



DuPage Water Commission

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DUPAGE WATER COMMISSION ANNOUNCES LANDMARK LAKE MICHIGAN WATER PROJECT TO MONTGOMERY, OSWEGO, AND YORKVILLE

Nearly 100,000 Residents to Come Online Beginning in 2027

DuPage County, Illinois, July 2023— The DuPage Water Commission (DWC) has commenced engineering work for a 30-mile water pipeline extension project to provide Lake Michigan drinking water to the suburban communities of Montgomery, Oswego, and Yorkville. Projections indicate the communities will face a potential water crisis as populations continue to grow and the aquifer, the region’s current water source, continues to decline. The three municipalities proactively contacted the DWC to engage in this significant project to expand the Lake Michigan water service area - among Illinois’s most important projects in the last 30 years.

“After years of forging a strong relationship and positive negotiations, this long-term solution to provide Lake Michigan water to these municipalities is an excellent example of good governance and beneficial access to the shared services of our most precious resource—water,” explained Jim Zay, Chairman of DWC.

Population projections indicate Montgomery, Oswego, and Yorkville will reach 100,000 people shortly after the water project is completed.

Oswego Village Administrator Daniel Di Santo said this project presents a generational water solution for all. “The importance of bringing high-quality Lake Michigan water to our communities cannot be understated. Providing our communities with safe drinking water is among our most important responsibilities as municipalities, and this partnership with the DuPage Water Commission provides a sustainable solution”, he said.

DiSanto said that the three municipalities initially met with DWC to discuss the project in 2016. According to DiSanto, DWC has been a willing and collaborative partner as the communities earnestly considered source water alternatives and impacts on residents.

“From the beginning, this partnership has been seen as a win-win-win for all involved. The result brings in Lake Michigan water and, at the same time, reduces stress on our aquifers,” added DiSanto.

An important preliminary activity to advance the project was the authorization of a Springfield law allowing non-DuPage County municipalities to join and have representation on the DWC Board of Commissioners.

“In 2018, we brought the Village of Bartlett online, the first new Lake Michigan water consumer in many years. With the project to serve Montgomery, Oswego, and Yorkville, DWC is further expanding our position as one of Illinois’s largest Lake Michigan water wholesalers. DWC has now become a true regional water provider, and we’re very proud of that,” said Paul May, General Manager of DWC. “We have a responsibility to use water properly and efficiently. DWC is geographically suited to serve the three new communities and, in the future, other western suburban communities. We’re looking forward to being part of the solution for those communities and managing this valuable resource in a manner that is effective, efficient, and provides responsible stewardship of this essential resource.”

In June this year, approval was granted to commence engineering on the project, with a contract award to an engineering team consisting of LAN Engineering, Stanley Engineering, and Robinson Engineering. Concurrently, the three municipalities are working with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for Lake Michigan water allocation permits and continue to secure as much grant funding as possible. The communities have prioritized reducing the burden of water rates to the maximum extent possible as they take on this regionally significant and critical infrastructure project.

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About DWC: *DWC has delivered nearly a trillion gallons of fresh Lake Michigan water to its one million customers over thirty years. It has become the standard for safe, clean, affordable Lake Michigan water in Illinois. The water project to Oswego, Montgomery, and Yorkville will be among the largest in the state and will begin in 2024 and be completed by the end of 2027.*