



# **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

**Welcome to the March  
Edition of the 2023 M&R  
Seminar Series**



# NOTES FOR SEMINAR ATTENDEES

- Remote attendees' audio lines have been muted to minimize background noise. **For attendees in the auditorium, please silence your phones.**
- A question and answer session will follow the presentation.
- For remote attendees, Please use the “**Chat**” feature to ask a question via text to “Host”. **For attendees in the auditorium, please raise your hand and wait for the microphone to ask a verbal question.**
- The presentation slides will be posted on the MWRD website after the seminar.
- This seminar has been approved by the ISPE for one PDH and approved by the IEPA for one TCH. Certificates will only be issued to participants who attend the entire presentation.

Patrick Jensen, P.E.  
Principal Civil Engineer  
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago



Mr. Patrick Jensen, P.E., is a Principal Civil Engineer in the Collection Facilities/TARP (Tunnel and Reservoir Plan) Section of the Engineering Department at the MWRDGC. He has been with the District 14 years, working on large infrastructure projects. As a Principal Civil Engineer, Mr. Jensen now serves as a project manager for the flood and pollution control project of the McCook Reservoir and other TARP related projects, oversees the District's collection systems asset management plan as well as the District's sewer rehabilitation design projects. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI.

**Brian Wawczak, P.E.  
Senior Civil Engineer**

**Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**



Brian Wawczak, P.E., is a Senior Civil Engineer within the Infrastructure Management Division of the Engineering Department at the MWRDGC. Brian assists with administration of the SRF Loan Program for District capital improvement projects. His recent projects include the Final Preparation of the Thornton Composite Reservoir, the Decommissioning of the Thornton Transitional Reservoir, the Anita Mox™ Nitrogen Removal project, and Energy Neutrality Feasibility Studies at District facilities. Brian has over 26 years of experience in civil design, stormwater management planning, and construction administration. He received his bachelor's and master's degree from Bradley University. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Illinois and a certified floodplain manager. In his spare time, he enjoys reading and traveling with his family to visit major league baseball parks across the country.



# Deep Tunnel 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday



**Patrick Jensen, P.E., Principal Civil Engineer**  
**Brian Wawczak, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer**

## AND A FLOOD CAME.

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**Over Five and One-Half Inches of  
Rainfall in Nineteen Hours in  
Chicago.**

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**Sewers Too Small to Carry Off This  
Great Quantity—Many Base-  
ments Submerged.**

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**Growing Corn Benefited but Grain in Shock  
Injured by the Unusual  
Downpour.**

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There was a heavy rainfall throughout the West yesterday, but Chicago, as was to be expected, easily took first place. Having come to the conclusion that the monotony of pleasant days should be broken by a bit of "Luncheon weather," she had a wet day—and no mistake. The signal-service records, as read at 7:30 p. m., showed a rainfall of 5.58 inches.

over the street was blown from its fastenings and landed against the big plate-glass window belonging to West Bros.' billiard parlor at Nos. 157 and 159 Dearborn street. The glass was shivered to atoms. Another window was broken in the same way at No. 158 State street. The watchmen report Chinamen moving out of their quarters in all parts of the city, especially along Milwaukee avenue. They also say that many cellars where they had no access are flooded badly, and that the loss will be heavy.

### INADEQUATE SEWERS.

The storm demonstrated the fact that the sewerage system of the city is entirely inadequate to carry off such a quantity of water as fell during the twenty-four hours. In every case of flooding of basements it was entirely owing to the backing up of the water in the sewers and not to an overflow from the street. Had it not been that the rain of the early morning had pretty thoroughly carried off all the accumulated filth it would have been forced back into the basements by the flood of water. The rain was very efficient in this respect, as was apparent in one basement, where only a handful of dirt had been washed out of a four-inch sewer. The proprietor was congratulating himself upon this fact. "It beats Dr. De Wolf's appropriation of \$50,000 as a means of purifying the city," he said.





# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago



JUNE 1844

JUNE 16 1858

1849

JUNE 20 1851

1908

1904

687-8-25-1908





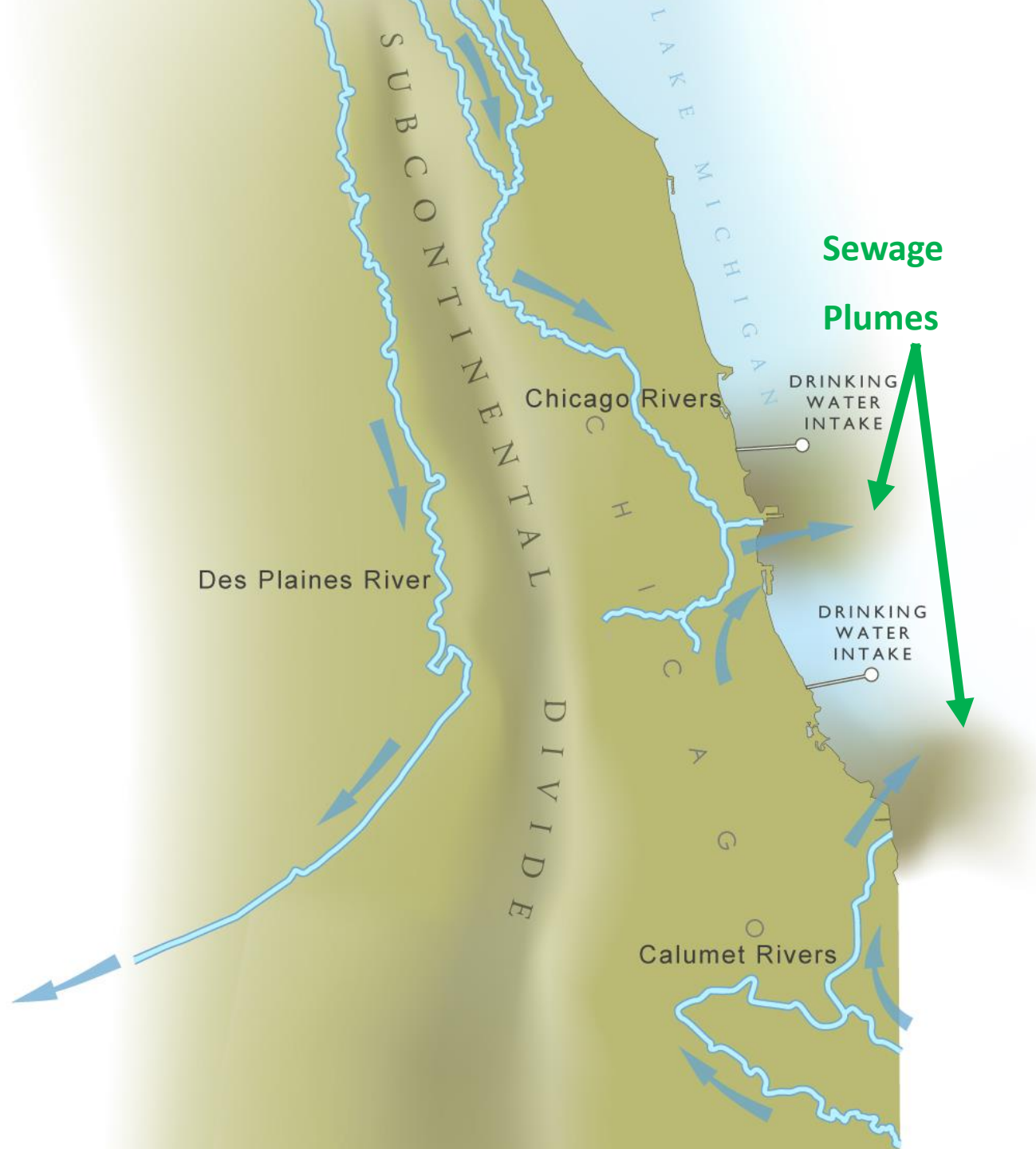
# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago



107-9-11-05



# Before 1900





# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago





# After 1922





4992-10-5-1914





# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago



MWRD Interceptors Began **1907**



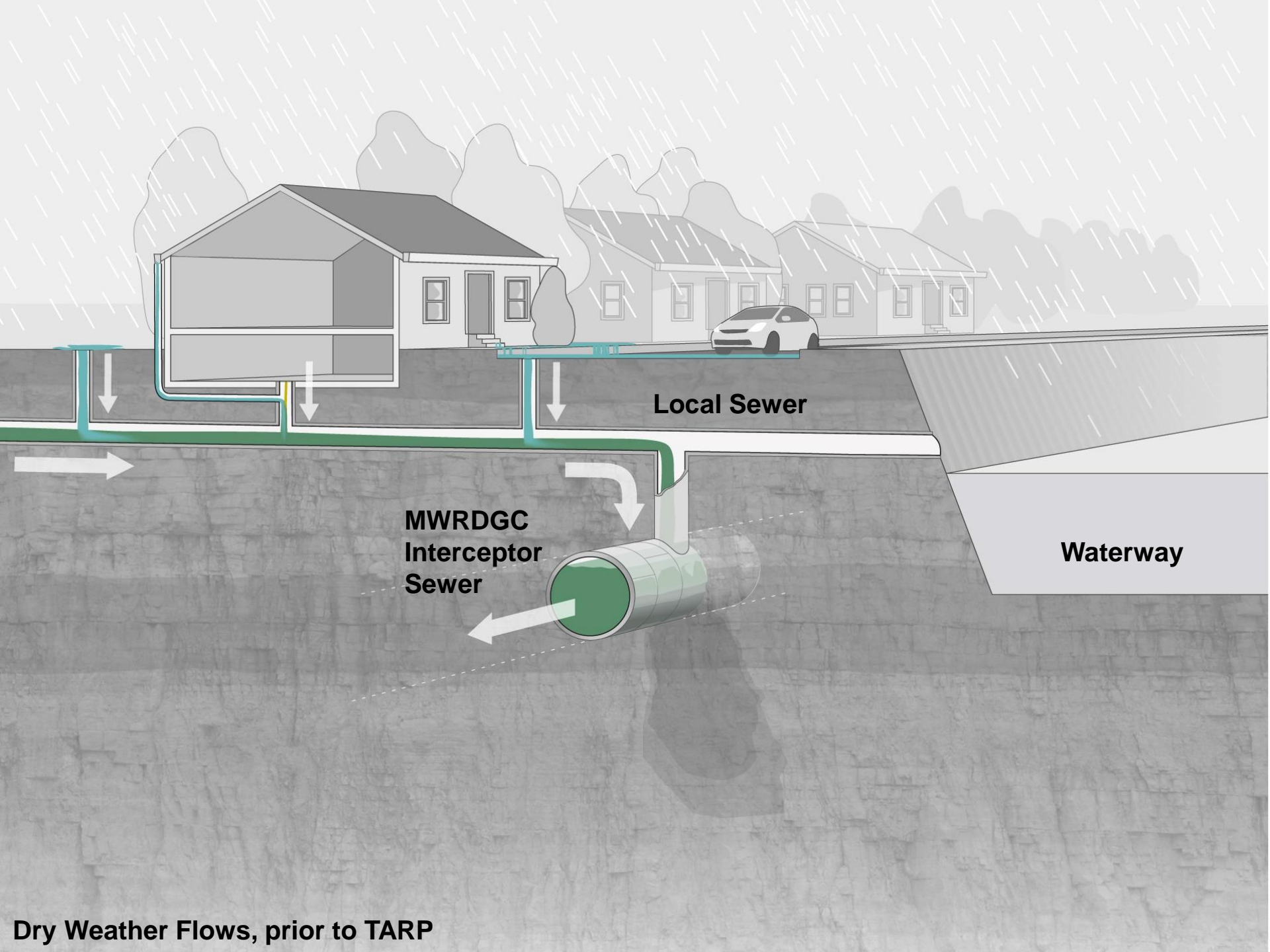
Calumet Plant in Operation **1922**



O'Brien Plant (North Side) in Operation **1928**



West Side Treatment Plant (Stickney) **1930**



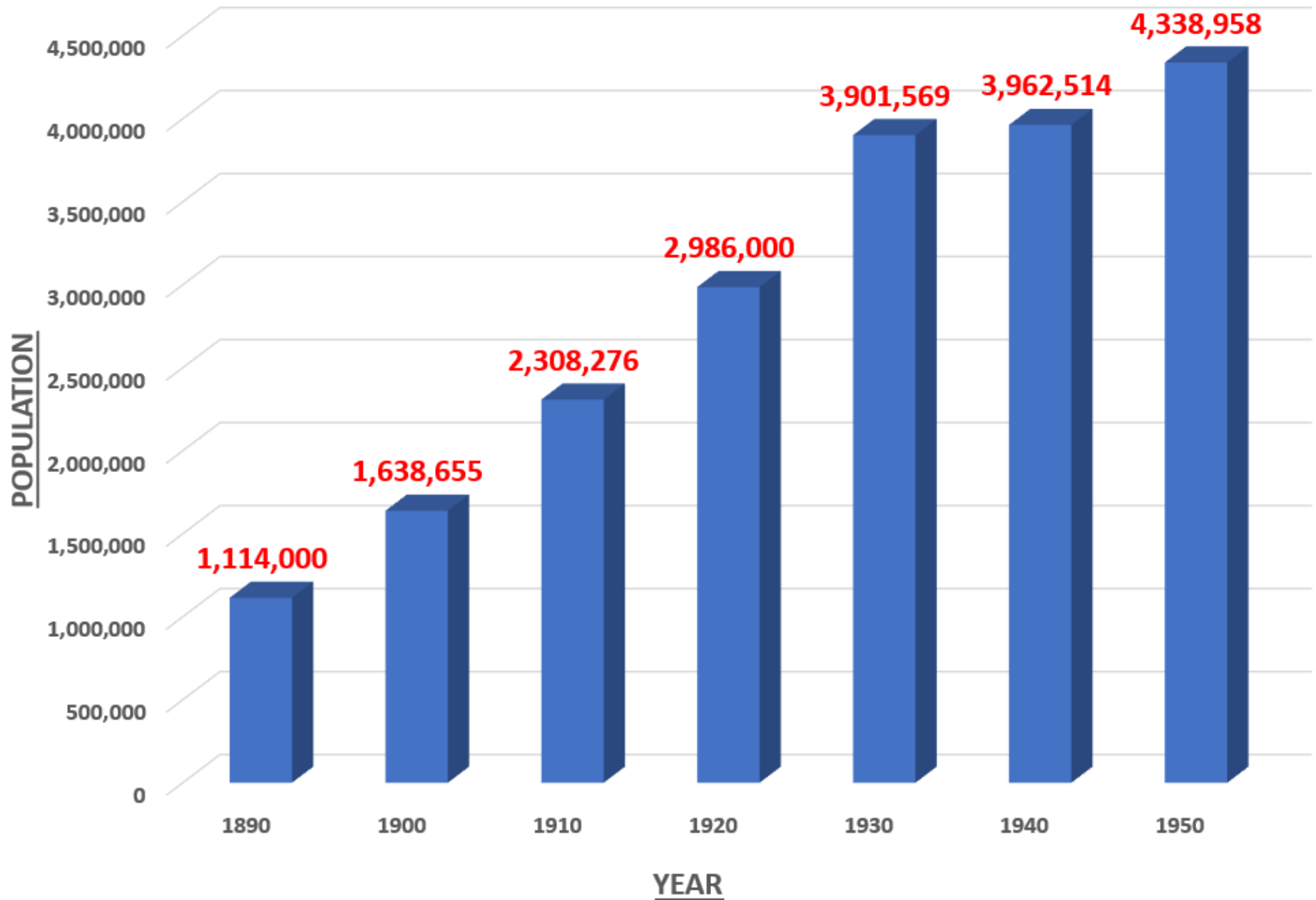
**Local Sewer**

**MWRDGC  
Interceptor  
Sewer**

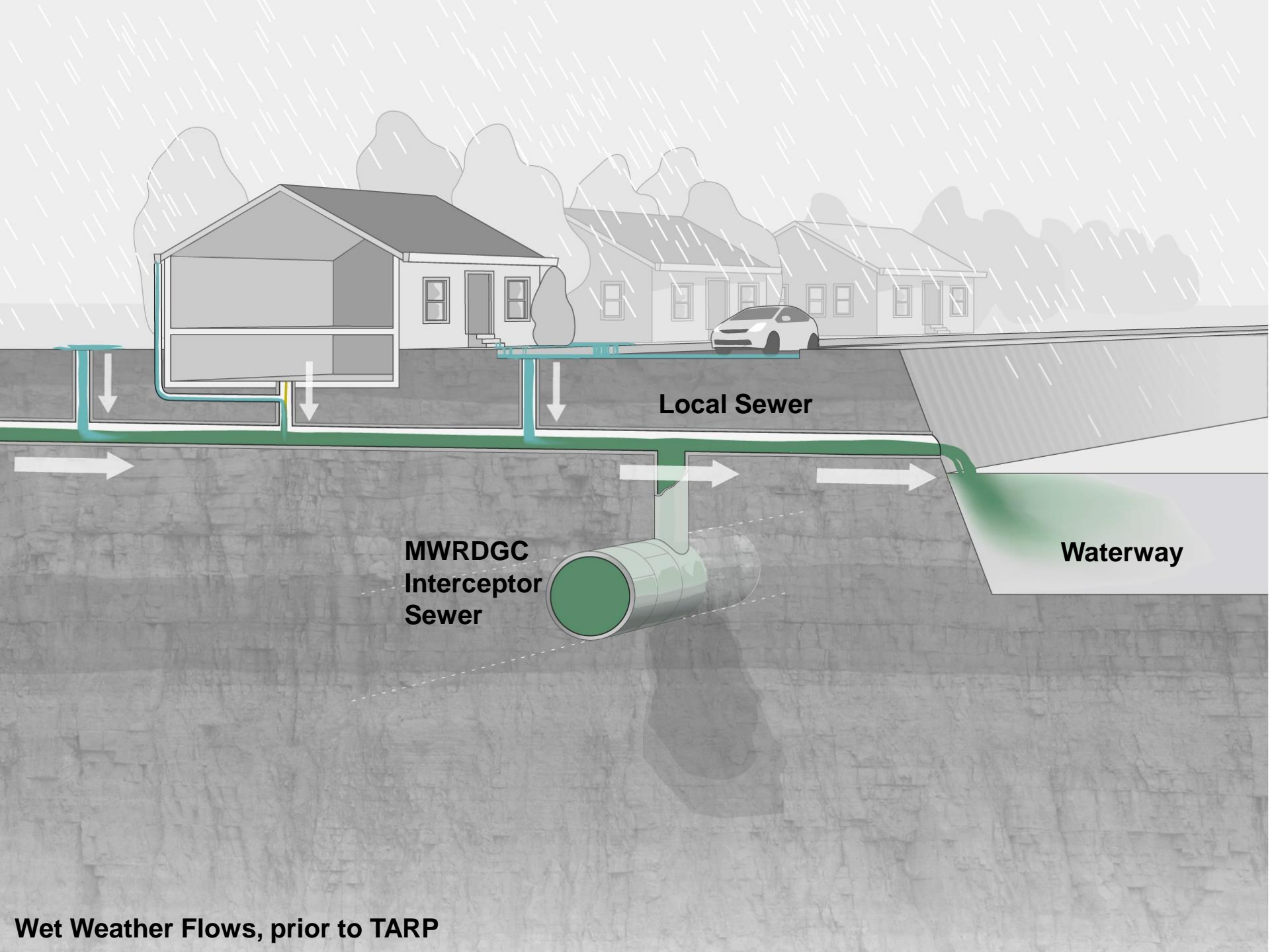
**Waterway**

**Dry Weather Flows, prior to TARP**

## Population Within The MWRDGC







Local Sewer

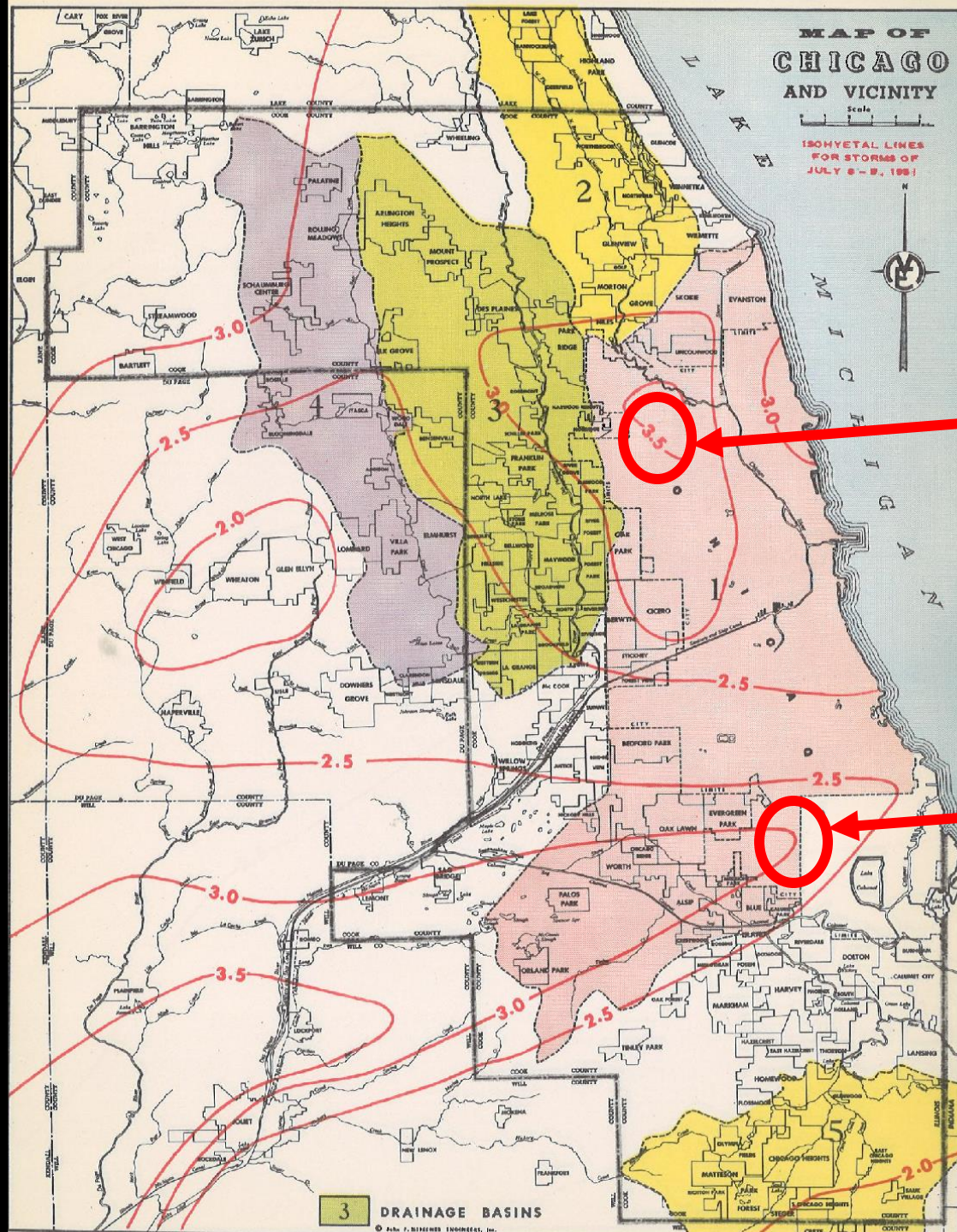
MWRDGC  
Interceptor  
Sewer

Waterway

Wet Weather Flows, prior to TARP



# Storm of July 8-9, 1951



Instantaneous rain events exceeding  $\frac{1}{2}$ " per hour.

