



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL MARCH 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) incident response update to the March 7, 2026, Novi water service disruption and ongoing restoration efforts
- Suzanne Coffey, CEO

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Manager

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In preparation and support of City Council for Ms. Coffey's time at the March 9th meeting, please see the following background on the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) and its relationship with all its municipal partners:

The **Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA)** was created as a central component of Detroit's 2014 bankruptcy exit plan to regionalize the city's massive water system. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the City of Detroit, the State of Michigan, and Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties, establishing the framework for the regional authority. The GLWA was officially incorporated under Michigan Public Act 233 of 1955.

To achieve this, GLWA signed a 40-year lease for control over the DWSD treatment plants, major water transmission mains, sewage interceptors and related facilities for \$50 million per year. The funds go directly toward capital improvement for the City of Detroit retail water system and to repair Detroit's aging water infrastructure.

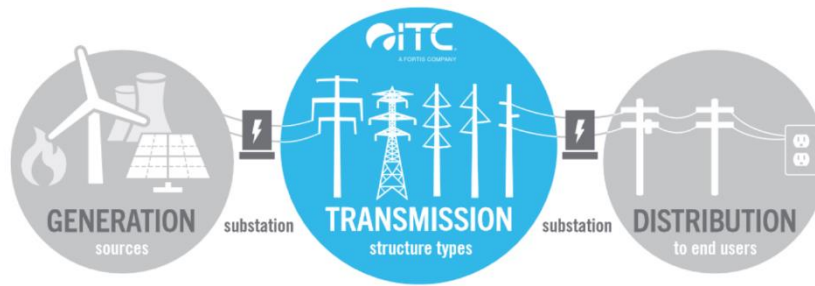
GLWA began operations as an independent regional water and wastewater authority, separate from the Detroit Water and Sewer Department (DWSD) on January 1, 2016.

GLWA operates five water treatment facilities that draw water from Lake Huron and the Great Lakes tributary, the Detroit River, which services nearly 40% of the State of Michigan. They operate/maintain 816 miles of water mains (pipes) and treat 1.72 billion gallons of water each day.

GLWA does have a six member Board of Directors made up of three appointees from Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties (one each), one from the State of Michigan, and two members from the City of Detroit.

The City of Novi is one of 127 municipalities in eight counties that are GLWA customers. The City receives water from GLWA's large transmission lines and then distributes it to residents/businesses within our borders. There is no alternative to being a GLWA member or another source of treated water the City can tap into to supply residents. Like ITC, headquartered in Novi, who owns and maintains the transmission lines that supply energy to local providers like DTE and Consumers to service their customers:

The Three Components in Electric Power Transmission



The same goes for GLWA and their customers (the City of Novi):

