

What is the Alternative Water Source Program?

The City of Joliet's existing groundwater source is being depleted and will no longer be able to meet the City's water demands by 2030. The Alternative Water Source Program (AWSP) consists of the planning, design and construction of a new water source for the City of Joliet by 2030. In January 2020, following a comprehensive, two phased study, the City Council selected Lake Michigan as the City's new water source. The program activities in 2020 are focused on the evaluation of two Lake Michigan Water Alternatives – purchasing treated Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago or going straight to the lake and constructing a new intake and water treatment plant. The 2020 evaluation will further define the alternatives and cost estimates in order to allow the City Council to select one of the alternatives in January 2021.

Prospectus Documents: A Prospectus for been prepared for each Alternative highlighting the business case for that alternative. Each of the Prospectus documents have a similar structure with Sections 2 through 5 being the same in both Prospectus documents and presenting background information related to the Alternative Water Source Program and the work completed as part of the 2020 Evaluation. Section 1 and Sections 6 through 10 are unique in each Prospectus document and present the executive summary, description of alternative improvements, associated risks, SWOT analysis and the business case for the alternative. The Prospectus documents, supporting 2020 Evaluation documents (referenced and linked in the Prospectus documents) were posted on the project website at RethinkWaterJoliet.org on November 20th.

City Council Workshop

The third City Council Workshop was held on November 19th. At this workshop, the Project Team presented the results of the 2020 Evaluation and, in particular, presented the Prospectus documents for each alternative.

The final City Council Workshop in 2020 will be held on December 17th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The workshop will be televised live on Channel 6 as well as live-streamed on the City's website at Joliet.gov. At this workshop, the Project Team will present a comparison of the two alternatives and representatives from the City of Chicago and City of Hammond will be in attendance to answer questions.

Public Forum

This year's Public Forum will be held virtually. There will be several opportunities for the public to ask questions and provide comments ahead of the City Council's selection of an alternative in January 2021:

- **Online Virtual Event**, from November 30th through December 14th - On the RethinkWaterJoliet.org website, information on the water source alternatives will be available for review and the public can submit questions and comments.
- **Live Virtual Public Forum**, December 2nd from 1:00 to 2:30 pm and again on December 3rd from 6:30 to 8:00 pm - Information on the water source alternatives will be presented live by the Project Team, followed by a Q&A session. Register to participate at RethinkWaterJoliet.org.

Program Calendar

Recent and Upcoming Program Activities:

- September 22nd - Submitted Lake Michigan Allocation Application to IDNR
- September 29th - Stakeholder Meeting
- October 16th - Meeting with Southland Water Agency
- October 20th - Quarterly Update to Finance Committee Meeting
- November 19th - City Council Workshop
- November 30th to December 14th - Online Virtual Event
- December 2nd and 3rd - Live Virtual Public Forum Meetings
- December 17th - City Council Workshop
- December 21st - Lake Michigan Allocation Application Pre-Hearing

While most of these meetings are project team meetings, the meetings highlighted in gray are public meetings. To attend these meetings, visit the [website](#) for more information.

GET INVOLVED IN 2020

Be sure to stay informed by reading our program newsletter which will be published on a monthly basis. Stay up-to-date with public meetings and receive the monthly newsletter in your inbox by joining the mailing list at www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org.

Educational Topic

Copies of all Educational Topics for the Alternative Water Source Program can be found in the Information Center on the website at www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org.



Chicago Department of Water Management (CDWM) Alternative

The Chicago Department of Water Management (CDWM) Alternative involves purchasing treated Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago at the Southwest Pumping Station and pumping it approximately 31 miles to the City of Joliet for distribution throughout the water system. While it seems simple, there are major improvements required at Chicago's Southwest Pumping Station to have a safe connection and take ownership of the finished water.

Since this alternative involves purchasing treated, finished water from the City of Chicago, the City of Joliet would enter into a Water Supply Agreement with the City of Chicago. As part of the 2020 Evaluation, City Staff and Project Team members negotiated a preliminary Water Supply Agreement with the City of Chicago. The preliminary Water Supply Agreement between the City of Chicago and the City of Joliet has been included in the Appendix of the Prospectus. Key terms in the preliminary Water Supply Agreement include the responsibilities of each Party, how the purchased water rate will be determined, real estate matters, provisions for assignment/transfer of the agreement and Chicago's commitment to transparency and collaboration.

As noted in the business case in the Prospectus, for this alternative Joliet would give up control over water supply and treatment and be subject to Chicago's wholesale water rates. The City of Chicago's infrastructure is aged and its treatment system does not include processes to specifically treat for emerging contaminants. If required, future upgrades could result in significant replacement costs that could impact Joliet's water rates. While risks exist with relinquishing control of Joliet's water production and treatment, this alternative does provide the City of Joliet the opportunity to collaborate with the City of Chicago along with its existing wholesale customers to leverage the benefits of affiliation with a prominent and experienced large water utility that serves millions of customers.

Link to the Prospectus for the Lake Michigan Water - CDWM Alternative: [Click Here](#)

New Indiana Intake Alternative

The New Indiana Intake Alternative involves the development of a new water supply consisting of a Lake Michigan crib & intake and raw water pumping station in Hammond, Indiana, along with over 46 miles of raw water transmission main to Joliet and a new surface water treatment plant. As discussed at the August City Council Workshop, the water treatment plant would utilize an advanced water treatment process which would not only treat the raw water to drinking water standards but would also be capable of removing known emerging contaminants. From the new water treatment plant, treated Lake Michigan water would be pumped for distribution through the Joliet water system.

Since this alternative involves access through Indiana, it was important to negotiate a preliminary Access Agreement with the City of Hammond, Indiana, for the location of the shore facilities and the raw water transmission main in Indiana. The preliminary Access Agreement between the City of Hammond and the City of Joliet has been included in the Appendix of the Prospectus. Key terms in the preliminary Access Agreement include the responsibilities of each Party, compensation, real estate matters, provisions for assignment/transfer of the agreement and limitation on sale of water to southern Cook County communities.

As noted in the business case in the Prospectus, this alternative represents a bold plan for the development and implementation of a new water intake, treatment, and delivery system by Joliet and its potential regional partners. However, making this new system a reality by 2030 will require an intensive program of design, permitting, external coordination, land acquisition, and construction of capital improvements, as well as significant near term capital expenditures. With this bold plan comes the responsibility for overall system delivery and operation and the reward of control of the new water source - design, construction, operation and future water rate setting.

Link to the Prospectus for the Lake Michigan Water - New Indiana Intake Alternative: [Click Here](#)



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