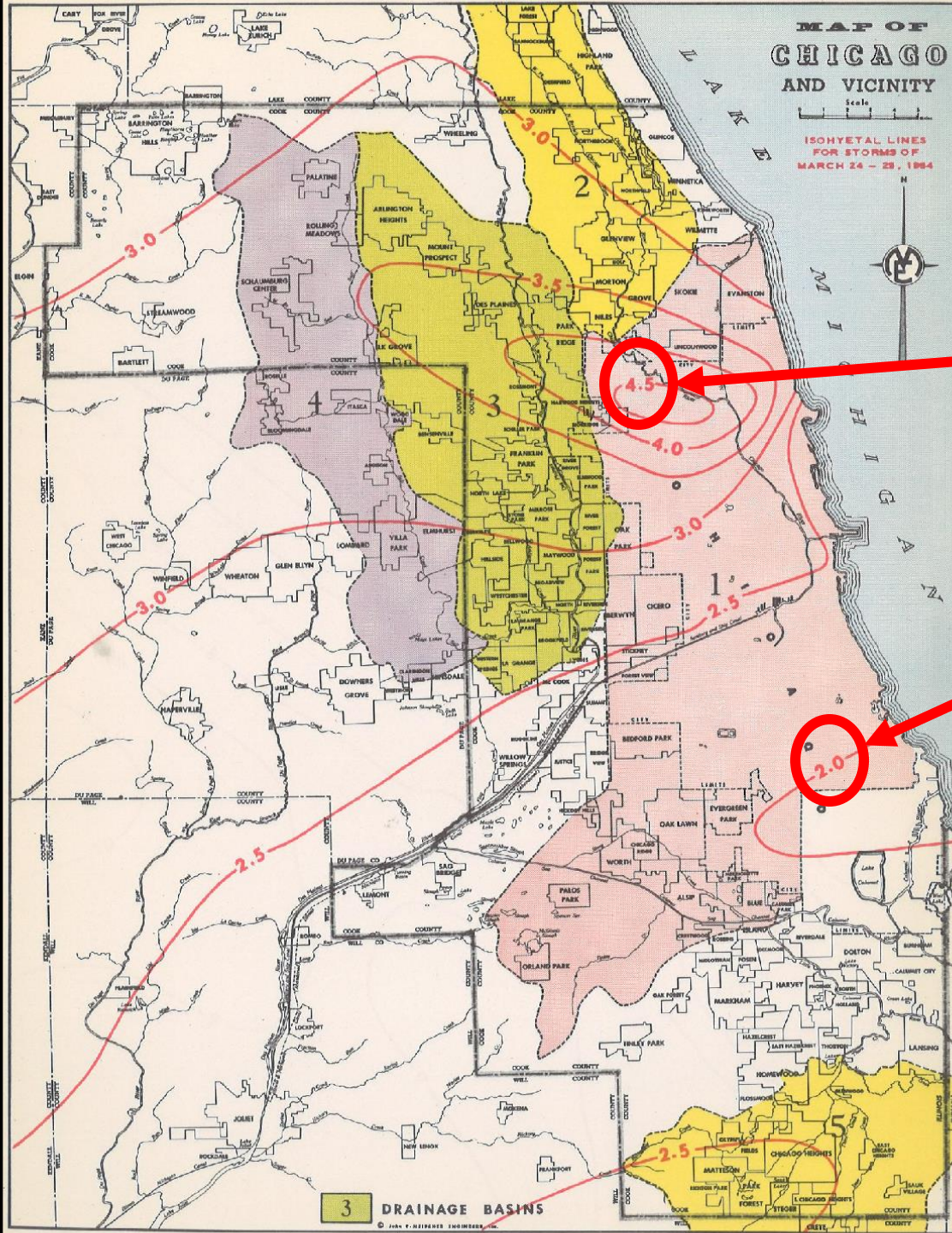
3.5"

3"

Pontiac IL, 75 miles SW of Chicago exceeded 13 inches in 6 hours



# Storm of March 24-25, 1954



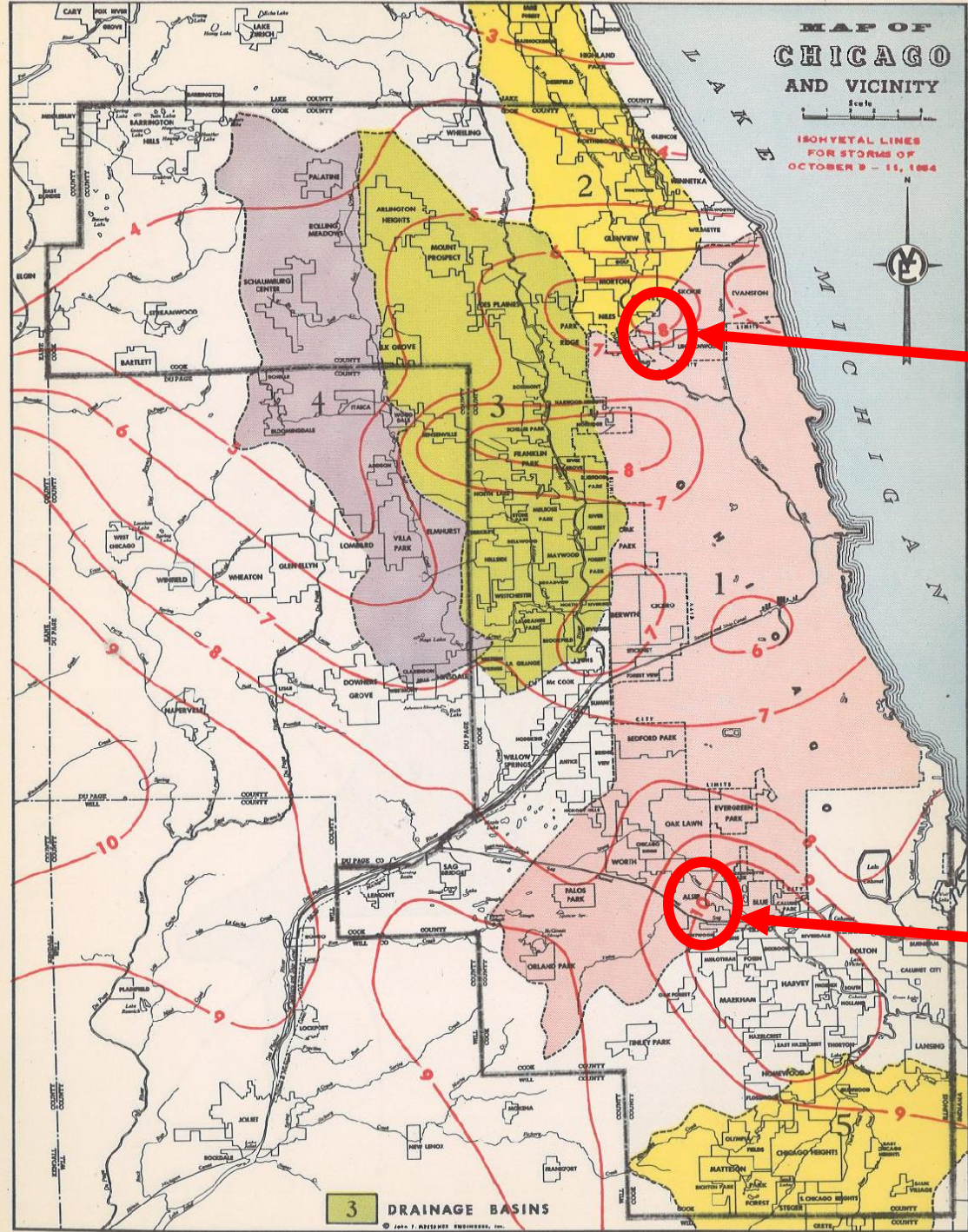
3 inches of rain fell in 3 hours on the north side of Chicago

4.5"

2"



# Storm of October 9-11, 1954



8"

10"

50 miles west of Chicago experienced 12" of rain

# Wettest Year Proves to Be Hot One, Too

(Charts on page 6)

If any Chicagoan who lived thru the flood of Oct. 9-10 had any doubts that it was wet, they can now be dispelled. The weather bureau reported yesterday 1954 was the wettest year on record for the Chicago-land area.

It also was warmer than usual. And along with the warmth and rain, the year brought a variety of serious storms that caused considerable loss of life and property damage estimated at 30 million dollars.

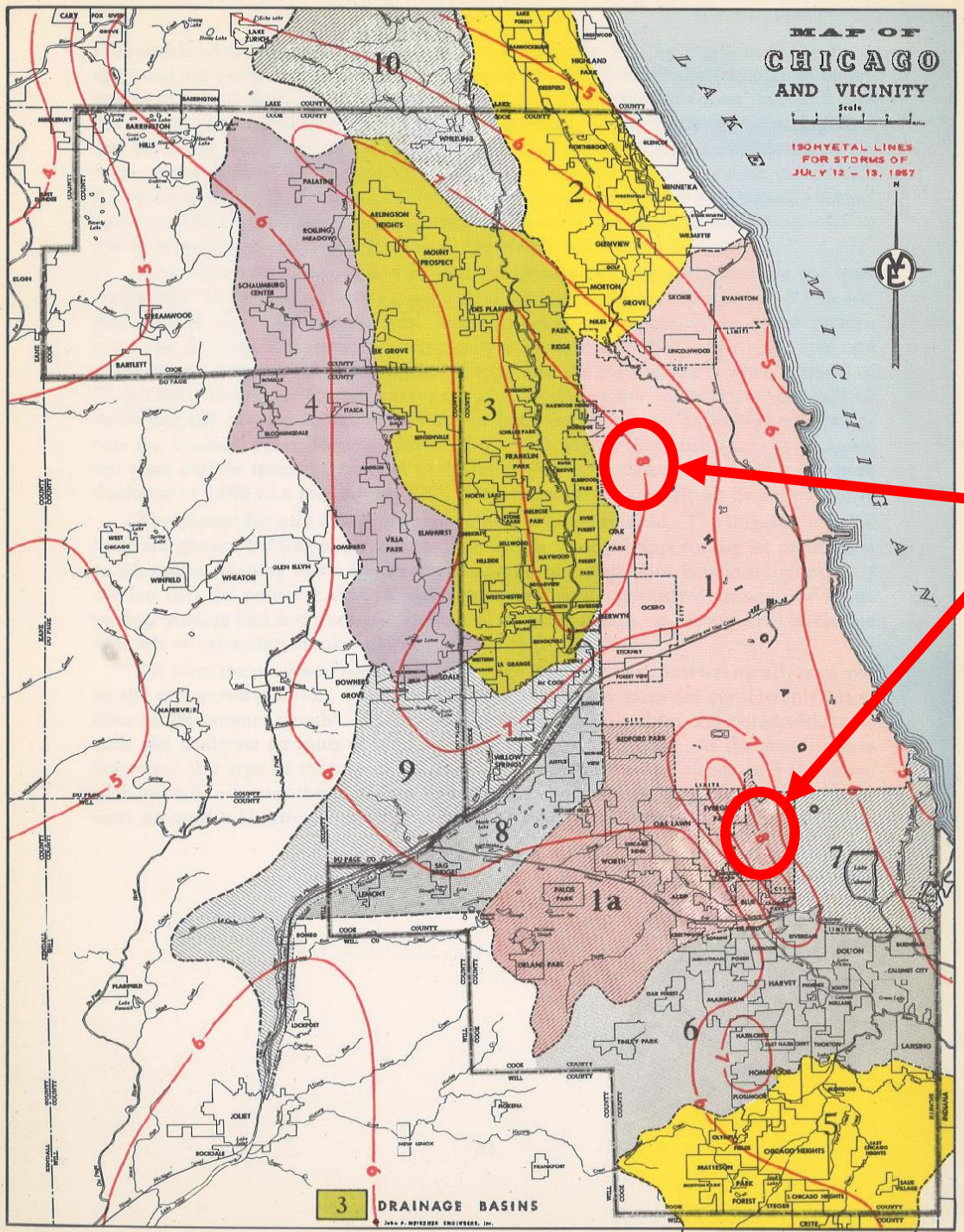
fell short of the 42 days of such heat in 1953.

Precipitation for the year totaled 45.92 inches, or .06 of an inch more than the old record set in 1883. The year's precipitation was 13.20 inches more than the normal of 32.72 inches. There were 125 days which had measurable precipitation, only one day more than the normal.

A good part of the excess rainfall was accounted for by the October flood, when 5.63 inches of rain fell in 24 hours. There were 45.2 inches of snow, including 11.8 inches in one 24 hour period in March. The



# Storm of July 12-13, 1957



From 5pm-11pm, 6 inches of rain fell over most of Chicago.

One hour average intensities as high as 2.5"/hr

50 miles south of Chicago experienced 11" of rain

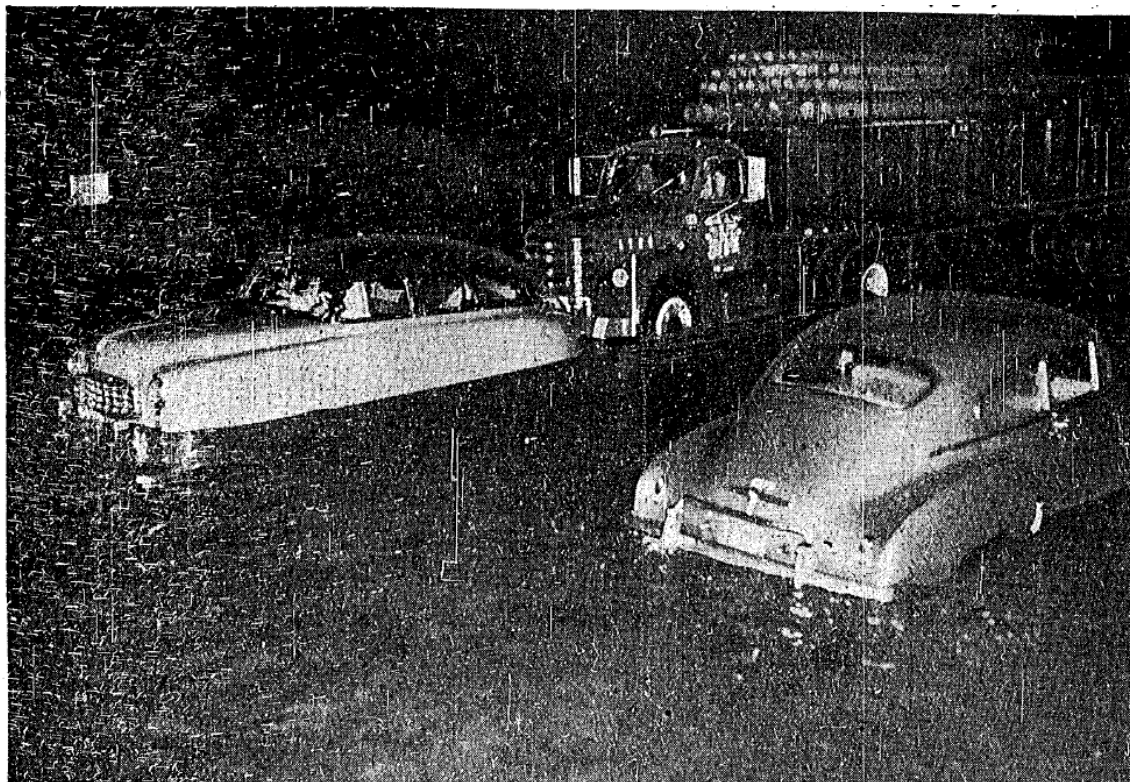


# HEAVY RAINS SWAMP CITY!

*Flood Basements;  
Traffic Disrupted;  
Many Trees Down*

River Up 6 Feet;  
Water Emptied  
Into Lake

The Chicago area lay flooded early today after 12 hours of torrenital rains, accompanied by violent winds, lightning, and hail that disrupted traffic and tore down hundreds of communications and power lines. The storm, one of the worst in years, wrought its havoc after the area had passed safely thru an afternoon tornado alert.



(TRIBUNE Photo)

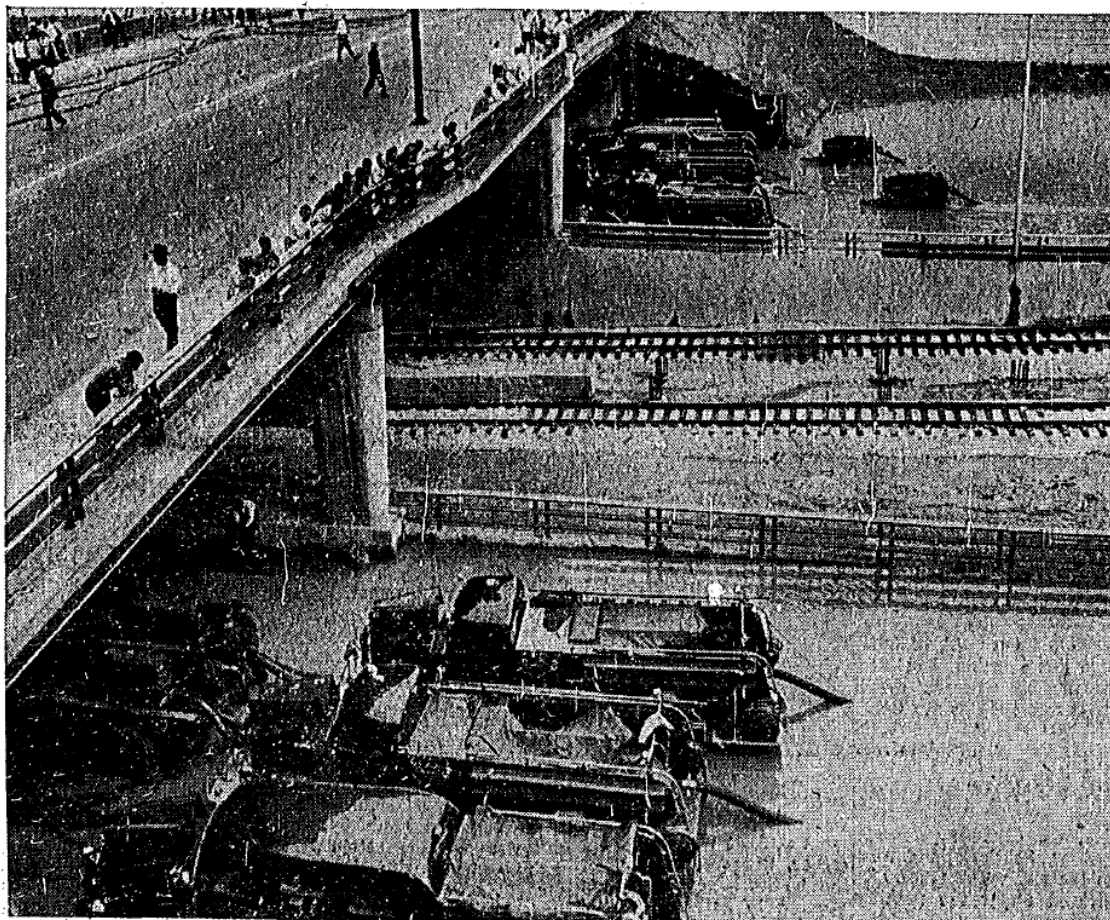
Truck pushing stalled auto thru high waters under viaduct at 1765 Elston av., while stranded car at right has been abandoned.

