the use of sustainable energy sources such as wind, bio-fuels and others.

The Holland Board of Public Works is a municipally owned utility, providing essential, economical and innovative utility services for the Holland community including energy, water, wastewater and infrastructure for communications. We operate socially and environmentally responsible utility enterprises that are able to expand and sustain a highly functional, reliable and efficient local infrastructure. For more information, visit [www.hollandbpw.com](http://www.hollandbpw.com).

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