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News Release

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Water Management to Refill Williams WTP Reservoir *Concrete Apron Replacement at Historic Plant Completed on Schedule*

DURHAM, N.C. – After sitting empty for nearly six months, the terminal reservoir at the Williams Water Treatment Plant (WTP) on Hillandale Road is scheduled to be refilled starting Monday, April 30. This follows the successful replacement of the reservoir apron, which required draining the 45-million-gallon reservoir for the first time in the plant’s 100-year history. During the refilling stage, millions of gallons of raw water from Lake Michie will flow into the reservoir, while engineers carefully monitor the process. The plant, which has been offline while the apron work progressed, will be brought back online in May.

The apron is a series of massive reinforced concrete slabs, which extend around the circumference and down the inner slopes of the reservoir and protect the sides from erosion. This project coincided with other major upgrades at the Williams and the Brown WTP, Durham’s newer, higher-capacity plant. These upgrades include new residuals handling processes, information technology improvements, and additional facility enhancements. To allow access to the apron worksite, the inner wrought iron fence surrounding the Williams reservoir was carefully removed and itemized. Due to Williams’ historic status, it will be repaired and reinstalled in accordance with Durham Historic Preservation Commission criteria.

During the project, the Brown plant remained fully operational to meet customer demand. As an added safeguard, Water Management periodically sourced additional water from interconnected Triangle partners such as 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.

For more information, contact Water Management Project Manager Bob Gasper at (919) 560-4381 ext. 35283 or Robert.Gasper@DurhamNC.gov. General information about Water Management projects is available at durhamwaterprojects.org.

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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