Many persons were unable to reach homes because of flooded underpasses after worst storm in years.



# FLOOD DAMAGE IN MILLIONS

*Flood Waters Cripple Subway and Congress expwy.*



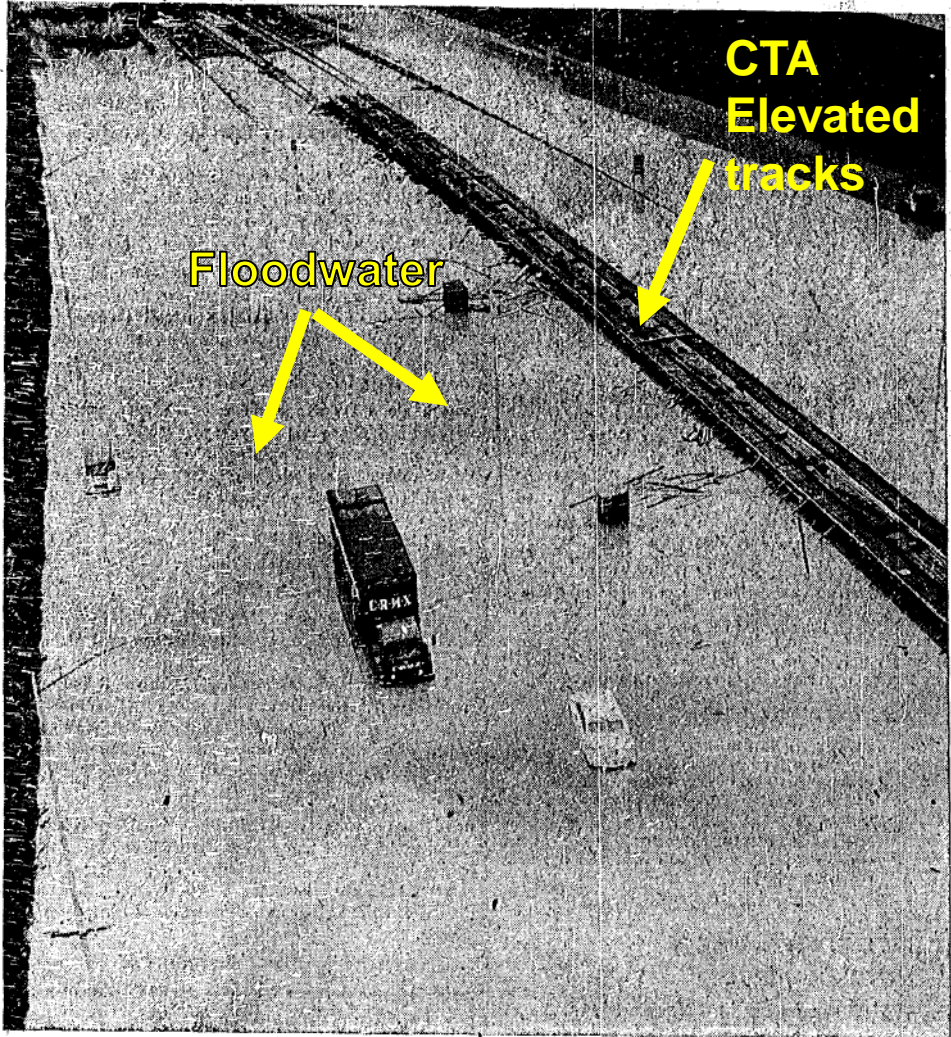
Firemen pumping water off east and west bound lanes of Congress expwy. at Halsted st. Flood water resulted in closing entire stretch of highway from loop to Laramie av.

[TRIBUNE Photo]



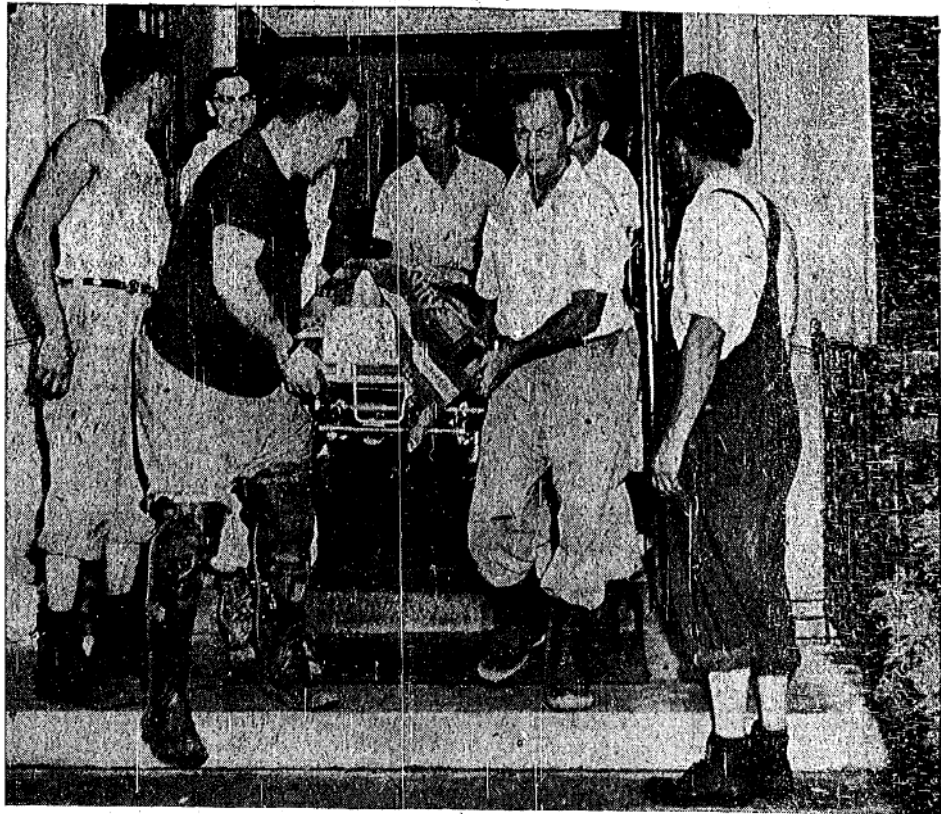
# Record Rain Closes Congress st. Expressway—Hospital Patients Evacuated as Water Fills Basement

(Stories on page 1)



**CTA  
Elevated  
tracks**

**Floodwater**



[TRIBUNE Photo]

Patient being evacuated from Ingalls Memorial hospital in Harvey yesterday after flood waters broke thru basement windows and rose 9 feet to ceiling. About 140 patients were removed.

[TRIBUNE Photo]

What appears to be a barge floating is actually CTA elevated stations under construction in median strip of Congress st. expressway, just east of Sacramento blvd., which was inundated by city's severest 24 hour rain storm.

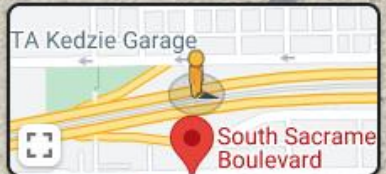
**CITY DRIES OUT  
4 DAYS AFTER  
RECORD RAINS**

**But Scars of Storm  
Still Remain**

## CITY DRIES OUT 4 DAYS AFTER RECORD RAINS: But Scars of Storm Still Remain

Chicago Daily Tribune (1923-1963); Jul 16, 1957; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Tribune

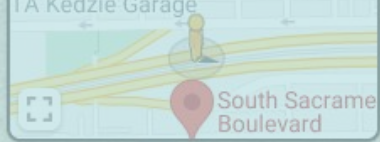




Google



TA Kedzie Garage

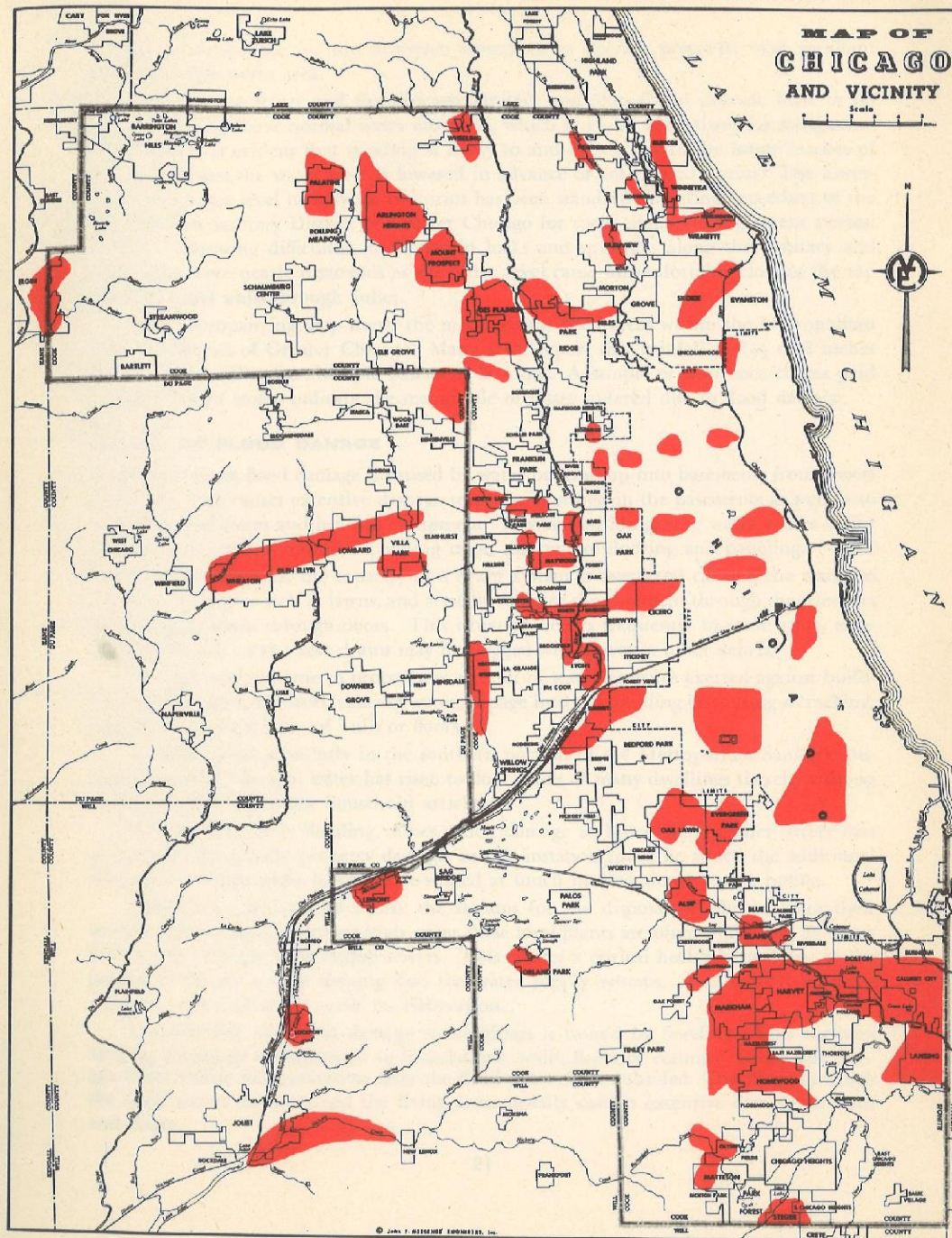


South Sacrame  
Boulevard



Flood Damage  
1957

AREA OF GREATEST FLOOD DAMAGE





# Flood Damages 1932-1957

## ESTIMATED FLOOD DAMAGE IN THE METROPOLITAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO DURING THE PAST 25 YEARS

Alsip .....	\$ 100,000	Lyons .....	\$ 250,000
Arlington Hgts. ....	1,000,000	Manor Hgts. S.D. ....	200,000
Barrington Woods, S.D. ....	40,000	Markham .....	500,000
Bartlett .....	20,000	Maywood .....	350,000
Bedford Park .....	175,000	McCook .....	50,000
Bellwood .....	150,000	Melrose Park .....	500,000
Bensenville .....	500,000	Merrionette Park .....	100,000
Berkeley .....	150,000	Midlothian .....	200,000
Berwyn .....	150,000	Morton Grove .....	1,500,000
Blue Island .....	1,000,000	Mount Prospect .....	1,000,000
Bridgeview .....	150,000	Niles .....	200,000
Broadview .....	200,000	Norridge .....	200,000
Brookfield .....	500,000	Northbrook .....	500,000
Buffalo Grove .....	25,000	Northfield .....	250,000
Burnham .....	100,000	Northfield Wds. S.D. ....	100,000
Calumet City .....	2,000,000	Northlake .....	500,000
Calumet Park .....	150,000	North Riverside .....	100,000
Central Stickney S.D. ....	50,000	Oak Forest .....	250,000
Chicago .....	100,000,000	Oak Lawn .....	1,000,000
Chicago Hgts. ....	750,000	Oak Park .....	250,000
Chicago Ridge .....	500,000	Orchard Pl. S.D. ....	50,000
Cicero .....	2,500,000	Orland Park .....	250,000
Crestwood .....	50,000	Palatine .....	500,000
Des Plaines .....	2,000,000	Palos Park .....	150,000
Dixmoor .....	500,000	Park Ridge .....	250,000
Dolton .....	750,000	Phoenix .....	250,000
E. Chicago Hgts. ....	200,000	Posen .....	100,000
Elgin* .....	100,000	Prospect Meadows S.D. ....	10,000
Elk Grove .....	300,000	Richton Park* .....	10,000
Elmwood Park .....	1,500,000	Riverdale .....	400,000
Evanston .....	2,000,000	River Forest .....	250,000
Evergreen Park .....	2,500,000	River Grove .....	250,000
Forest Park .....	1,250,000	Riverside .....	1,000,000
Forest View .....	100,000	Robbins .....	50,000
Franklin Park .....	1,000,000	Rolling Meadows .....	50,000
Garden Homes S.D. ....	50,000	Roselle* .....	50,000
Glencoe .....	1,000,000	Rosemont .....	250,000
Glen Oak Acres S.D. ....	50,000	Sag Bridge .....	50,000
Glenview .....	1,500,000	Sauk Village .....	50,000
Glenwood .....	50,000	Schaumburg Center .....	25,000
Golf .....	50,000	Schiller Park .....	200,000
Grandview S.D. ....	50,000	Skokie .....	1,000,000
Harvey .....	2,000,000	South Holland .....	500,000
Harwood Hgts. ....	750,000	S. Stickney S.D. ....	500,000
Hickory Hills .....	50,000	Stickney .....	200,000
Hillside .....	250,000	Stone Park .....	500,000
Hinsdale* .....	20,000	Streamwood .....	100,000
Hodgkins .....	100,000	Summit .....	1,500,000
Hometown .....	500,000	Tinlev Park .....	250,000
Justice .....	50,000	Westchester .....	200,000
Kenilworth .....	1,000,000	Western Springs .....	500,000
La Grange .....	1,000,000	Wheeling .....	1,000,000
La Grange Park .....	500,000	Willow Springs .....	150,000
Lansing* .....	1,000,000	Wilmette .....	3,000,000
Lemont .....	1,000,000	Winnetka .....	2,000,000
Lincolnwood .....	100,000	Worth .....	100,000
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$133,530,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$ 23,695,000</b>
* Denotes Part		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$157,225,000</b>
SD Denotes Sanitary District			

**Present Value:  
\$1,474,785,126**





Chicago, April 10, 1958

*To the Honorable, the President and Meabers of the Board of Trustees of The Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago.*

GENTLEMEN:

Your Committee on Finance reports that it has received a communication from the General Superintendent in which he states in connection with a solution of the flood water problem within the boundaries of The Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago, he considers that an extensive engineering study should be made with a view toward exploring all possibilities for an ultimate plan and realistic solution of the problem. The General Superintendent states it is imperative that this work be instituted as soon as possible, and as the Engineering Department is fully engaged with other necessary and equally important work, it is felt that outside capable engineering help should be secured to assist in the preparation of the required studies.

NORVAL E. ANDERSON,  
ENGINEER OF TREATMENT PLANT DESIGN

# FLOOD CONTROL

for

THE METROPOLITAN  
SANITARY DISTRICT  
OF GREATER CHICAGO

PREPARED BY

John F. Meissner Engineers, Inc.

300 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
CHICAGO 6, ILLINOIS



# CHICAGO AREA FLOOD CONTROL PLAN BARED

## \$2.3 Billion Outlay Urged

*Engineers Propose 50-Year  
Project to Sanitary District*

A proposed \$2.3 billion 50-year flood control plan for the Chicago area was disclosed Tuesday by the Sanitary District.

The plan includes \$2 billion to be spent by local communities for new storm sewers and nearly \$300 million to be spent by the district for control works to handle flow from these sewers.

The expenditures are recommended in a 110-page report based on a four-month survey by John F. Meissner Engineers Inc.

The estimate of \$2 billion for local storm sewers was based on the cost of the present storm sewer system of the City of Chicago.

"In the past, such expenditures have been made by local governing bodies and financed by bond issues authorized by the voters," said the study.

\*\*\*

"IN THE FINAL analysis flood control becomes a matter of choice on the part of the individuals who desire dry basements."

"Their separate decisions to provide local relief will accumulate into an unavoidable demand for correspondingly increased channel and/or reservoir capacity.

"Construct the entire system of control works at a pace consistent with the installation of storm sewers and with available financing," the firm recommended.

The recommended plan for control works, to cost \$295 million, calls for these projects:

—Chicago River pumping plant, 36,000 cubic feet per second, and channel improvements for a flow of 56,000 cubic feet per second — \$84 million.

—Channel enlargement, North Branch below Niles, and lagoon system—\$20 million.

—Pumping station, channel improvement, detention basin at Wilmette—\$25 million.

—Calumet Lock pumping plant to handle 30,000 cubic feet per second, channel enlargements in Little Calumet and Calumet rivers, improvement of drainage ditches and building of reservoirs — \$47 million.

—Reservoir and creek improvement on the Des Plaines River above Gurnee—\$13 million.

—Channel improvement and recreational flood-water reservoirs in Des Plaines River — \$66 million.

—Enlargement of the Des Plaines River to 21,000 c. f. s. capacity from Riverside to the spillway at the Sanitary and Ship Canal, and improvement of creeks and drainage ditches, also storage basins—\$40 million.

\*\*\*

MEISSNER was given the job last April 10 of surveying

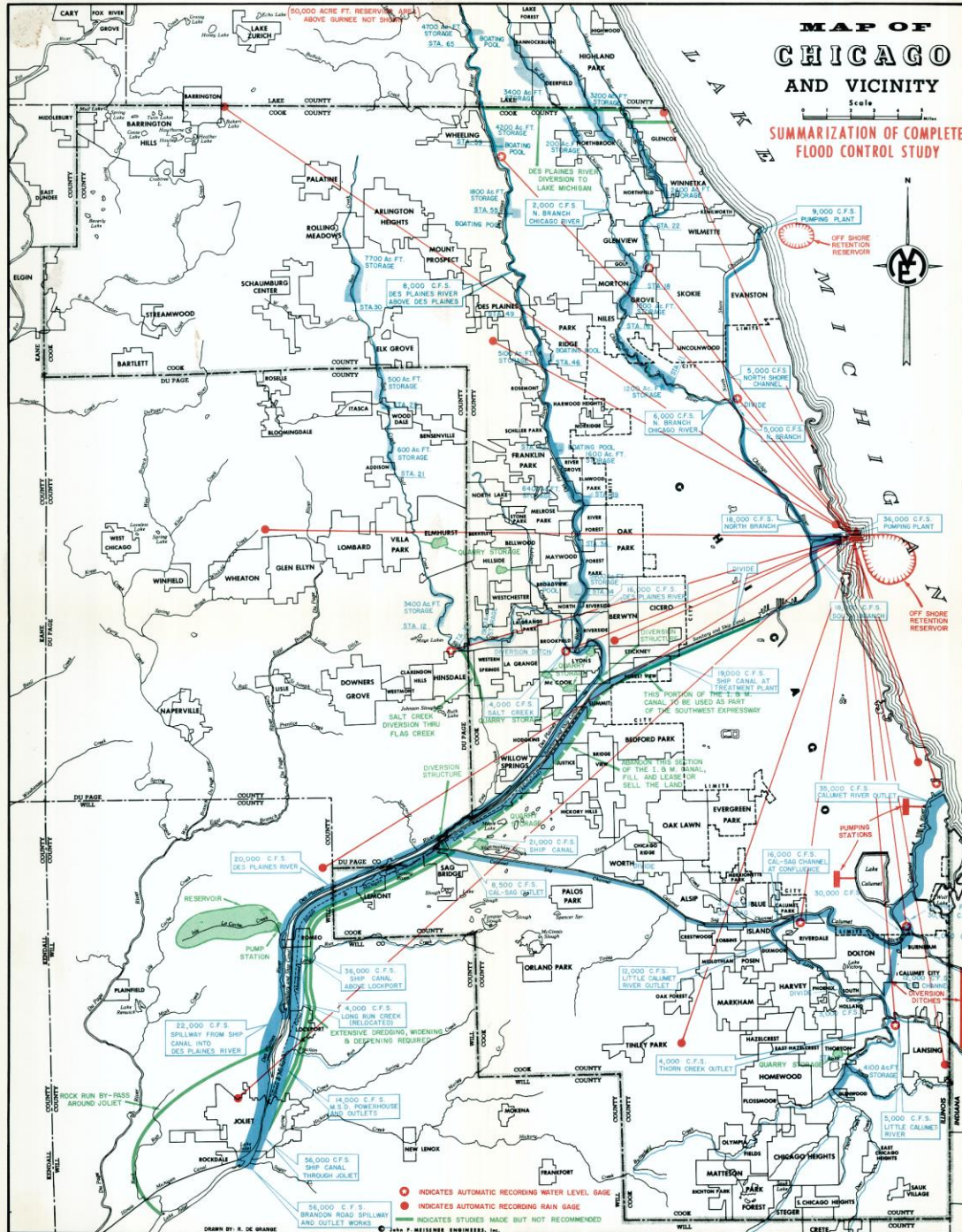
the flood control problem at a cost of \$85,000.

