



Press Release

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MWRD enters Project Labor Agreement for work at Lockport Powerhouse and Controlling Works

Partnership formed with Will and Grundy Counties Building Trades Council and Three Rivers Construction Alliance

An agreement is now in place to begin anticipated work on a \$10 million rehabilitation project for a key piece of infrastructure that the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) owns and operates to protect the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS).

The MWRD has signed a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the Will and Grundy Counties Building Trades Council and Three Rivers Construction Alliance for work on a \$10 million rehabilitation project at the Lockport Powerhouse and Controlling Works. An estimated 31,500 man-hours of skilled trades is anticipated. The MWRD will replace tailrace stop logs, headrace gates and other equipment. The improvements will ensure continued reliable operation of the Powerhouse and ensure hydroelectricity generation and control of the waterways. Contracts that have been reviewed by the MWRD's Diversity team have included overall goals of 20% MBE, 10% WBE and 10% SBE respectively:

- 19-606-21 – Roof Repair at the Lockport Powerhouse 20/9/10
- 18-607-31 – Cofferdam Installation and Removal at Sluice Gate No. 2, Lockport Controlling Works – 20/10/10
- 15-830-3D – Replacement of Tailrace Stop Logs, Headrace Gates, and Equipment Lockport Powerhouse – 20/10/10 – Bids due 3/5/19

“We are happy to work with our labor partners in Will and Grundy counties and Three Rivers Construction Alliance to provide ample work opportunities for pivotal infrastructure that enhances the



The MWRD's Lockport Powerhouse and Controlling Works are undergoing a major rehabilitation project that will rely on the manpower and skill of the Will and Grundy Counties Building Trades Council and Three Rivers Construction Alliance.

region where many of these workers call home,” said Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos. “The Lockport Powerhouse and Controlling Works have been in service for well over a century and through the craftsmanship of these talented trades we hope to see it in operation for centuries to come.”

The MWRD constructed the Lockport Controlling Works in 1899, followed by the Lockport Powerhouse in 1907. The Controlling Works is located at the confluence of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and the Des Plaines River and enables the MWRD to control the water levels of the canal. The Powerhouse marks the southwestern extent of the MWRD-managed CAWS. Together these facilities are an integral part of the MWRD's management of the CAWS for reducing the risk of flooding throughout the MWRD service area. *(continued)*

MWRD enters Project Labor Agreement for work at Lockport Powerhouse, *cont.*

In addition to its role in managing the waterways, the Lockport Powerhouse provides financial benefits from hydroelectric power generation. The water flowing through the facility is harnessed by two turbines to provide a safe and environmentally friendly hydroelectric energy source that is sold back to ComEd. In 2017, the Lockport Powerhouse generated 37,583,707 kilowatt hours (kwh) of power and more than \$1 million in revenue; in 2018, it generated 42,000,000 kwh and \$1.1 million in revenue.

But delivering that level of service into a second century requires investment in the infrastructure. As part of the rehabilitation project, the MWRD will replace tailrace stop logs, headrace gates and other equipment. The improvements will ensure continued reliable operation of the Powerhouse and ensure hydroelectricity generation and control of the waterways.

The National Park Service recognized the Lockport Powerhouse by listing it on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.

“The Lockport Powerhouse is a valuable architectural and historical site. This 100 year old facility continues to play an integral role in managing the Chicago Area Waterway System and reducing the risk of flooding throughout MWRD’s service area,” said MWRD Commissioner Josina Morita. “We look forward to making these vital improvements to the Powerhouse and putting these talented and skilled tradesmen and women to work.”

Construction is expected to begin in summer of 2019.

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