

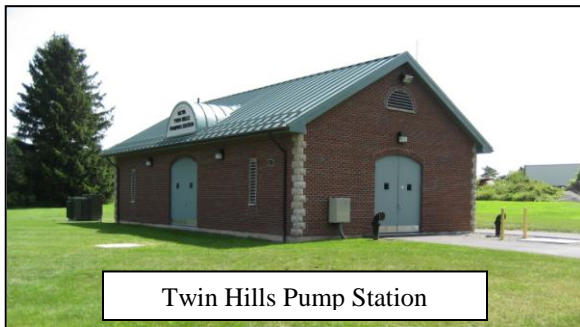
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For More Information:
Contact Richard Metzger at 442-2000

Investments in Water System Deliver in Fighting the Kleen Brite Fire

On Saturday, September 9, 2006, a major fire at the Kleen Brite facility in Brockport prompted a response from 400 firefighters, 19 area and regional fire departments and ambulance squads. Without the investment made by the Water Authority in renewals and improvements to the water supply infrastructure, the fire flows needed to combat such an occurrence would have fallen short of the community's firefighting needs.

Several key improvements, made by the Water Authority since it began servicing the Clarkson / Sweden / Brockport systems in 1996, played critical roles in this event. New and upgraded watermains, pumping systems, storage facilities and state-of-the-art control systems all provided the unsung support for the fire-fighting efforts. "While the infrastructure investments made serve multiple purposes, including improved water quality; lower vulnerabilities; energy savings; operational efficiencies and improved reliability, their importance to the community under critical emergency demands such as fire flows was quietly evident during this event" said Ed Marianetti (MCWA Executive Director).



Twin Hills Pump Station

A new pump station, located near the Twin Hills golf course and constructed in 2003, served as the primary source of supply to the area. Flow from those pumps was delivered through the new high capacity 16" watermain that was completed in 2003 to replace the old and unreliable distribution main on Ridge Road in Clarkson. The transmission mains from Ridge Road to the Village have also been rehabilitated by the Water

Authority using a process that applies a cement mortar lining to the interior of the main – increasing the main's hydraulic capacity for events like this and protecting the structural integrity of the main. Hydraulic reinforcement came from a second major feed - the new transmission main on Route 31, which contributed double the capacity to the area than would have been available before 2004. In 2001, the Water Authority modified the Owens Road meter vault to allow flow north from Route 31 in order to increase flows and fire capacity specifically in the area the fire was in. The final key element of the water supply for fighting the fire was having sufficient emergency storage available. This came from the five million gallon tank which was constructed in 2001 on Route 19, just south of the Village.

Operationally, fire fighters promptly notified the Water Authority's 24/7/365 operations console of their anticipated need for huge quantities of water to fight the blaze. The operator on duty responded by increasing pumping rates into the Brockport system and remotely opening valves to further increase flow. The system was able to deliver a measured peak flow of over 8 million gallons per day (mgd) while simultaneously maintaining distribution system pressures for area customers. The flow rate needed to fight this fire was substantial and significantly more than most water systems could have handled. By way of comparison, the capacity of the water treatment plants of other area cities, such as Batavia, Canandaigua and Geneva, are all less than 6 mgd; the former Village of Brockport water plant had a maximum capacity of just 5 mgd.



The community's water system plays a critical role in preserving the public's health and welfare, day-in and day-out. Events such as the Kleen Brite fire reinforce the need to continue prudent investment in the water supply infrastructure to maintain its robustness for critical supply needs.