This was exactly a week after the district's chief engineer, Horace P. Barney, submitted his own plan for flood control.



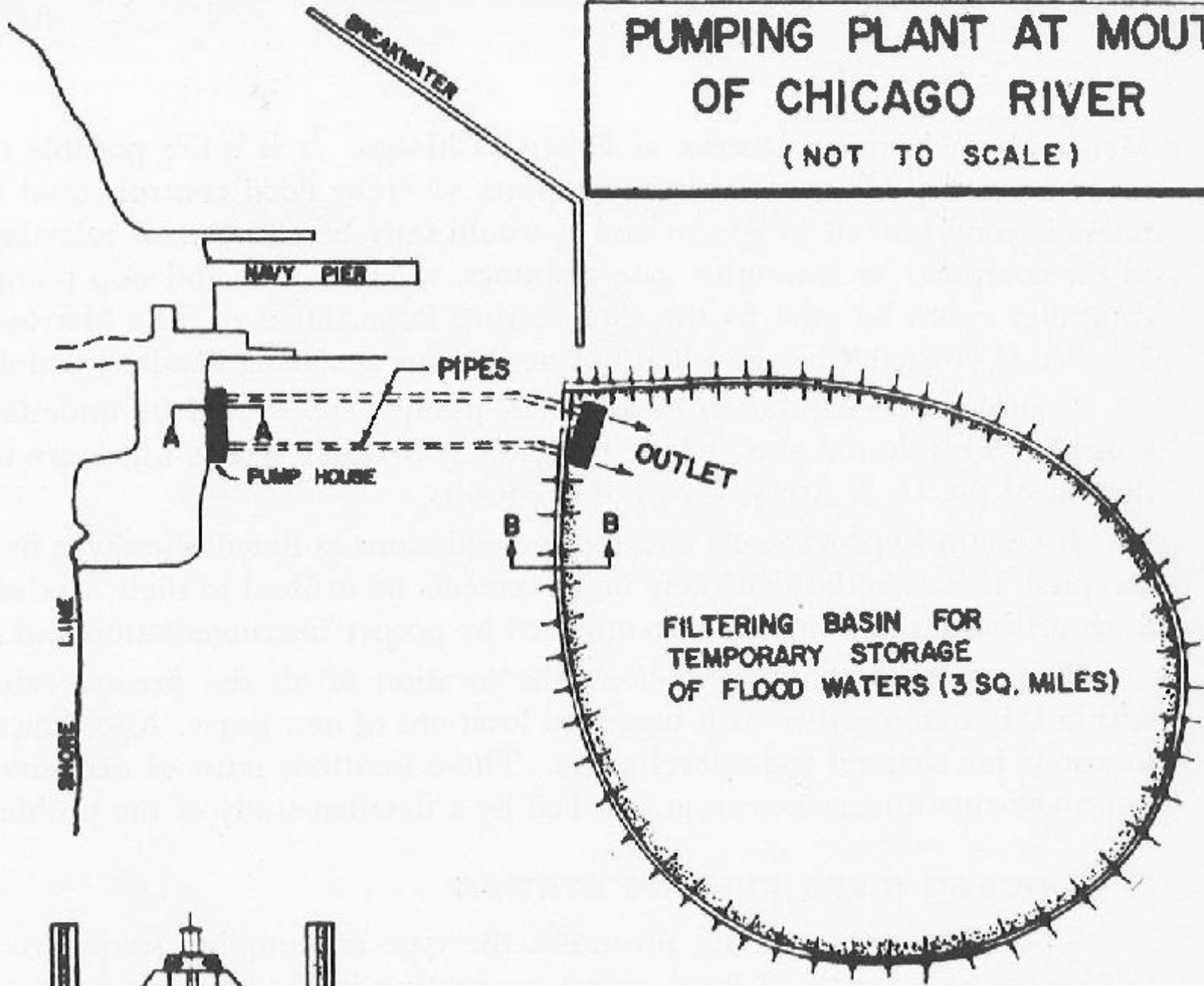
# MAP OF CHICAGO AND VICINITY

Scale  
SUMMARIZATION OF COMPLETE FLOOD CONTROL STUDY

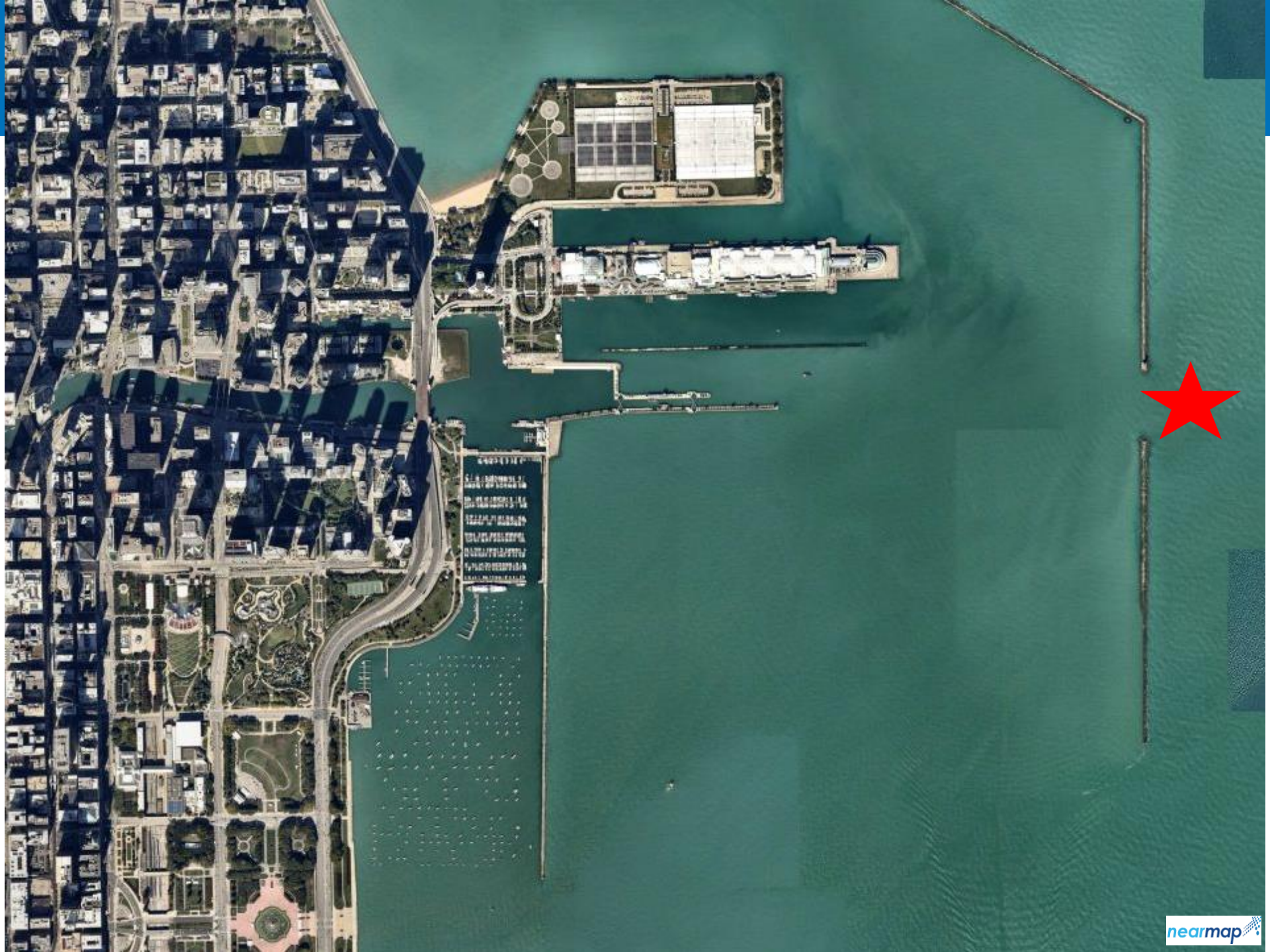


# PUMPING PLANT AT MOUTH OF CHICAGO RIVER

(NOT TO SCALE)









*Anton W. Bacon*

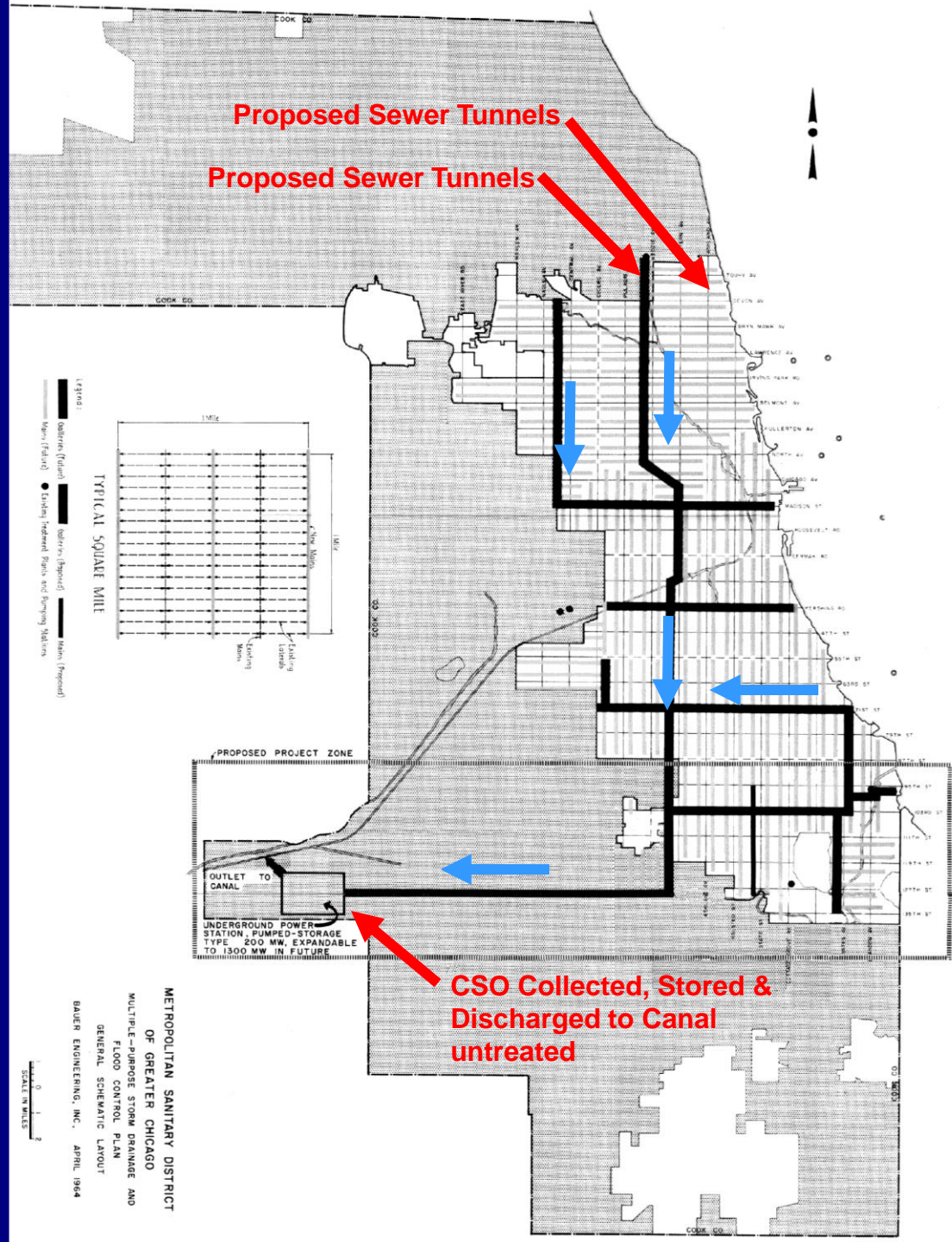
**CHICAGO TUNNEL DRAINAGE PROJECT**

**PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF FEASIBILITY**

BY  
HARZA ENGINEERING COMPANY  
BAUER ENGINEERING, INC.

MAY 1964



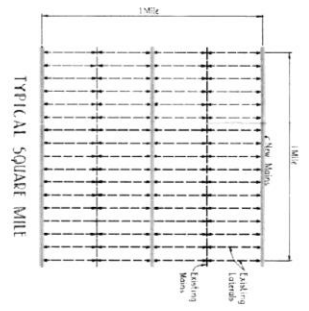


**Proposed Sewer Tunnels**

**Proposed Sewer Tunnels**

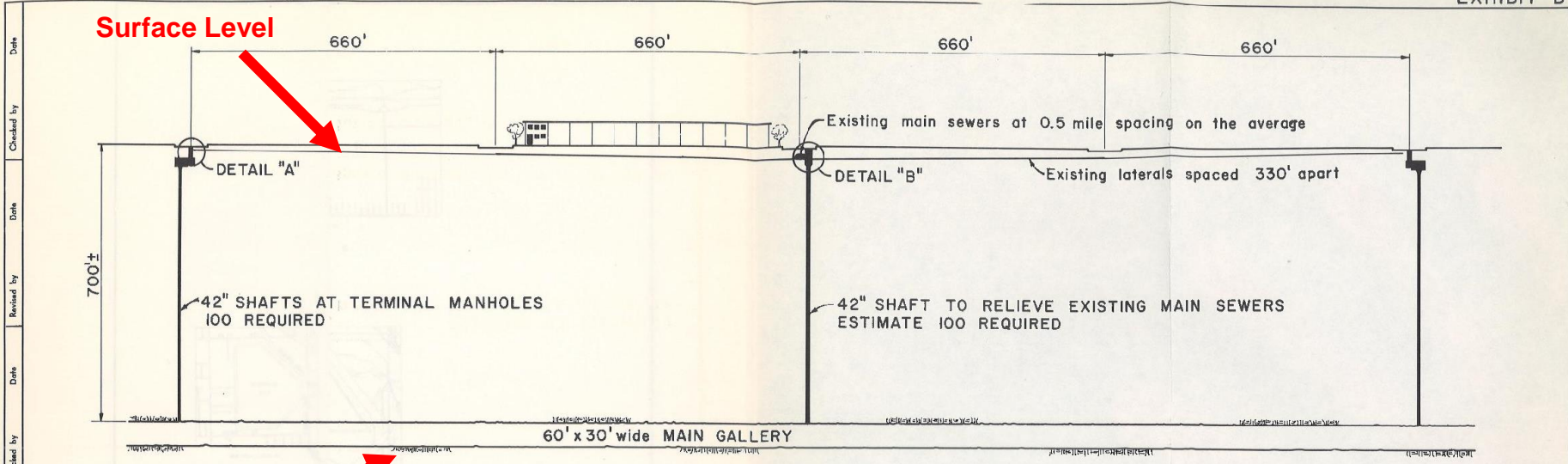
**CSO Collected, Stored & Discharged to Canal untreated**

- LEGEND
- Existing (Urban)
  - Existing (Rural)
  - Existing (Industrial Plants and Pumping Stations)
  - New (Proposed)
  - Sewer (Proposed)
  - Storm (Proposed)

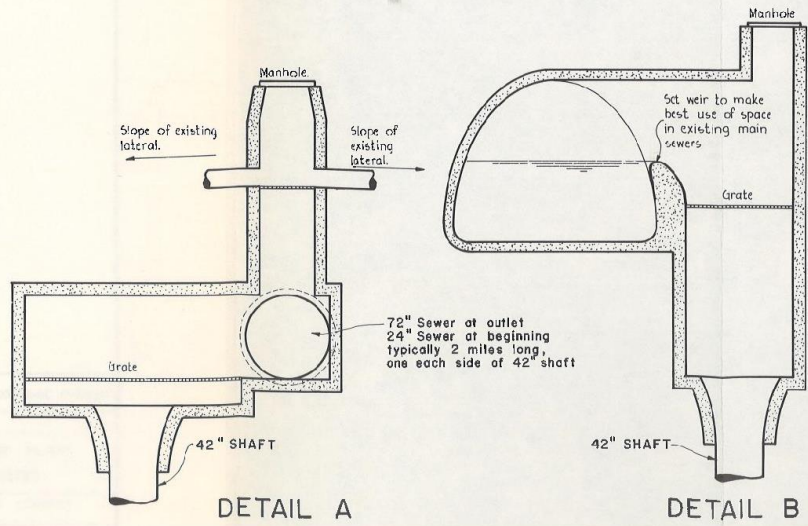
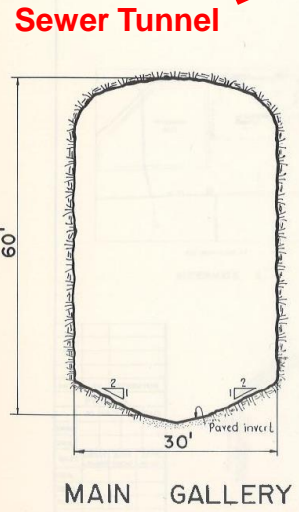


METROPOLITAN SANITARY DISTRICT  
 OF GREATER CHICAGO  
 MULTIPLE-PURPOSE STORM DRAINAGE AND  
 FLOOD CONTROL PLAN  
 GENERAL SCHEMATIC LAYOUT  
 BAUER ENGINEERING, INC., APRIL, 1964

SCALE 0 1 2  
 IN MILES



CROSS SECTION THROUGH MAIN TUNNEL

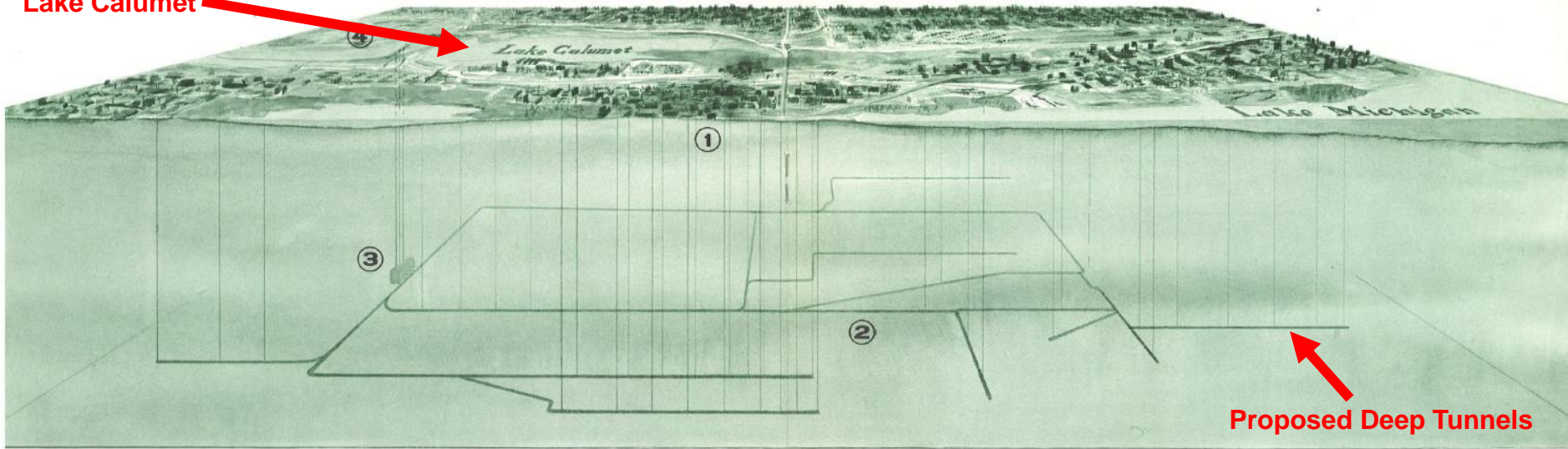


METROPOLITAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO	
CHICAGO DRAINAGE	GALLERY SYSTEM
GENERAL SECTIONS AND DETAILS	
BAUER ENGINEERING INC.	
BY <i>W. J. Bauer</i>	
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	APR 1964 SHEET OF

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Checked by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Revised by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Checked by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Drawn by *W. J. Bauer*  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Checked by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Design by \_\_\_\_\_



Lake Calumet



Proposed Deep Tunnels

# FLOOD and POLLUTION CONTROL

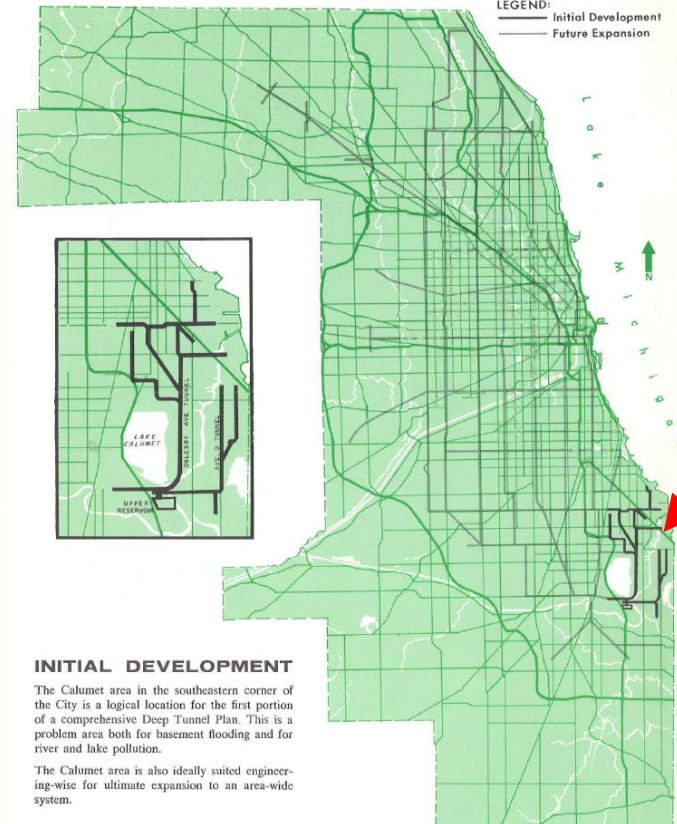
A DEEP TUNNEL PLAN FOR THE CHICAGOLAND AREA

A plan for deep underground storage of storm water to eliminate flooding, reduce pollution and develop electric power.

