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News Release

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Williams WTP Back Online Following Apron Replacement

Water Treatment Plant Went Offline for Ten Months During Construction Project

DURHAM, N.C. – Following the successful completion of its terminal reservoir apron replacement project, the City of Durham Department of Water Management’s Williams Water Treatment Plant (WTP) on Hillandale Road is back online, and once again producing approximately nine million gallons a day (MGD) of drinking water for the City of Durham and its more than 270,000 residents and visitors. In addition to the apron replacement project, a number of treatment processes, including the installation of a sophisticated SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system, were upgraded while the facility was offline. Renovations of the administrative areas, along with the residuals handling facility construction, will continue over the next several months.

The project to replace the historic plant’s original reservoir apron began in the fall of 2017. This required draining the 45-million-gallon reservoir for the first time in the plant’s 100-year history. During this time, Durham’s newer Brown WTP, with a treatment capacity of 30 MGD, remained online to serve the city’s water demands while also undergoing process upgrades and a capacity expansion to 42 MGD. Construction at the Brown WTP is also continuing into 2019.

While the Williams WTP was offline, Water Management periodically sourced supplementary water from interconnected Triangle partners, including the Town of Cary and OWASA. This practice of sharing supplemental water supplies among neighboring municipalities is commonly employed for both planned and emergency situations.

Both the Williams and Brown plants are undergoing a variety of infrastructure upgrades designed with Durham’s future in mind. Overall, this \$100 million project will improve efficiency, operation, and technology to ensure a reliable water supply for decades to come. Read more about Water Management’s commitment to high-quality drinking water in its latest annual report, available online in English and Spanish at <http://durhamnc.gov/946/Annual-Reports>.

About Water Management

The Department of Water Management is responsible for the operation and maintenance of Durham's water supply, water treatment and water reclamation (wastewater treatment) facilities, collection and distribution systems (including meter reading), and customer billing services. The department has a wide variety of support divisions and programs to maintain the existing infrastructure that provide these integral services, and strives to be a responsible steward of the City’s physical assets. For information, visit <http://durhamnc.gov/944/> and follow @DurhamWater on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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