

**GREG J. DAVIES**  
Director

THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
MICHAEL B. COLEMAN, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC UTILITIES

February 4, 2014

The Honorable Michael B. Coleman  
Mayor, City of Columbus  
90 West Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

**Subject: Mayor's Emergency Letter for Water Line Break Repairs**

Dear Mayor Coleman:

Over the past couple of months, the Department of Public Utilities, Division of Water has been closely monitoring the number of water main breaks that have been occurring in our water system. To date, our water maintenance crews have been focused on repairing those water mains and restoring customers to service as quickly as possible. Our employees continue to show their hard work and commitment to the City as they work in these continued unusual conditions in an effort to provide the best customer service to our residents. In addition to the dedicated effort of our staff, we have needed to supplement our work with outside contractors in order to keep up with the number of breaks. To date, we have two private contractors (4 crews total) assisting us with our repairs and we have had some success in maintaining our workload until recently.

This past week has been especially trying as the number of water main breaks have begun to trend upwards, even with both City staff and contractor crews working together to address them. With the oncoming winter storm and the expectation of temperatures to continue to fluctuate, we expect the trend to continue and possibly get worse, with more breaks occurring than what current resources are available to repair them.

In order to provide a quick response to the immediate need to address these leaks, a Mayor's Emergency Letter is being requested which will set aside \$500,000 (as an estimate) for the necessary labor and equipment to complete emergency repairs to water mains at various locations within the Columbus Water Distribution System under the direction of the Division of Water. This Emergency Letter will remain in effect through the winter season until the number of breaks can be brought to an acceptable level as determined by the Division of Water or until such time that funds have been extinguished.

Based on our best efforts and knowledge we believe it is necessary to immediately engage various contractors to provide a range of services (excavation, repair, removal, restoration, etc.) related to the extensive water main breaks.



Customer Service | Telephone (614)645-8276 | Fax (614)645-0222 | TDD (614)645-7188  
Power Division | 3500 Indianola Avenue | Columbus, OH 43214 | Telephone (614)645-8371 | Fax (614)645-7830  
Sewerage and Drainage Division | 1250 Fairwood Avenue | Columbus, OH 43206 | Telephone (614)645-7175 | Fax (614)645-3801  
Water Division | Administration | 910 Dublin Road, Room 3004 | Columbus OH 43215 | Telephone (614)645-7020 | Fax (614)645-3993  
Director's Office | 910 Dublin Road | Columbus, OH 43215 | Telephone (614)645-6141 | Fax (614)645-8019  
columbus.gov

The Department of Public Utilities, Division of Water will use best practices/efforts to identify the proper vendors, with the necessary expertise, and the lowest cost, in order to complete the required tasks.

The Department of Public Utilities, Division of Water anticipates that five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) will provide sufficient capital funding to address the issues at hand. Additionally, all necessary documentation, fiscal and otherwise, will be retained and collected for use in potential insurance claims and coverage.

The Division of Water will provide funding for this project, but will require the transfer of capital appropriation and funds between projects. This Mayor's Emergency Letter hereby authorizes the appropriation, transfer and expenditure of the following:


**Transfer from:**

Dept/Div: 60-09  
Capital Project #: 690384-100000 (New Funding)  
Capital Project Descr.: Watershed Road Improvements  
Fund: 606  
OCA Code: 690384  
OL3 Code: 6629  
Amount: \$500,000

**Transfer to:**

Dept/Div: 60-09  
Capital Project#: 690521-100002 (New Funding)  
Capital Project Descr.: 2014 Water Main Repairs  
Fund: 606  
OCA Code: 665212  
OL3 Code: 6629  
Amount: \$500,000

Sincerely,

  
Greg J. Davies, Director  
Department of Public Utilities  
2-4-14

  
Michael B. Coleman, Mayor

Cc: Mayor's File  
Michael D. Reese, Chief of Staff  
Paul R. Rakosky, Director, Department of Finance and Management  
Hugh J. Dorrian, City Auditor  
Andrew J. Ginther, City Council President  
Councilmember Zachary M. Klein, Utilities Chair  
Rick Westerfield, P.E. PhD, Administrator, Division of Water  
File