THE METROPOLITAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO

May 1966

1B001.1



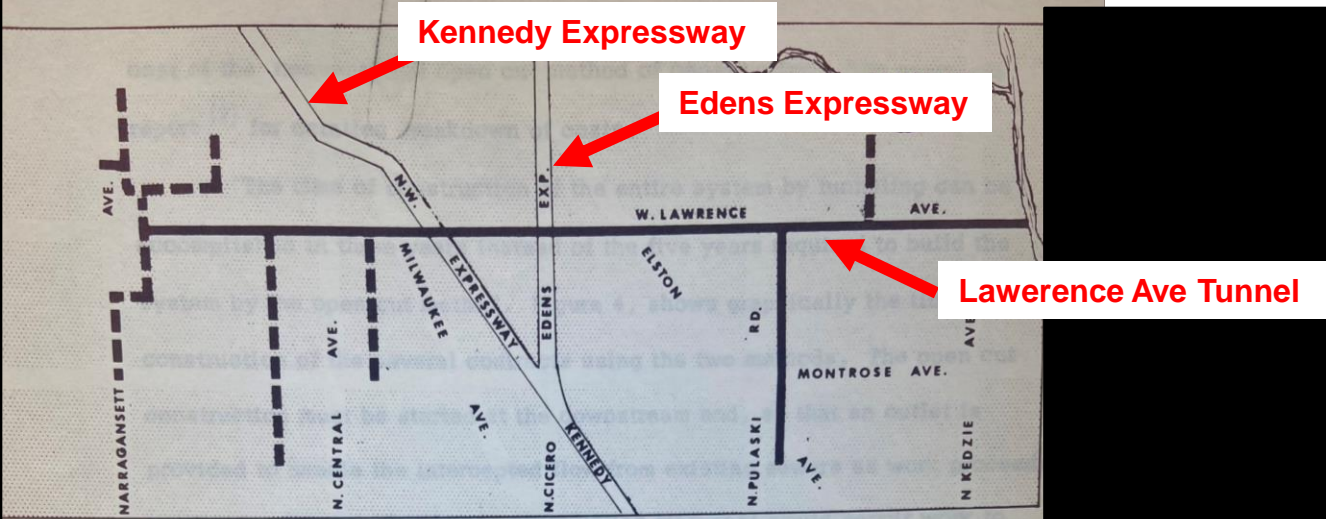
Proposed Location Calumet

## INITIAL DEVELOPMENT

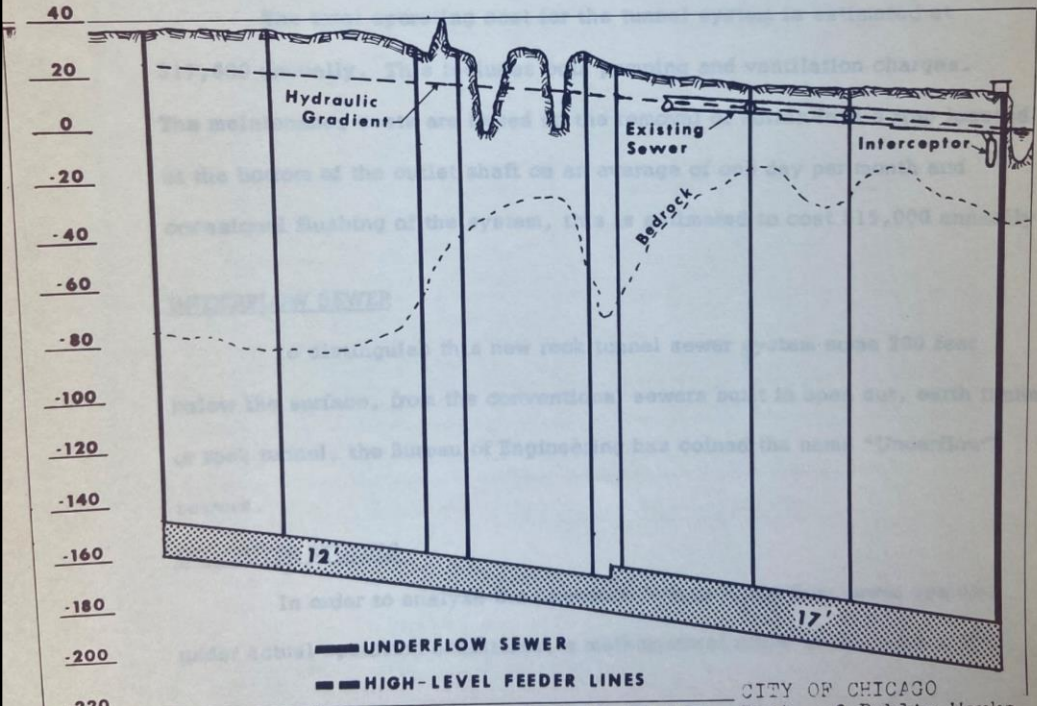
The Calumet area in the southeastern corner of the City is a logical location for the first portion of a comprehensive Deep Tunnel Plan. This is a problem area both for basement flooding and for river and lake pollution.

The Calumet area is also ideally suited engineering-wise for ultimate expansion to an area-wide system.

City of Chicago  
 designing a  
 prototype  
 tunnel in 1966  
 for feasibility of  
 a master flood  
 and pollution  
 control plan



**UNDERFLOW PLAN**



**LAWRENCE AVENUE UNDERFLOW TRIBUTARY**  
 CITY OF CHICAGO  
 Dept. of Public Works  
 Bur. of Engineering  
 Figure 3



# State Will Seek Area Flood Control

Judge, Bernard

Chicago Tribune (1963-1996); May 1, 1966; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Tribune

pg. U1

# State Will Seek Area Flood Control

BY BERNARD JUDGE

The state is moving to establish a master flood control program for the Chicago metropolitan area.

Francis S. Lorenz, state director of public works and buildings, said he has started to form a planning committee of engineers and officials of municipalities.

Their job will be to make recommendations which will be used by the state as a framework for the passage of legislation. Lorenz said.

Hits Local Agreements

Lorenz said that many times the state has entered a contract with local governments to clear and clean a stream. "After the state cleans the stream, the local government fails to live up to its half of the bargain to keep the stream clean."



John C. Guillou . . . outlines future plans

act fast, flood plain land will be filled with nothing but roofs and parking lots."

Urges Tightening Permits  
Pikarsky vowed the city's support and said the city has



Francis S. Lorenz . . . calls for conference

already spent 111 million dollars on its sewer program. He said the future of the sewer program hinges on the passage of the June 14 referendum which includes a 4¢ million dol-



Frank W. Chesrow . . . offers cooperation

lar-allocation for the sewer systems.  
Chesrow said the sanitary district has begun far-reaching flood programs. He urged tightening the issue of building per-

mits in flood plains, and the need for water retention basins. To bring home his point, Chesrow said, "If the corps of engineers would allow us an additional six inches of depth in our 72 miles of channels and canals, we would have a retention basin the size of a football field that would be 1,000 feet deep."

The state is backing a plan for the construction of dams and locks on the sanitary and ship canal to reduce flooding in a large portion of the Chicago area. Guillou said the state wants to build a dam and locks at Western avenue, demolish the Brandon locks and dam complex south of Joliet, eliminate the Lockport dam and locks, and construct a new dam and locks about a mile upriver.

## Flood Control Coordinating Committee Formed

Members include State of IL, Cook County, MWRD & City of Chicago



# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## Technical Advisory Committee

- Total of 27 meetings from February 13, 1968 through June 10, 1970
- The committee on September 30, 1968 approved a resolution concerning a composite drainage plan for the Chicago area. This resolution outlined a general framework for the 300 square miles of combined sewer area.
- Three conceptual plans were developed based on this resolution:
  - **State of Illinois Division of Waterways**
    - Widen, deepen and straighten the river systems to provide capacity for storm waters.
  - **City of Chicago**
    - Excavate a series of rock tunnels 200-300 feet under the North Shore Channel, Des Plaines and Calumet Rivers and Sanitary Ship Canal to intercept storm and sewage overflows until treatment plants could receive their flows.
  - **MWRD**
    - Excavate tunnels 600-800 feet below the surface in the similar areas as the City of Chicago but incorporate underground storage reservoirs, provide electricity for water pumped from these reservoirs, and excavated rock disposing areas repurposed as recreational sites such as a toboggan and ski hill.

The committee could not arrive on a final recommendation and was temporarily abandoned after Chairman Guillou's resignation on 6/10/1970.



## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

to the

## FLOOD CONTROL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

13 February 1968

MEMBERS PRESENT

John C. Guillou, <i>Chairman</i>	<i>Illinois Department of Public Works and Buildings</i>
Frank C. Dalton	<i>Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago</i>
Clint J. Keifer	<i>City of Chicago Department of Public Works</i>
Arthur Janura	<i>Cook County Forest Preserve District, County of Cook</i>
Benn J. Leland <i>for Clarence Klassen</i>	<i>Illinois Department of Public Health</i>
Robert W. Hirshfield	<i>Commonwealth Edison Company and Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry</i>
Louis D'Alba	<i>Chicago District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i>
Robert Ducharme <i>for Matthew L. Rockwell</i>	<i>Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission</i>

MEMBERS ABSENT

Walter Poston	<i>Federal Water Pollution Control Administration</i>
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OTHERS PRESENT

Vic Koelzer	<i>Harza Engineering</i>
William Bauer	<i>Bauer Engineering</i>
Charles D. Mitchell	<i>Illinois Division of Waterways</i>
Bruce Barker	<i>Illinois Division of Waterways</i>
John B. Carlisle	<i>Illinois Division of Waterways</i>
Vinton W. Bacon	<i>Metropolitan Sanitary District</i>
Charles Estes	<i>Cook County Forest Preserve District</i>
Roland Eisenbeis	<i>Cook County Forest Preserve District</i>
Forrest Neil	<i>Metropolitan Sanitary District</i>

## **Tunnels Project Rises to the Surface Again**

Wagner, Sally

*Chicago Tribune* (1963-1996); Jun 6, 1971; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Tribune

pg. W\_A10

# ***Tunnels Project Rises to the Surface Again***

## **Technical Advisory Committee “Part Two”**

- **Technical Advisory Committee reactivated on May 17, 1971**
- **Committee members were trimmed down to the following:**
  - **Illinois Institute of Environmental Quality – Michael Schneiderman (Chairman)**
  - **MWRD**
  - **City of Chicago**
  - **Cook County Forest Preserve**





## Technical Advisory Committee “Part Two”

- Technical Advisory Committee investigated **23** separate flood plan alternatives
  - Alternatives were labeled “A” through “T”
- Some Evaluation Criteria:
  - Costs expanding existing WRP’s
  - Cost of tunnels
  - Cost of near surface collecting sewers & drop shafts
  - Cost of construction pits or storage quarries
  - Cost of mining
  - Cost of aeration in storage facilities
  - Strength of rock and drillability
  - Effect of earthquakes on mined areas
  - Maximum permissible velocities in tunnels
- Committee members led to the recommendation that 6 of the 23 should NOT receive further study:
  - Plans eliminated “K”, “L”, “M”, “N”, “P”, and “T”



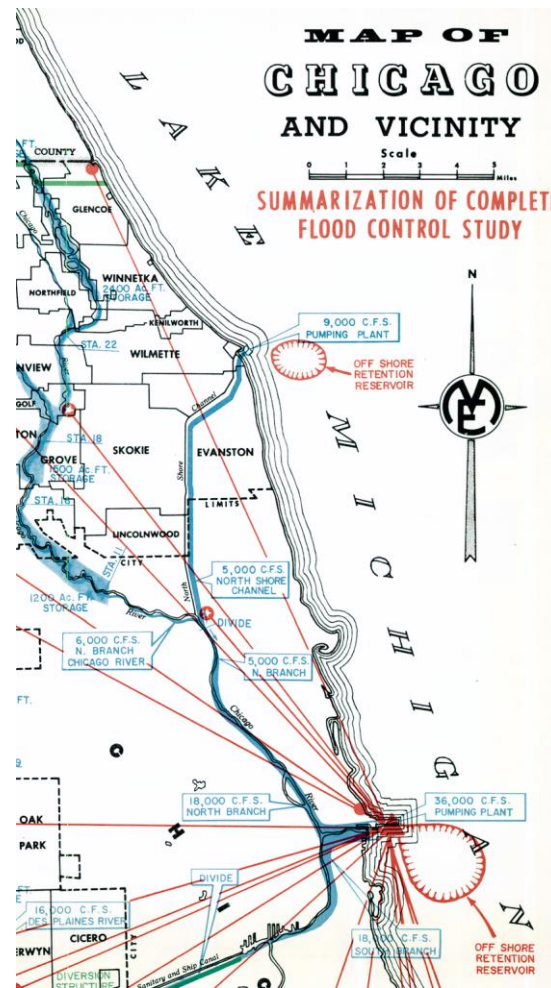
# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## Technical Advisory Committee “Part Two”

- Highlights from some of the **Eliminated** Plans:

### “K” Leffler Plan

The Leffler Plan comprises the construction of a series of dikes in Lake Michigan to develop flood ponds with a total area of about 14,680 acres, 3,800 acres for the North Shore Channel, 2,560 acres for the Chicago River & 8,320 acres for the Calumet River



### “L” Meissner Plan

August 1958 report comprised of channel improvements, surface reservoirs and discharges to Lake Michigan. More than 100,000 acre feet of surface storage along waterways and in Lake Michigan.





## Technical Advisory Committee “Part Two”

- Highlights from some of the *Eliminated* Plans:

### “M” Ramey-Williams Channel Improvement Plan

Widening improvements to the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to increase the outflow at Lockport to 30,000 cfs without attaining flood stages in the waterway.

### “N” Sheaffer Plan

Proposes the abandonment of the existing sewage plants and the conveyance of all combined sewage to areas in Central Illinois for treatment in aerobic treatment cells with spray irrigation of effluent on under-productive farmland.

### “T” Separate System of Sanitary Sewers

Separation of sanitary and industrial wastes from storm water by the construction of parallel sanitary sewers. The proposed separate sanitary sewers would drain into existing MWRD interceptors for conveyance to the existing sewage treatment plants.

The Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago

# CAPITAL COSTS COMPARISON

## EXPENDITURES VS. B. O. D. CAPTURE

96 Year Storm - 300 Sq. Miles

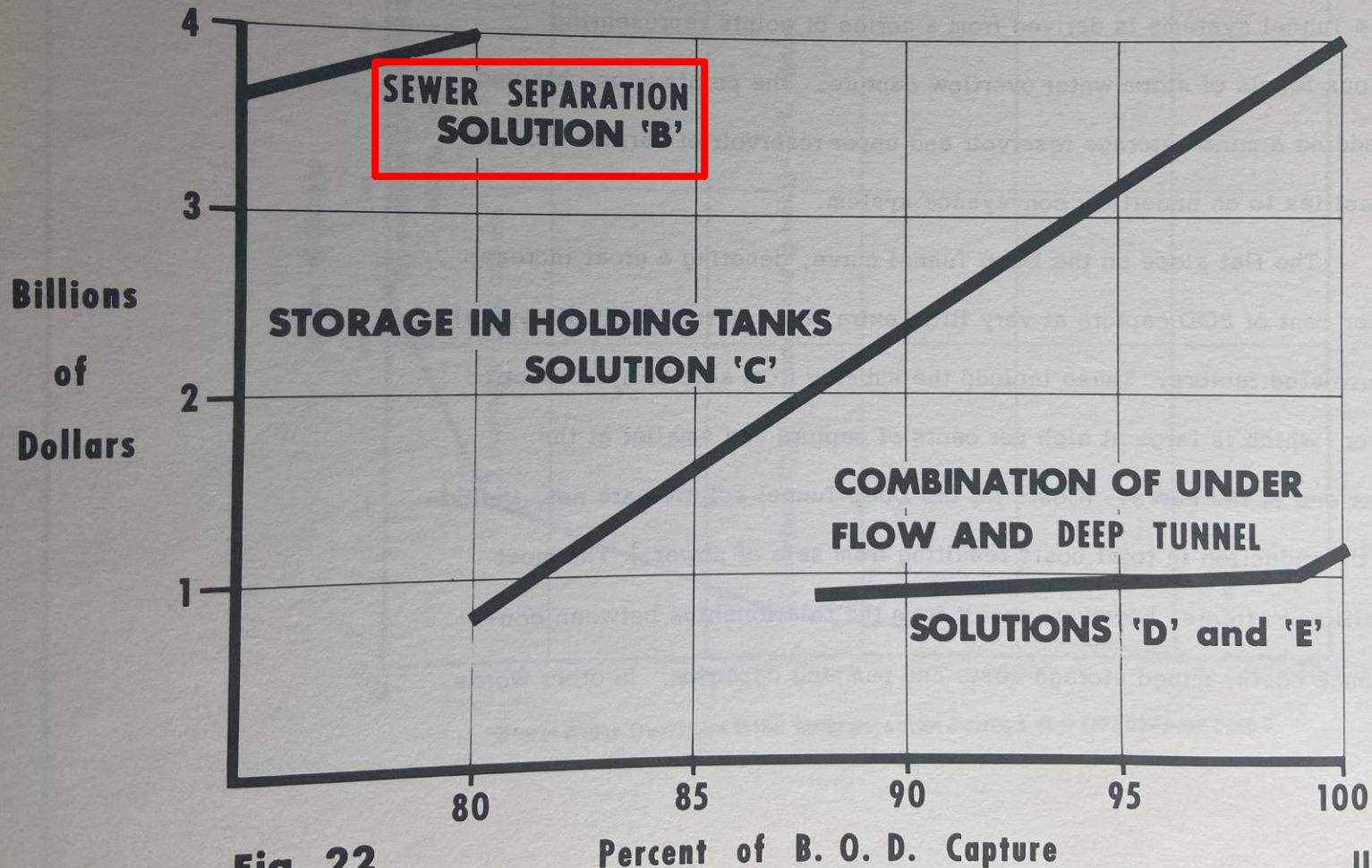


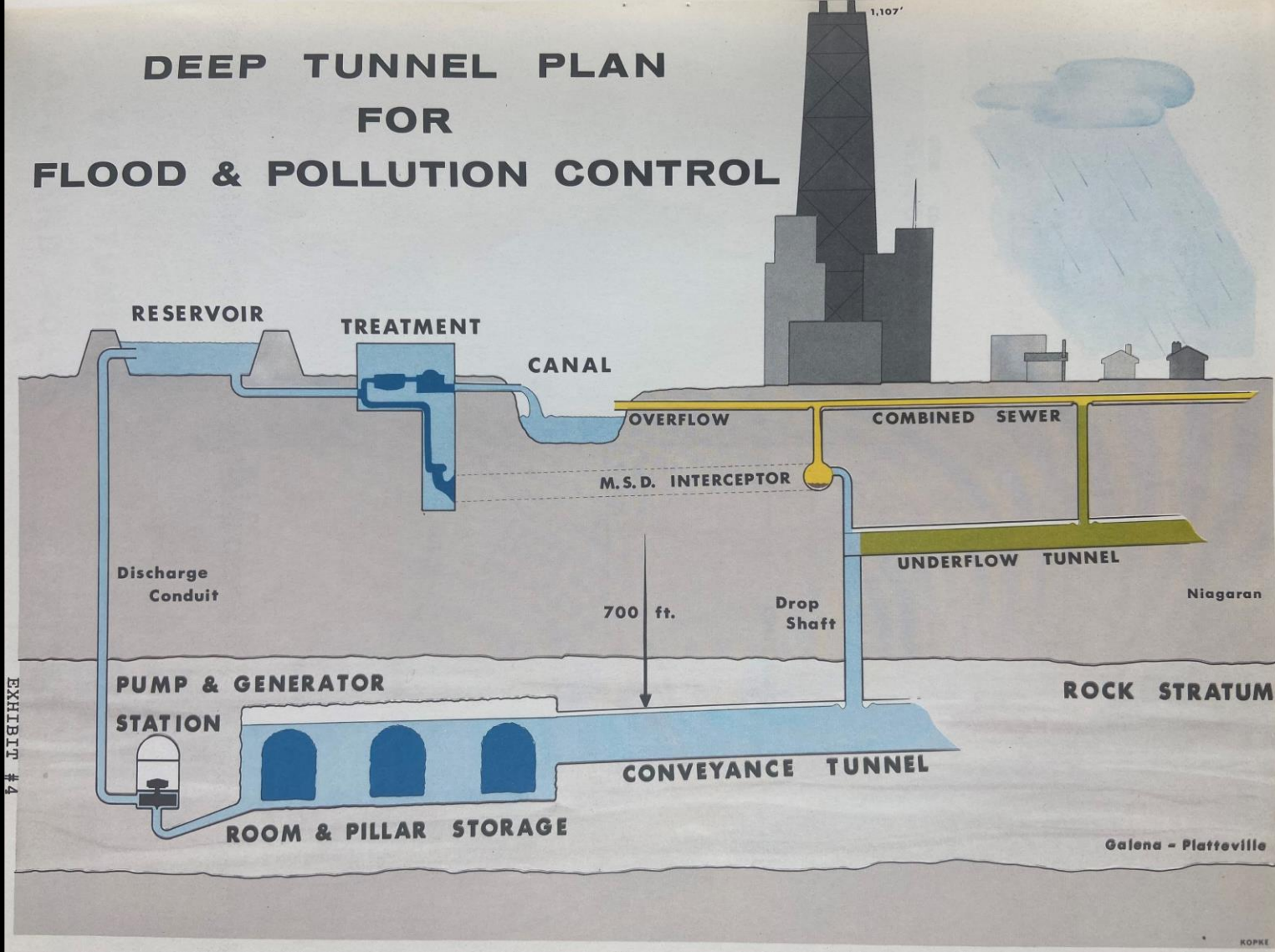
Fig. 22

Percent of B. O. D. Capture

JULY, 1968



# DEEP TUNNEL PLAN FOR FLOOD & POLLUTION CONTROL

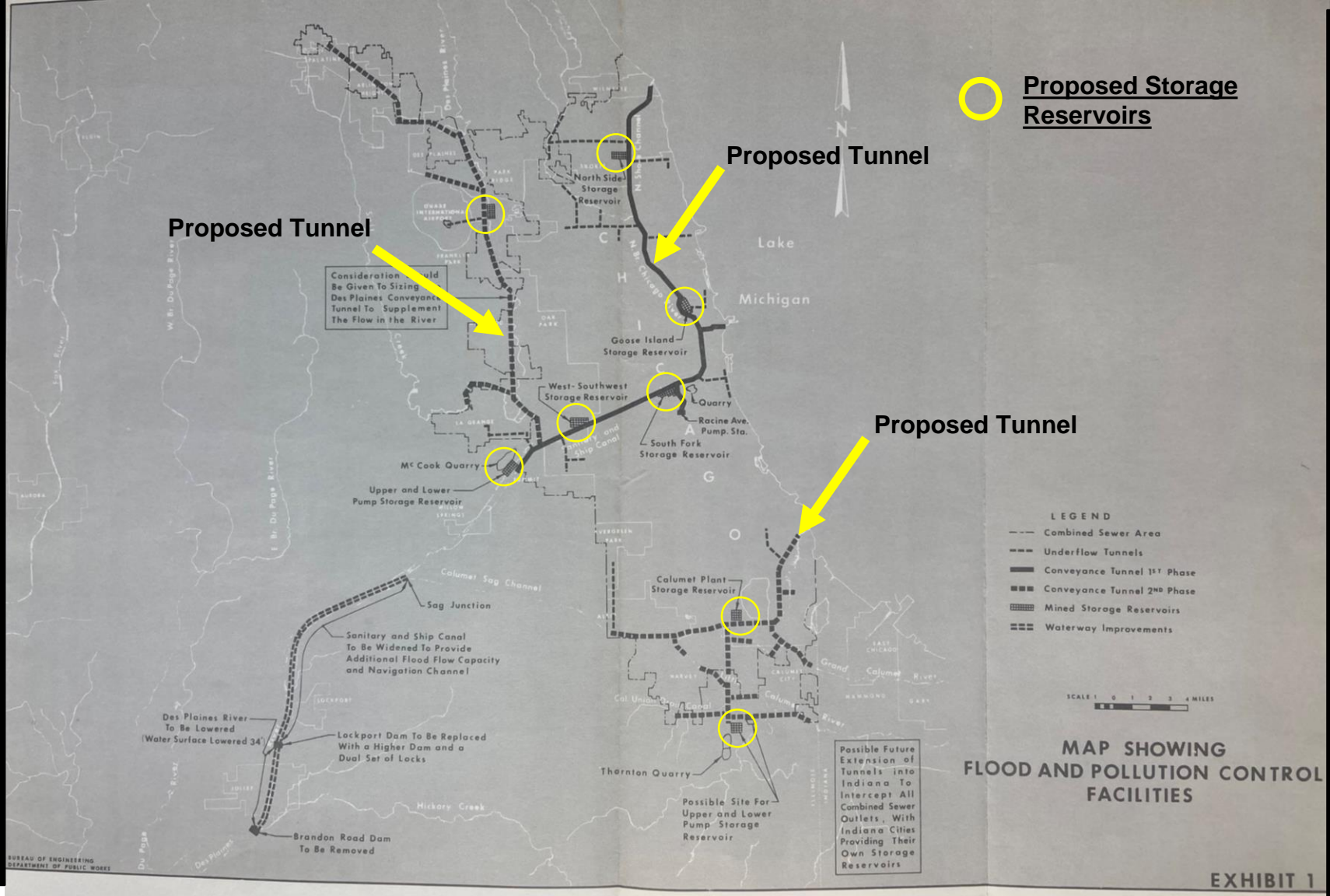


- Highlights from some of the **Feasible** Plans by Harza-Bauer Engineering for **MWRD**:

**Alt. "A"** Original Deep Tunnel Plan with Mined & Surface Storage in the Calumet Area

**Alt. "B"** Original Deep Tunnel Plan with Mined & Surface Storage in the Calumet Area & Stickney Areas

**Alt. "C"** Original Deep Tunnel Plan with Mined & Surface Storage in 3 locations in Calumet, Stickney & North Side WRPs



• Highlights from some of the **Feasible** Plans by City of Chicago:

**Alt. "E"** Series of tunnels conveying CSO's to Stickney, North Side & O'Hare WRP. Mined Storage Areas of various locations

**Alt. "G"** Single Quarry in the McCook Area

**Alt. "H"** Two Quarries: One at McCook and another at Thornton

**Alt. "J"** Three Quarries: McCook, Stearns Quarry, & Thornton

**Alt. "S"** McCook and O'Hare Storage facilities

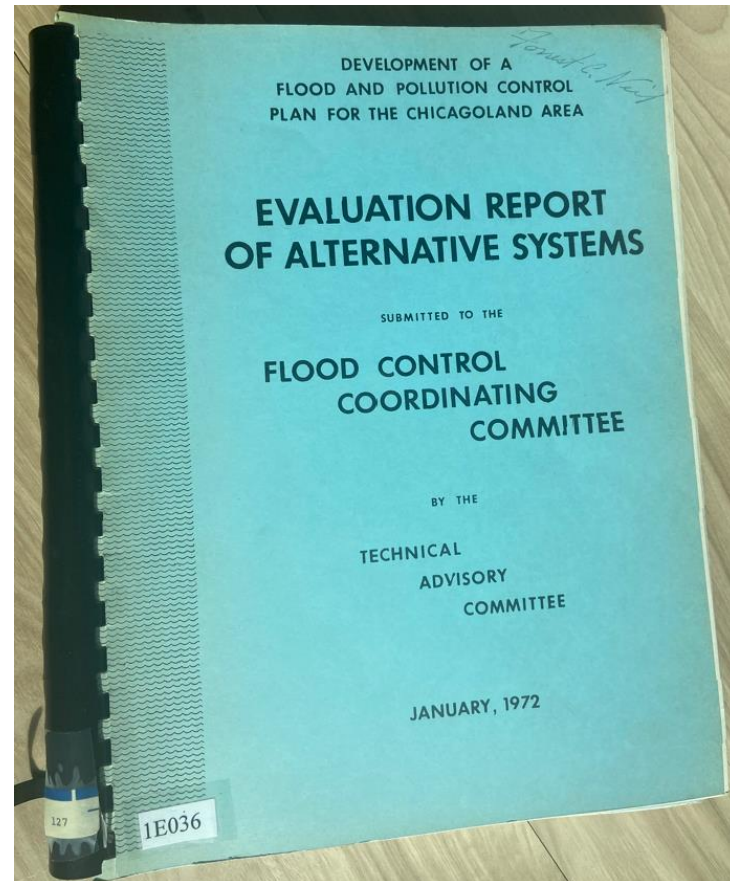




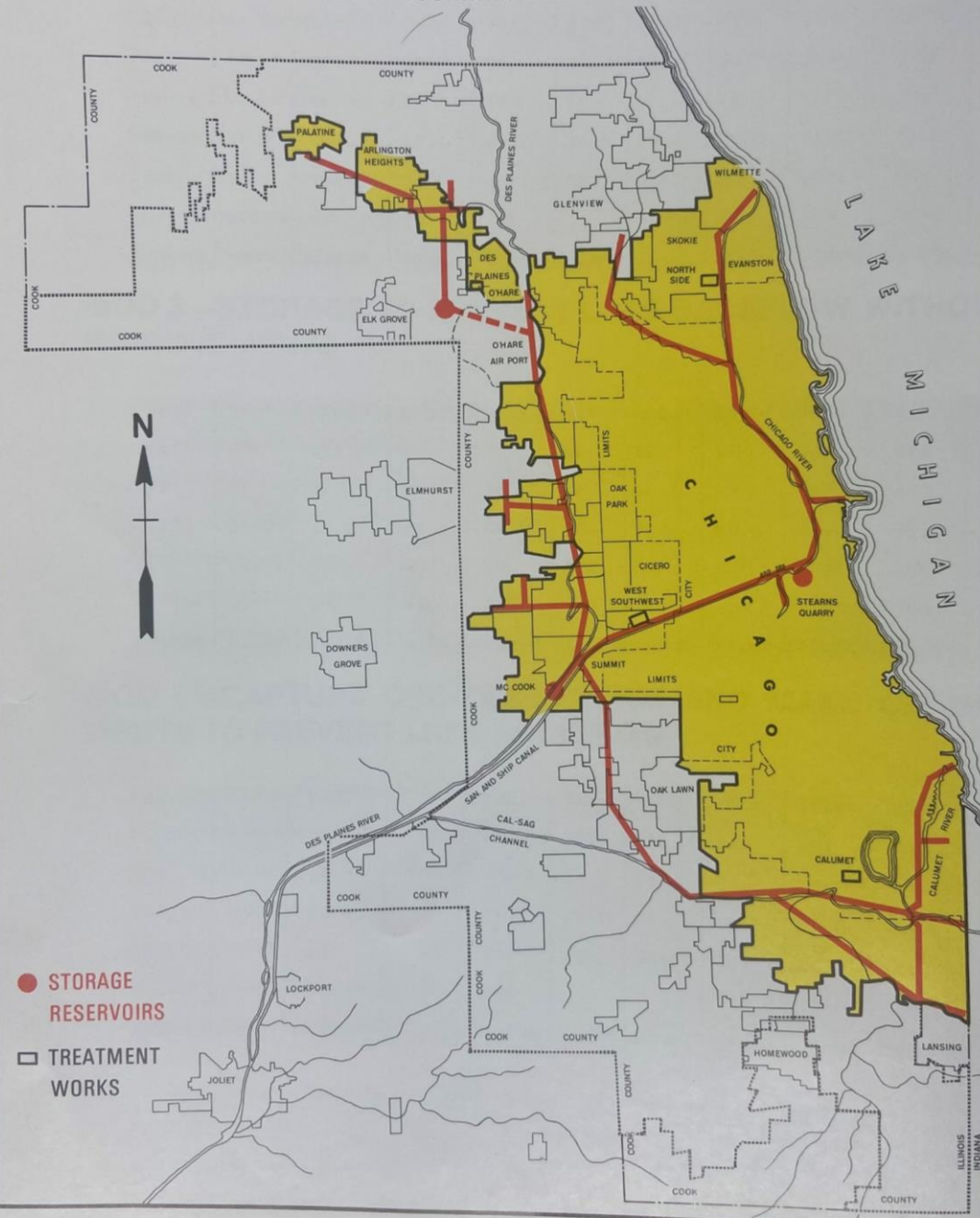
# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## Technical Advisory Committee “Part Two”

- After extensive review of the evaluation report, the committee agreed that the “Chicago Underflow Plan” (Alternatives “**G**”, “**H**”, “**J**” and “**S**”) are less costly and would be more environmentally friendly to the community.
- Primary emphasis was to provide storage to prevent backflows to Lake Michigan
- “**G**”, “**H**”, “**J**” and “**S**” included conveyance tunnels and evaluating optimal location(s) at McCook, Thornton, O’Hare, and/or Stearns Quarry



## THE RECOMMENDED PLAN

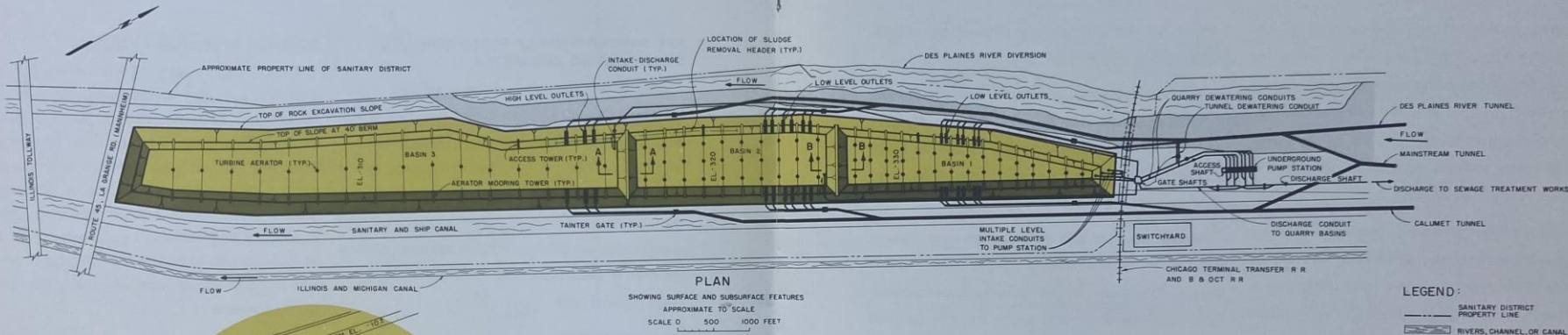


## Technical Advisory Committee RECOMMENDED PLAN in 1972

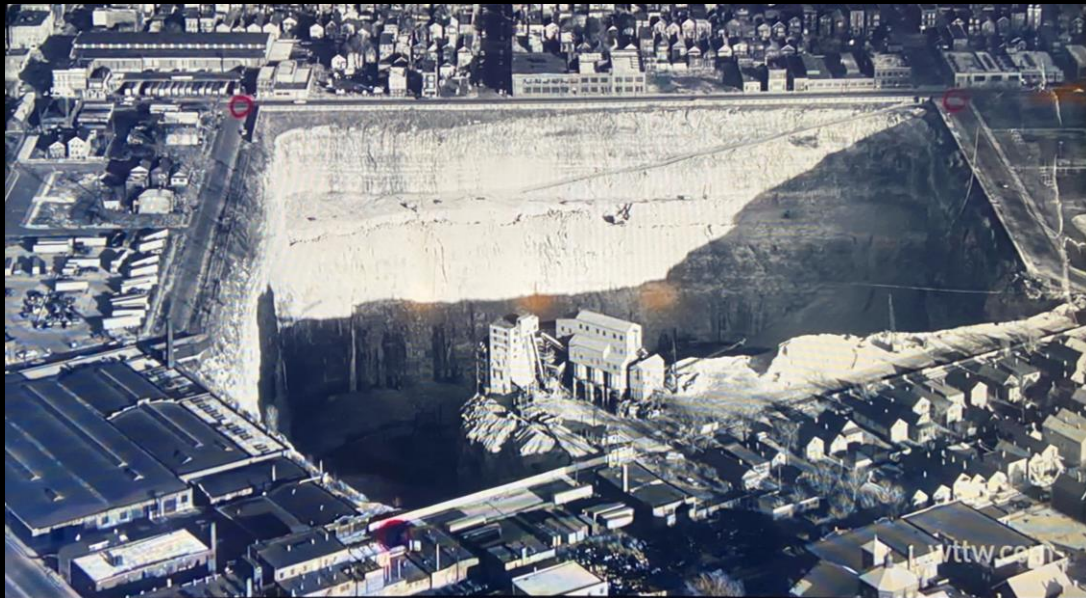
- A composite of the several Underflow Plan alternatives due to its storage economy and simplicity.
- 120 miles of conveyance tunnels 150-300ft below ground
- McCook Storage Reservoir on existing MWRD sludge lagoons (57,000 acre-feet or 18.5 BG)
- O'Hare Storage Reservoir (1,800 acre-feet or 590 MG)
- Stearns Quarry Reservoir (4,000 acre-feet or 1.3 BG)



# Technical Advisory Committee RECOMMENDED Storage Sites in 1972



## McCook Storage Site on MWRD Lagoons (18.5 BG)



## Reservoir near O'Hare TBD (590 MG)

## Stearns Quarry 28<sup>th</sup> & Halsted (1.3 BG)

**Technical Advisory Committee**  
**RECOMMENDED Plan in 1972**

**COST**

The total cost of the recommended Chicago Underflow Plan is estimated as follows:

Surface Collection and	
Drop Shafts .....	\$ 93,000,000
Tunnels .....	567,200,000
Storage Facilities .....	350,000,000
Pumping Stations .....	38,000,000
	<hr/>
	\$1,048,200,000
Contingencies .....	100,000,000
	<hr/>
	\$1,148,200,000
Engineering, Legal, Administrative .....	75,000,000
Total Project Cost	<hr/>
(1972 Base) .....	\$1,223,200,000

**Project Cost \$1.2 B (1972 Costs)**

**Funding would be from local,  
State and Federal sources**

**An aggressive 10-year  
construction program was  
recommended by the committee  
commencing in 1973 and totally  
operational by end of 1982...**





# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## October 26, 1972...TARP officially adopted by MWRD.

*Arlington Heights Backs Tunnel Plan to End Floods*  
*Chicago Tribune (1963-1996); Nov 12, 1972; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Tribune*  
pg. NW5

### Arlington Heights Backs Tunnel Plan to End Floods

**OKd by Sanitary District Chief: Tunnel Flood Project Backer**  
Jones, Sally  
*Chicago Tribune (1963-1996); Sep 21, 1972; ProQuest Historical Newspaper*  
pg. N1

*OKd by Sanitary District Chief*

# *Tunnel Flood Project Backed*

Metropolitan Sanitary District President John Egan has endorsed a \$1.2 billion tunneling project to capture and treat storm water in 375 square miles of Cook County.

He said the plan, proposed by a study committee appointed by former Gov. Kerner in 1967, "is the only alternative" to solving the problem of polluted sewage and rain overflows in areas where sewage and rainwater are carried in the same pipes. Engineers estimate the overflows account for 45 per cent of inner Cook County's water pollution.

