



VILLAGE OF HAMBURG / ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY WATER SYSTEM CONSOLIDATION PHASE II – WATER TOWER CONSTRUCTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



[Why is the Village of Hamburg and ECWA constructing a new water tower?](#)

The Village of Hamburg and ECWA jointly share responsibility for delivering water to the Village of Hamburg. The Village of Hamburg owns the water system and the ECWA operates the system on behalf of the Village. Both entities have determined that there are long-term benefits for the system to be completely owned and operated by the ECWA. The entities also agree that prior to turning the system over to the ECWA, several improvements must be made, including the construction of a new water tower. A new water tower is critical to the future of the community's water system. The water towers currently in service (behind Charlotte Avenue School and on Long Avenue) are not built to current standards and are in poor condition.

[Where will the new water tower be located?](#)

Early on in the planning process, the Village engaged its engineer to conduct a study that examined possible locations for a new water tower. Several factors were considered including estimated costs, potential shadow cast, and impact to wetlands, among other factors. Ultimately, the location behind the Middle School near the District's maintenance buildings was selected as the preferred site. The site will provide the community the maximum benefit and will be the least impactful to residential neighborhoods.

[What are the benefits of the new water tower?](#)

The new water tower is a generational project that will benefit the Village of Hamburg and surrounding service area. The new tower will improve water quality, increase water capacity to modern ten state standards, and improve fire protection by increasing fire flow in the service area. Once complete and operational, the new tower will allow the Village to decommission (disconnect from the water system) the existing Village of Hamburg towers.

[How big will the water tower be and what will it look like?](#)

The water tower will have the capacity to store 1.25 million gallons of water. The height of the tower will be approximately 175 feet tall. The tower is a

hydro-pillar design and will be very similar to a tower recently constructed in the Town of Tonawanda on Colvin Blvd. just off the I-290. For comparison, the current Village towers have the capacity to store 250,000 gallons of water each and are approximately 100 feet tall. The larger tower was required to meet modern ten state standards and necessary due to the fact that the tower will now serve a larger service area. The larger tower is also being required by the New York State Department of Health.

How much is the project estimated to cost and how is this project being funded?

The project is estimated to cost \$10,500,000. This includes the construction of new water lines needed to connect the new tower to the regional water system. The project is being funded by the Village of Hamburg and ECWA.

What is the timeline for completion for this project?

The construction of the tower is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2024 and take approximately 22 months to complete.

Who will own and operate the elevated water storage tower once it is operational?

The ECWA will own and operate the water tower after the new water tower is put into service in 2026.

What will happen to the old water towers located behind Charlotte Avenue Elementary School and on Long Avenue?

Once the new tower is in service in 2026, the old towers behind Charlotte Avenue Elementary School and on Long Avenue will be decommissioned. The Village is still exploring different options for the towers including demolition and mothballing. The mothballing of a tower would preserve the tower as a landmark and suitable structure for telecommunication equipment.

Will the elevated water storage tower be painted?

The Village of Hamburg and the ECWA will cooperatively work with the Hamburg Central School District to paint a school-approved logo on the top of the tower. The logo will be visible from the school's athletic fields adjacent to the tower. The remainder of the tower is proposed to be painted white.

Where can I get more information on the project?

More information on the project can be found on the Village of Hamburg website by following this link: www.villagehamburg.com/watersystem