Capital Improvement Projects

Infrastructural and system-wide upgrades are an integral part of maintaining one of the top five water systems in the country. The Birmingham Water Works Board (BWWB) is the largest water utility in the state serving more than 600,000 people in Jefferson, Shelby, Blount, St. Clair and Walker Counties. In order to fulfill its commitment to providing the highest-quality water at the lowest possible price, the BWWB must implement various capital improvement projects across its system. That is why the BWWB has initiated a vital and comprehensive Capital Improvement Project Program.

Current Capital Improvement Projects

Western Filter Plant Filter Rehab

As of March 2013 the following labor has occurred at the BWWB’s Western Filter Plant:

 Filters 5 – 8:
 • Currently under rehabilitation

 Filters 9 – 16:
 • Currently in service
 • Filter underdrains have been installed
 • Installing troughs in filters

Backwash Supply Pump Station (BWS-PS):

 • Currently in service
 • Backwash pumps installation is complete
 • Final electrical work is underway

Air Scour System:

 • Air scour blowers have been installed
 • Completing electrical work on blowers

Out of the 16 filters at the plant, the initial focus was directed toward filters 9 through 16. After the underdrains were installed and tested, filter media was added to the specified filters. After the job was complete, the filters were chlorinated and tested for the presence of bacteria. Once filters 9 through 16 passed the bacteriological tests, they were placed back on-line for the treatment process, through which they treat settled water. This same process will be used for filters 5 through 8. Usually, filter media is replaced every eight to 10 years and filter underdrains are upgraded every 25 to 30 years.

The project is currently 52 percent complete, with the completion date scheduled for March 9, 2014. Prior to the rehabilitation, the filters did not meet current design requirements by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The total cost of the project is $9,848,741.20.