*Mayor Backs \$1.2 Billion Tunnel Plan to End Floods*  
*Jones, Sally*  
*Chicago Tribune (1963-1996); Oct 26, 1972; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Tribune*  
pg. B14

### Mayor Daley addressing meeting of Metropolitan Sanitary District board of trustees.

### Mayor Backs \$1.2 Billion Tunnel Plan to End Floods



# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## **October 26, 1972: TARP officially adopted by MWRD Board of Commissioners**

- More than 50 alternative plans developed and evaluated over a 7-Year period
- Final Plan was the composite of the 8 best alternatives
- Adopted by MWRDGC on October 26, 1972 – 8 days after the Clean Water Act was passed

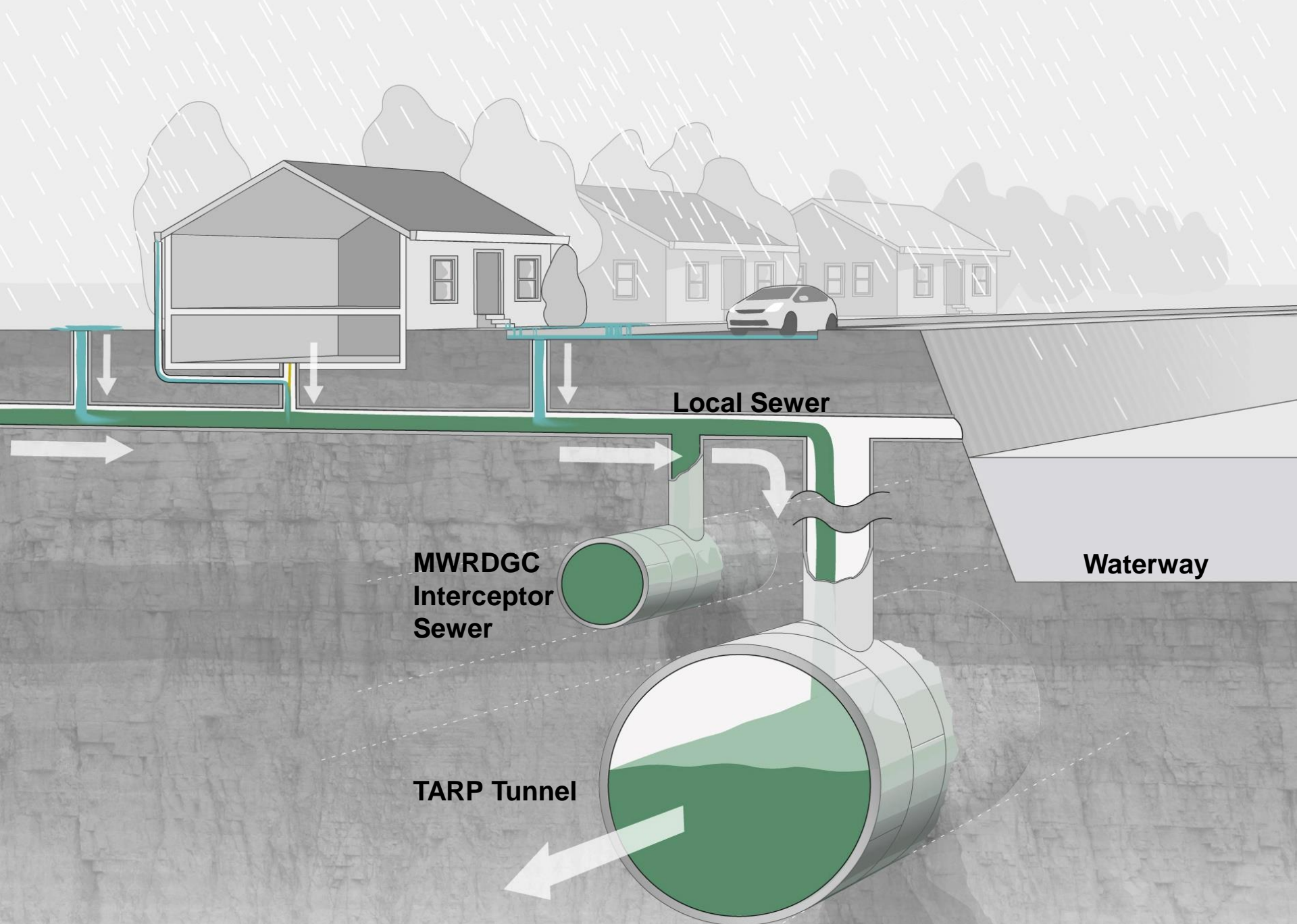




# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## TARP Goals

- ***Protect* ..... Lake Michigan from River Backflows**
- ***Eliminate* ..... Waterway Pollution Caused by CSO**
- ***Provide* ..... An Outlet for Flood Waters to Reduce Basement Sewage Backups**
- ***Comply* ..... With Federal and State Environmental Laws**
- ***Accomplish* ... The Above Results in the Most Cost Effective Manner**



**Local Sewer**

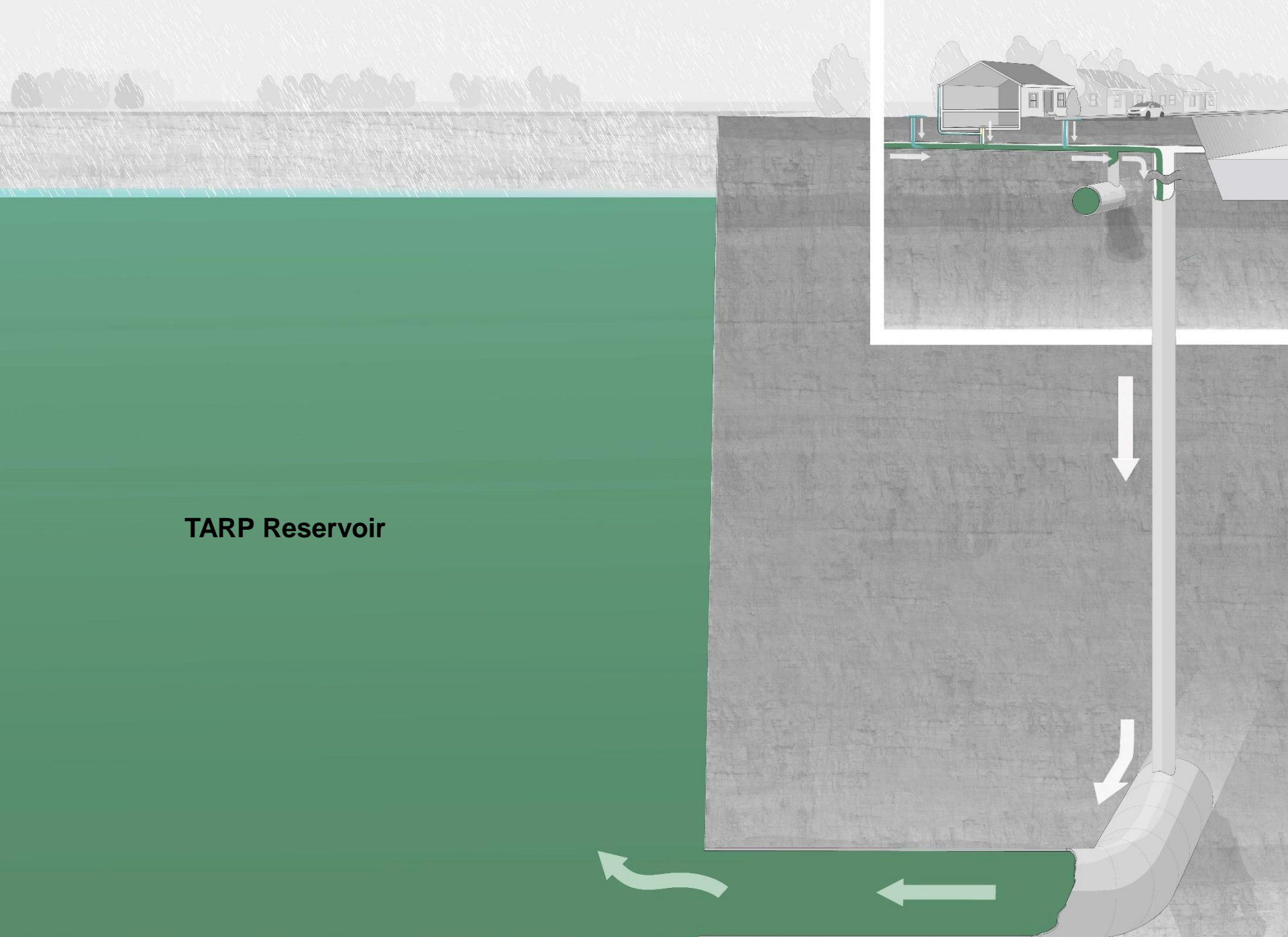
**MWRDGC  
Interceptor  
Sewer**

**Waterway**

**TARP Tunnel**

**Wet Weather Flows, with TARP Phase 1 Tunnels online**






TARP Reservoir

**Wet Weather Flows, with TARP Phase 1 Tunnels and Phase 2 reservoirs online**

# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) 2023 STATUS

## Phase I Tunnels:

-  **Upper Des Plaines**  
6.6 miles  
Storage: 70 MG
-  **Des Plaines**  
25.6 miles  
Storage: 405 MG
-  **Mainstream**  
40.5 miles  
Storage: 1,200 MG
-  **Calumet**  
36.7 miles  
Storage: 630 MG

## Phase II Reservoirs:

- Majewski**  
Storage: 350 MG
- McCook Phase 1**  
Storage: 3.5 BG
- Thornton Composite Reservoir**  
Storage: 7.9 BG

Gloria Alitto  
Majewski Reservoir

McCook Reservoir  
(under construction)

Thornton Composite Reservoir  
(Thornton Transitional Reservoir  
Decommissioned 2022)



L A K E M I C H I G A N



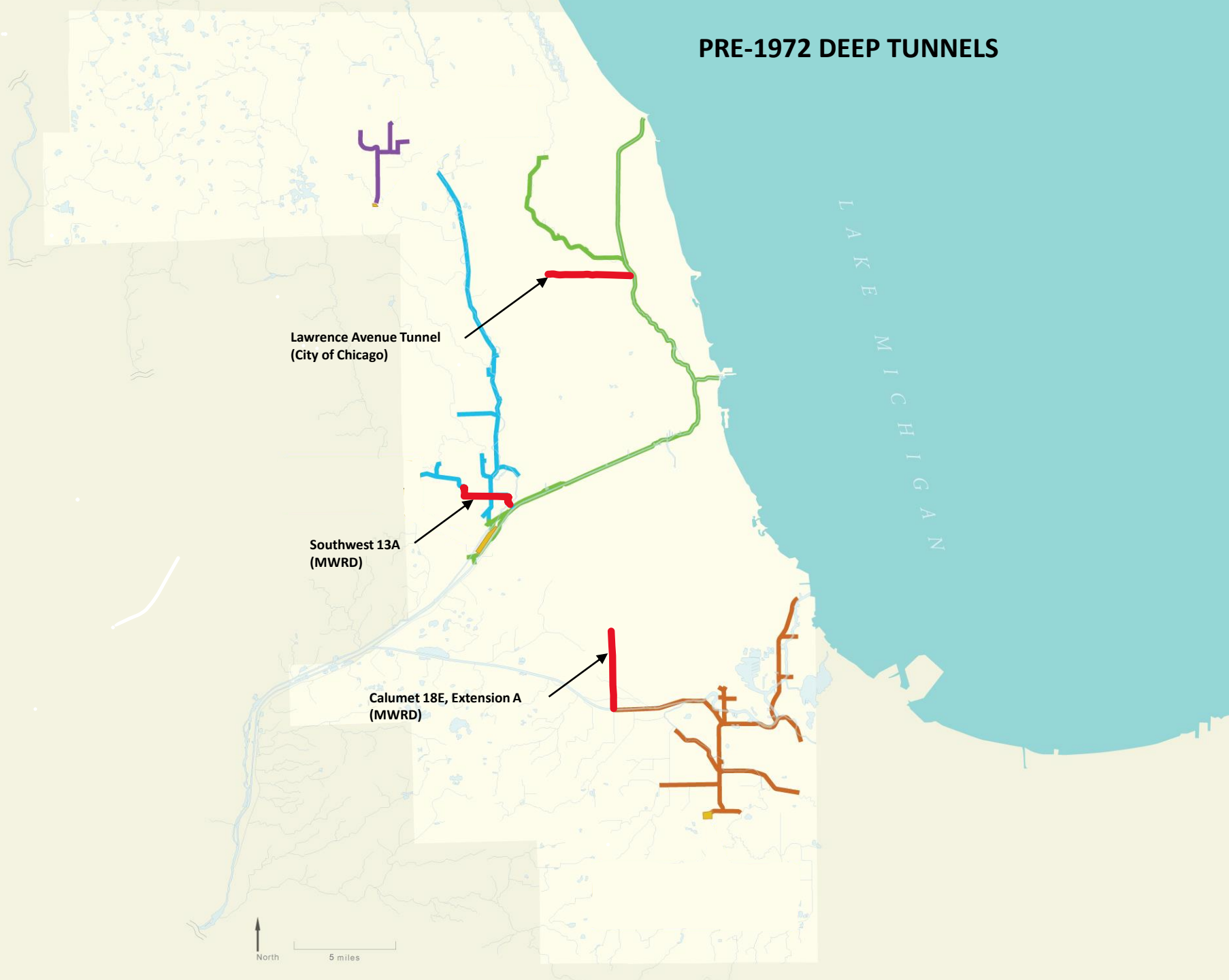
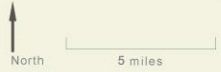
# PRE-1972 DEEP TUNNELS

L A K E  
M I C H I G A N

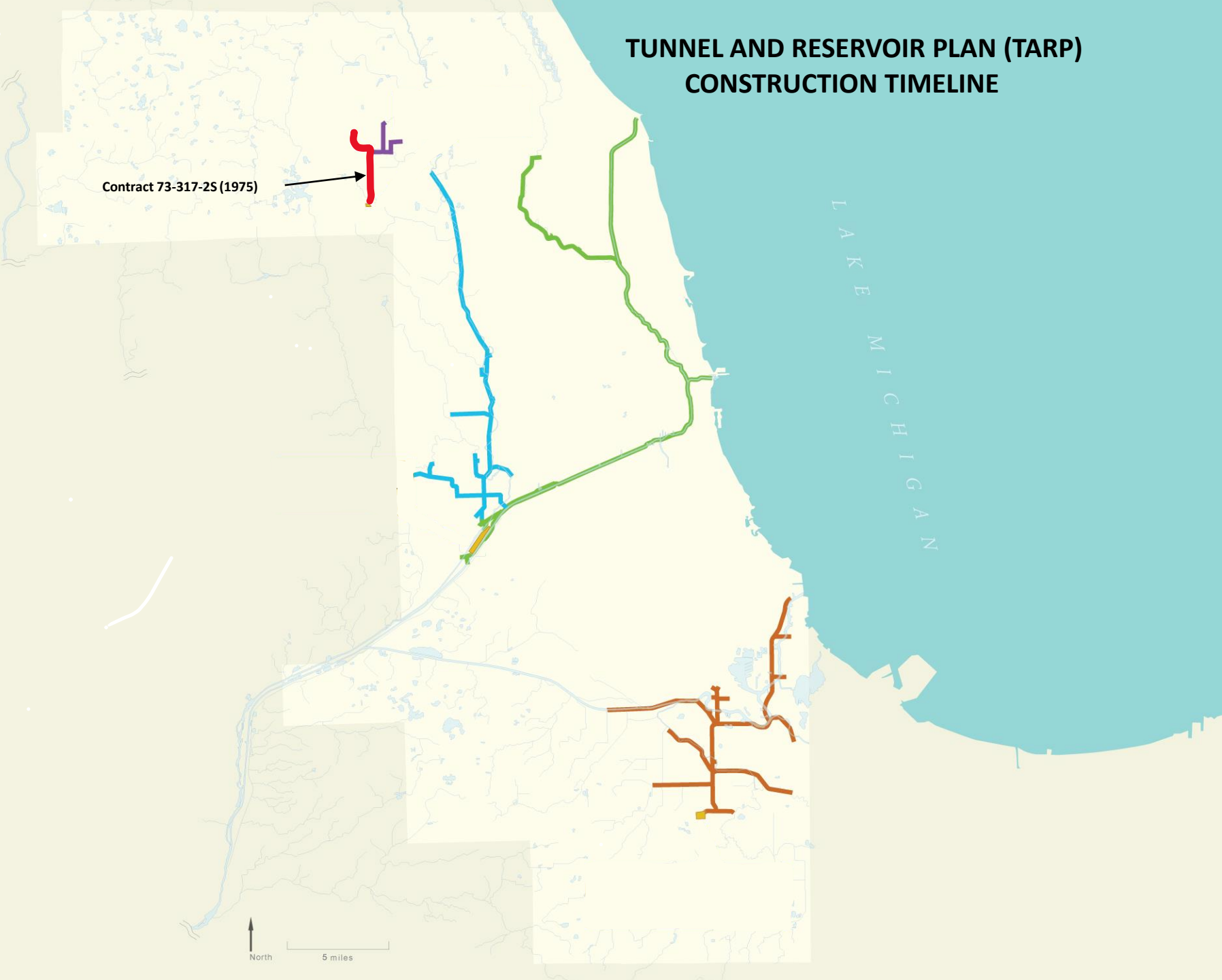
Lawrence Avenue Tunnel  
(City of Chicago)

Southwest 13A  
(MWRD)

Calumet 18E, Extension A  
(MWRD)



# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



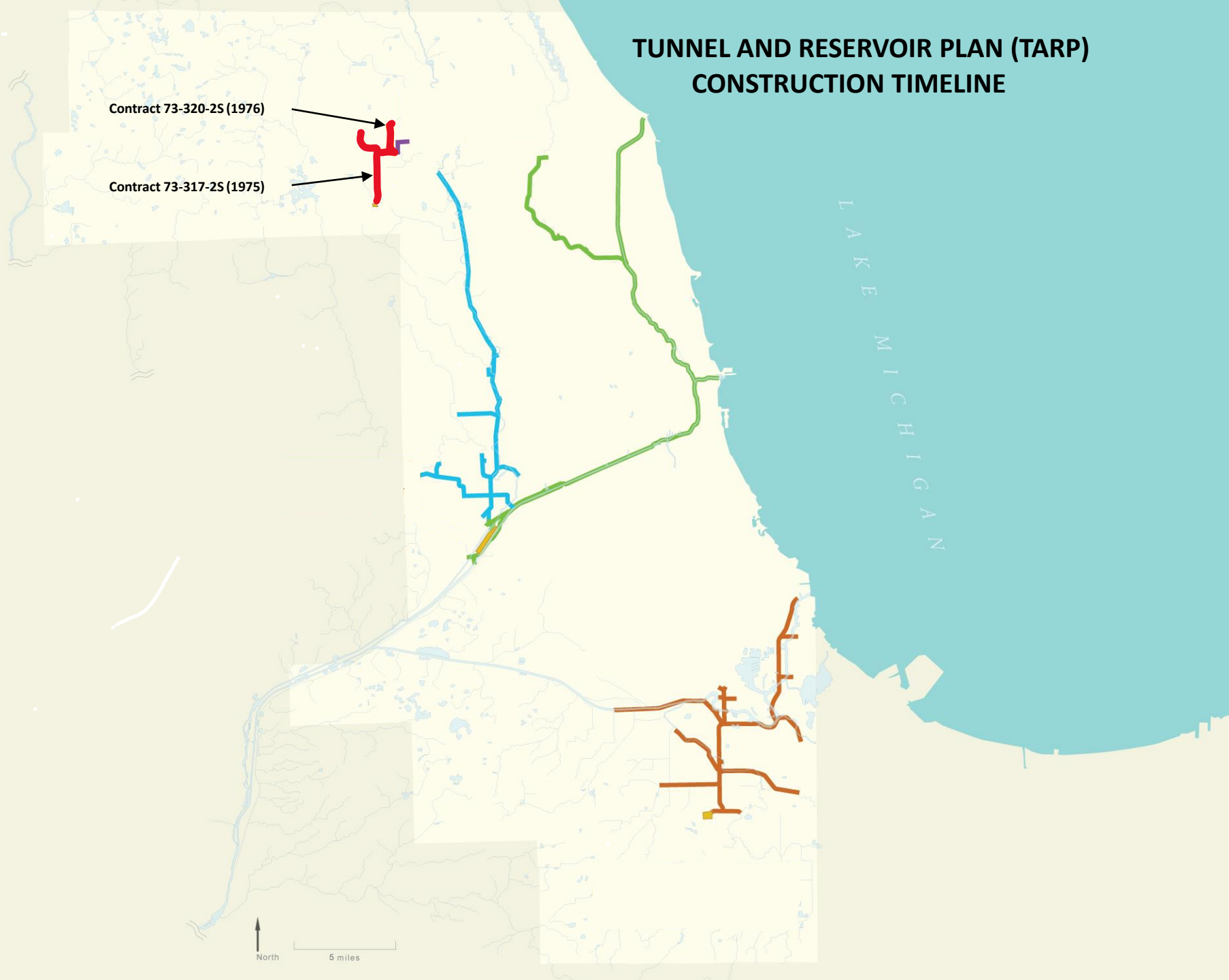
Contract 73-317-2S (1975)

L A K E  
M I C H I G A N

North  
5 miles



# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



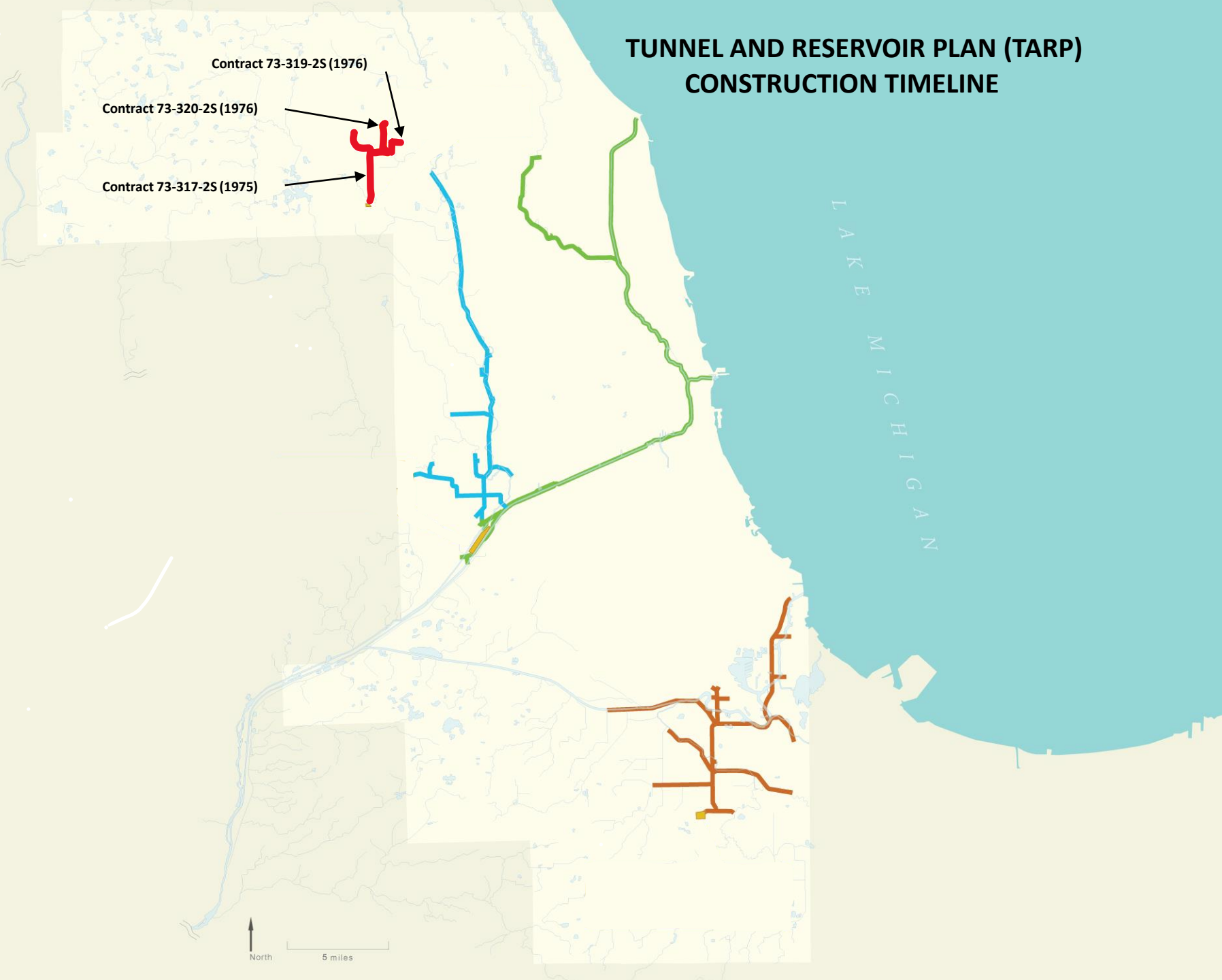
Contract 73-320-2S (1976)

