

2001 - 2005

Brand New Waterworks System

Completion of Major Water Initiatives and Entry of New Water Communities

The beginning of 2001 held the finishing touches on the Deer Island Treatment Plant as the punch-list was completed. This turned significantly more attention to the waterworks system and between 2003 and 2005 three major initiatives were completed, including the MetroWest Tunnel, the Norembeqa Covered Storage Tanks, and the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant.

These significant projects, detailed below, optimized the waterworks system and helped support the expansion of the system with Stoughton, Reading, and Dedham-Westwood all joining the MWRA between 2002 and 2005. Important to note is that the Enabling Act explicitly calls for the Advisory Board to vote on any new communities who wish to join the MWRA. At this time, there was discussion about whether the MWRA should sell more water with opposition coming from certain environmental groups who were calling for more water conservation. Ultimately, the Advisory Board's member communities decided that more water customers could be served by the MWRA without any harm to the system while also lowering the shared costs of the system by adding new members.

Finally, this period illustrates one of the most significant steps that the Advisory Board has taken to combat rising costs of debt service: the institution of a **5-Year CIP Spending Cap**, put in place for the 2004-2008 timeframe. The cap set a strict limit on the amount of capital spending that could be undertaken by the Authority. The cap was extremely effective and was followed up by two 5-Year CIP Spending Caps since then in 2009-2013 and the measurably lower cap for 2014-2018.

