



News Release

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HOLLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RESPONDS TO STATE'S DENIAL FOR PERMIT

Holland, MI—The Holland Board of Public Works today issued a response to the State of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources & Environment's (MDNRE) denial of an Air Permit for a proposed installation of a new clean coal and biomass 78MW electric generating unit at the existing James DeYoung Plant replacing a 1950's vintage 11.5 MW unit. The MDNRE relied solely upon a staff report from the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) in its conclusions and denial.

“The HBPW believes that the denial, which is based on an analysis by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) is wrong,” said Loren Howard, general manager of the HBPW. While the State cited sections of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and the Michigan Air Pollution Control Rules, the only apparent support for the denial was the MPSC staff report. The HBPW is not regulated by the MPSC and the MDNRE has no regulatory or legal authority to rely upon the HBPW Electric Resource Plan as a source of denial which the HBPW submitted to the MPSC out of courtesy. Further, the MDNRE's interpretation of the CAA and Michigan Air Pollution Control Rules is flawed as the rules do not allow assessment of the need for the project which the MPSC has acknowledged. The specific references in the MDNRE denial cite the MPSC opinion of the future load forecasts of the HBPW, not air emission control alternatives.

The MPSC report also suggests the HBPW rely on the wholesale market which has older, less-efficient, higher-polluting coal resources to meet future needs. As a result, the MPSC's findings and the subsequent MDNRE decisions are actions that work against improving air quality. The MPSC report also failed to consider other community benefits such as maintaining the Holland commercial harbor status, improvements to the downtown snow melt system, cost savings to the HBPW Waste Water system and potential combined heat and power solutions.

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The City of Holland and the Board of Public Works are working to harness clean, advanced new technologies to meet the energy needs of our community. Those technologies include renewable resources, such as wind, landfill gas and biomass, as well as clean, advanced, and efficient technologies that would permit the responsible use of our most abundant energy resource, coal. Howard indicated that the HBPW's air permit application and supporting analyses met all of the Clean Air Act rules and regulations, and that the HBPW is in full compliance with state and federal laws. "We are confident that we meet all the conditions for an approval of the air quality permit application for the James De Young facility, and intend to pursue this matter," Howard added.

The Holland Board of Public Works is a community-owned enterprise 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.

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