Contract 73-317-2S (1975)

L A K E M I C H I G A N

North  
5 miles

# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



Contract 73-319-2S (1976)

Contract 73-320-2S (1976)

Contract 73-317-2S (1975)

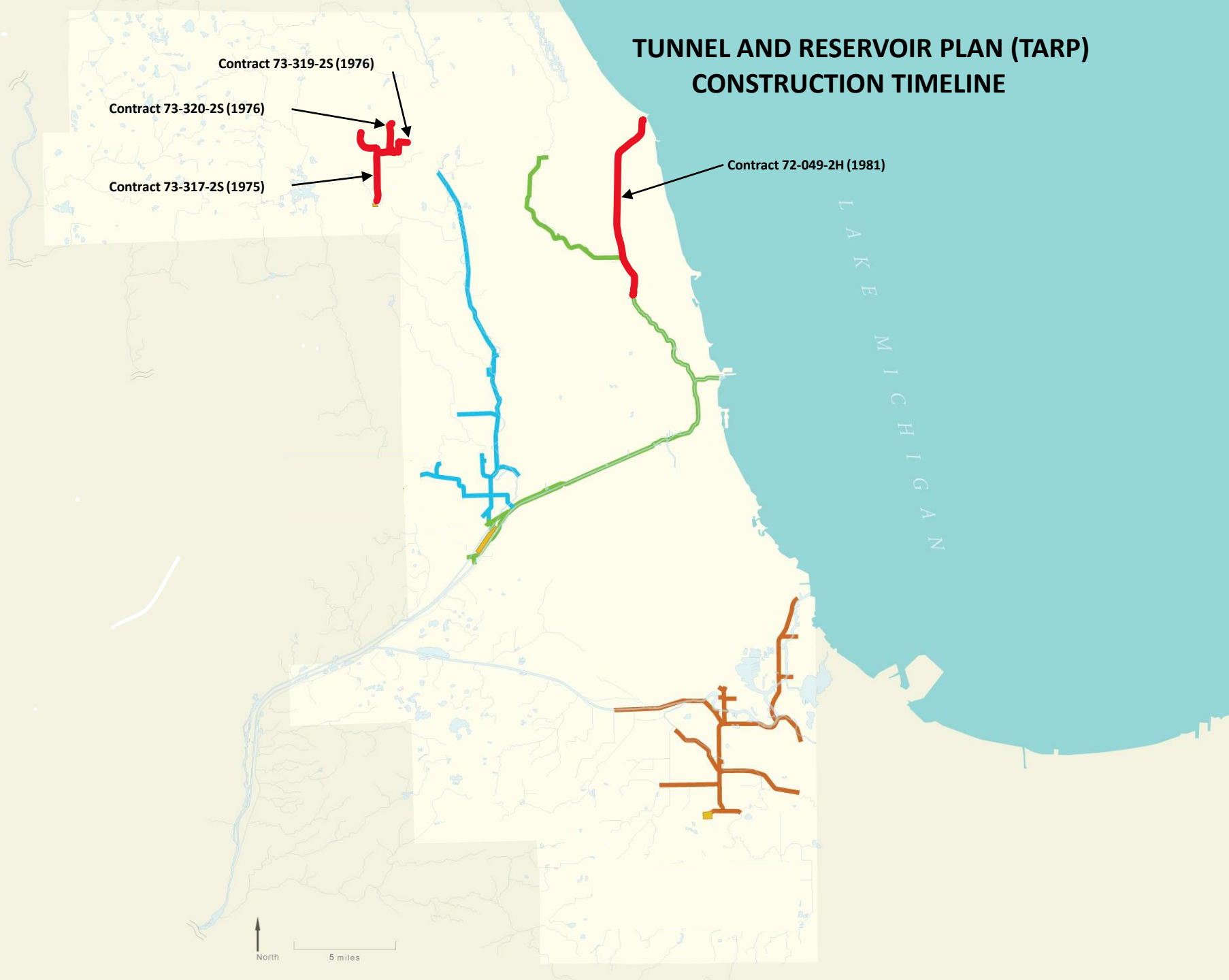
L A K E M I C H I G A N

North

5 miles



# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



Contract 73-319-2S (1976)

Contract 73-320-2S (1976)

Contract 73-317-2S (1975)

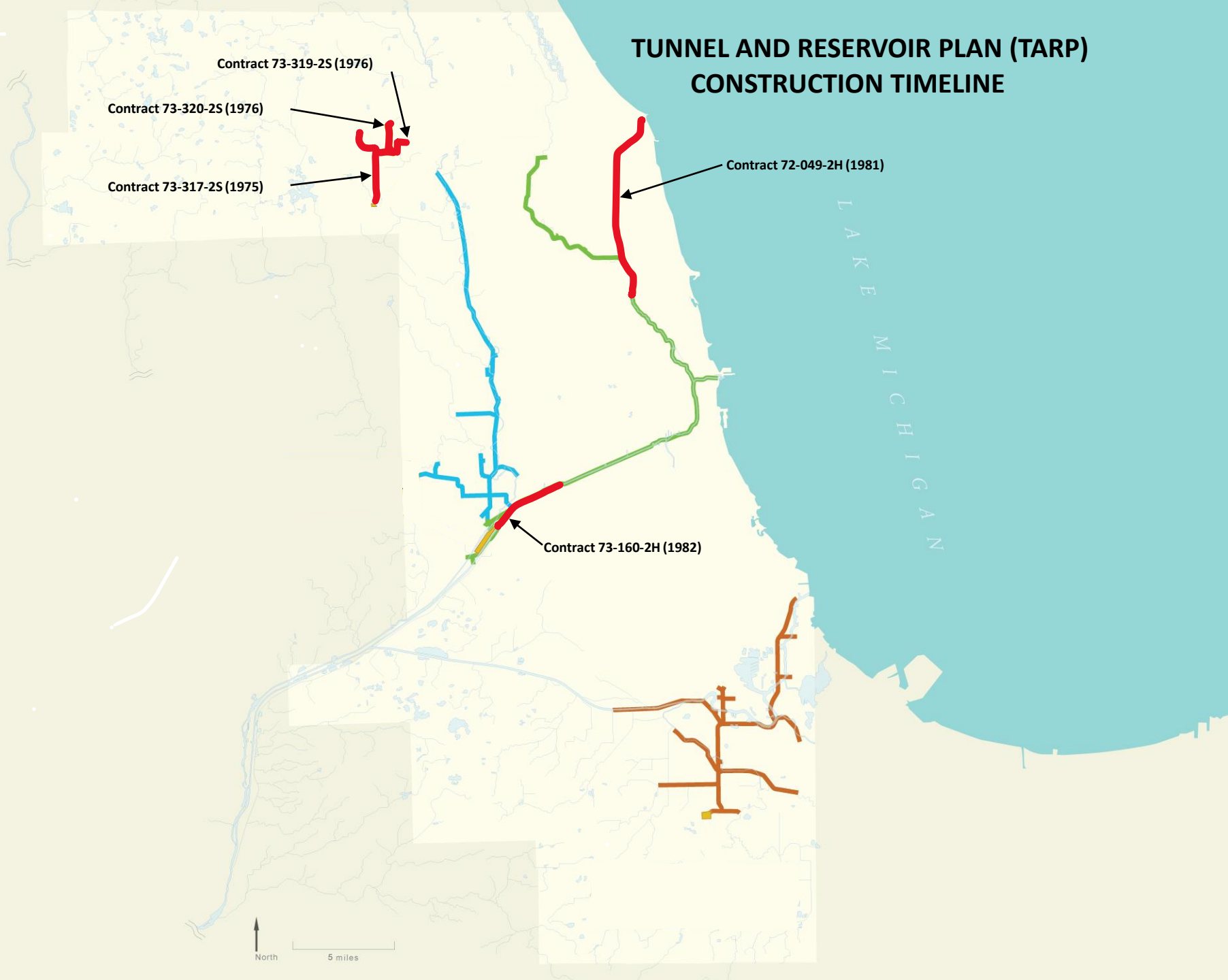
Contract 72-049-2H (1981)

L A K E M I C H I G A N

North

5 miles

# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



Contract 73-319-2S (1976)

Contract 73-320-2S (1976)

Contract 73-317-2S (1975)

Contract 72-049-2H (1981)

Contract 73-160-2H (1982)

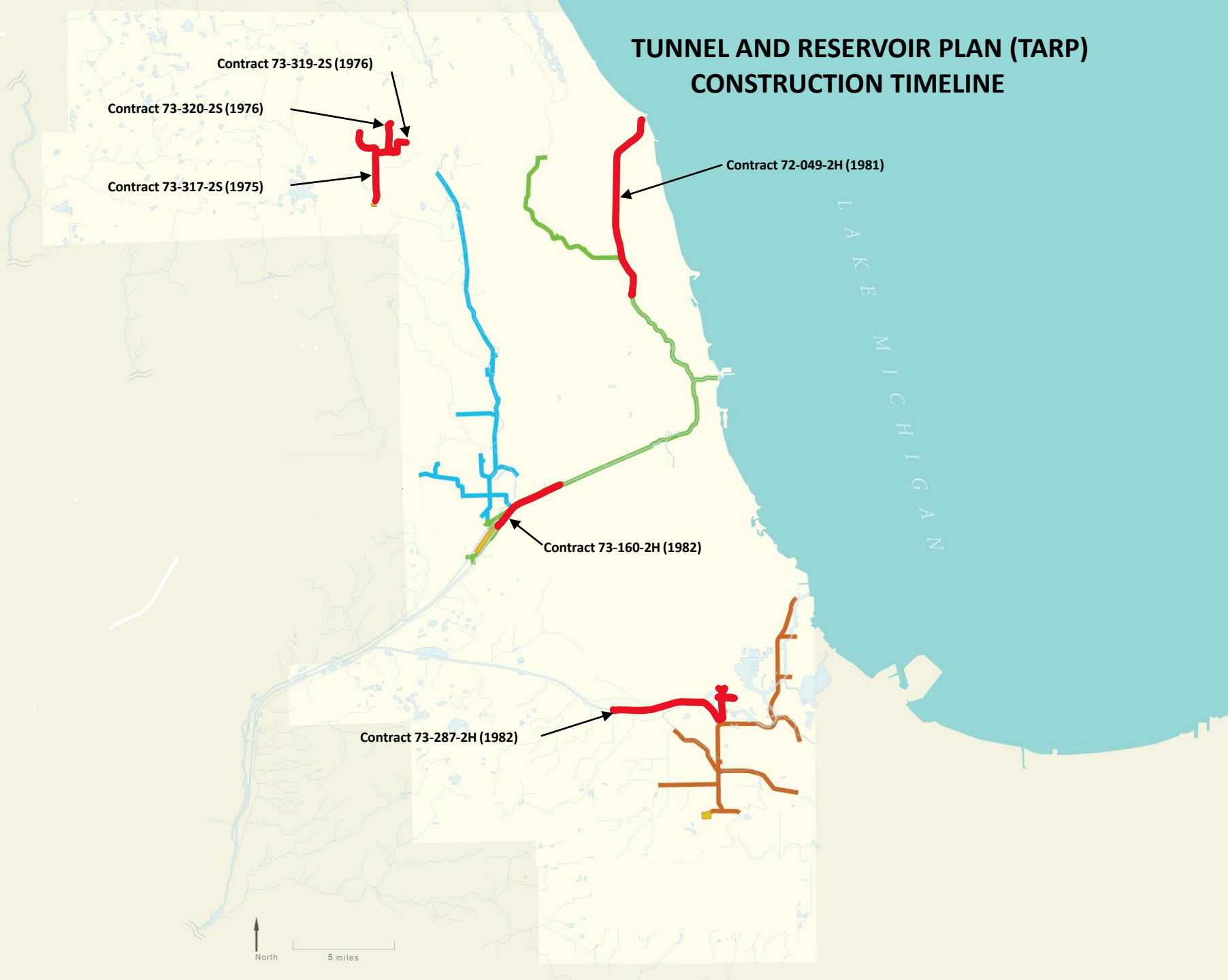
North

5 miles

LAKE MICHIGAN



# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



Contract 73-319-2S (1976)

Contract 73-320-2S (1976)

Contract 73-317-2S (1975)

Contract 72-049-2H (1981)

Contract 73-160-2H (1982)

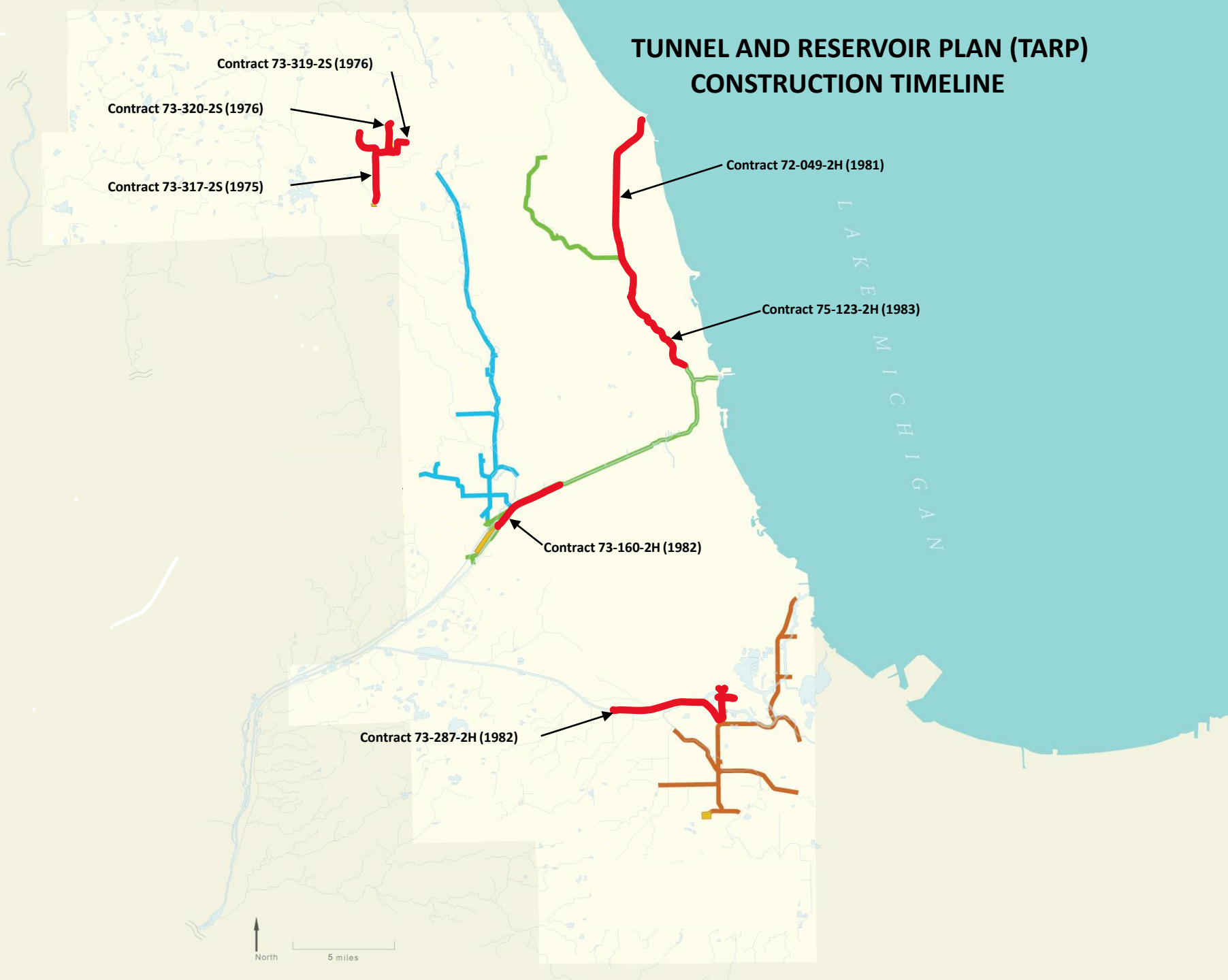
Contract 73-287-2H (1982)

North

5 miles

LAKE MICHIGAN

# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



Contract 73-319-2S (1976)

Contract 73-320-2S (1976)

Contract 73-317-2S (1975)

Contract 72-049-2H (1981)

Contract 75-123-2H (1983)

Contract 73-160-2H (1982)

Contract 73-287-2H (1982)

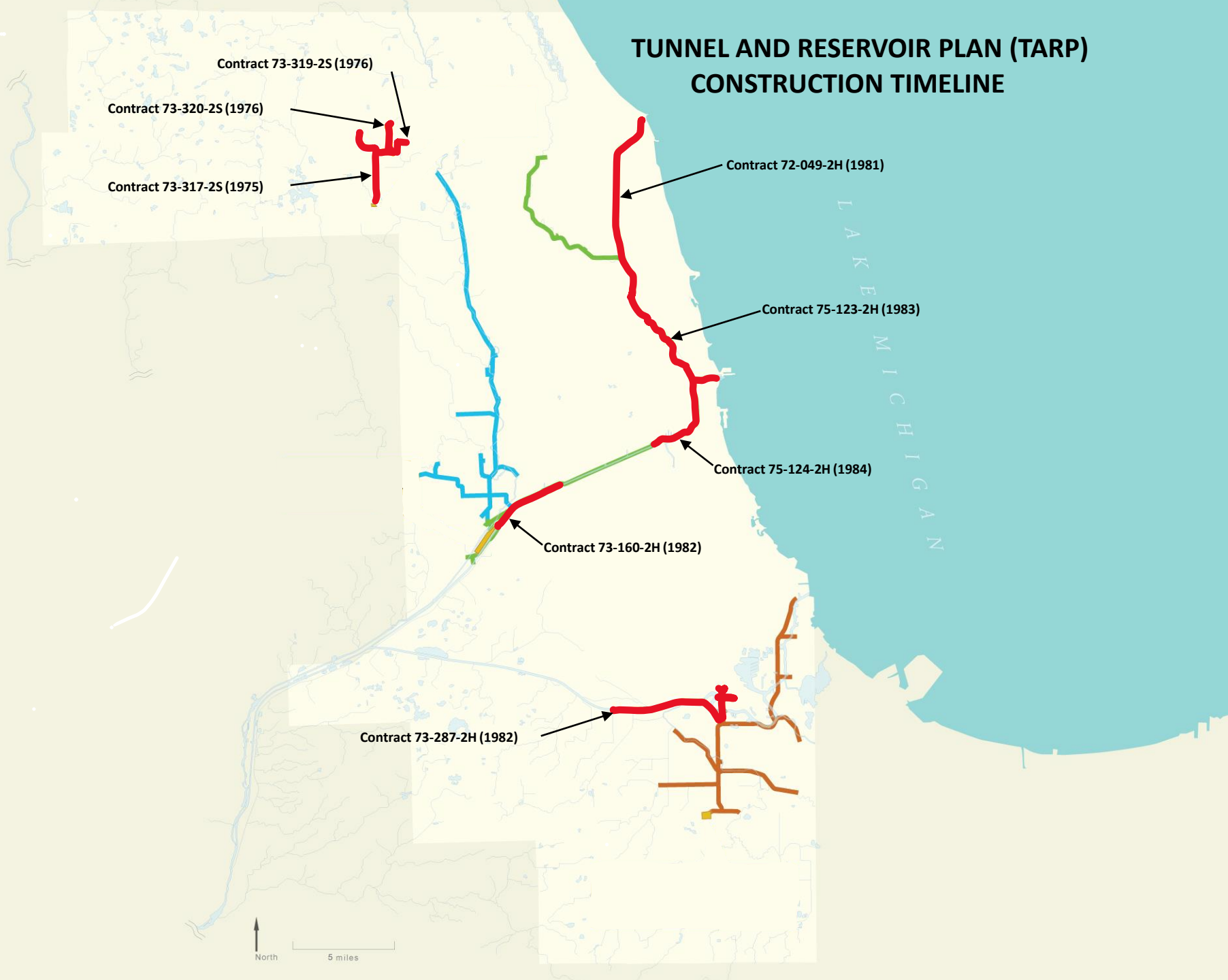
North

5 miles

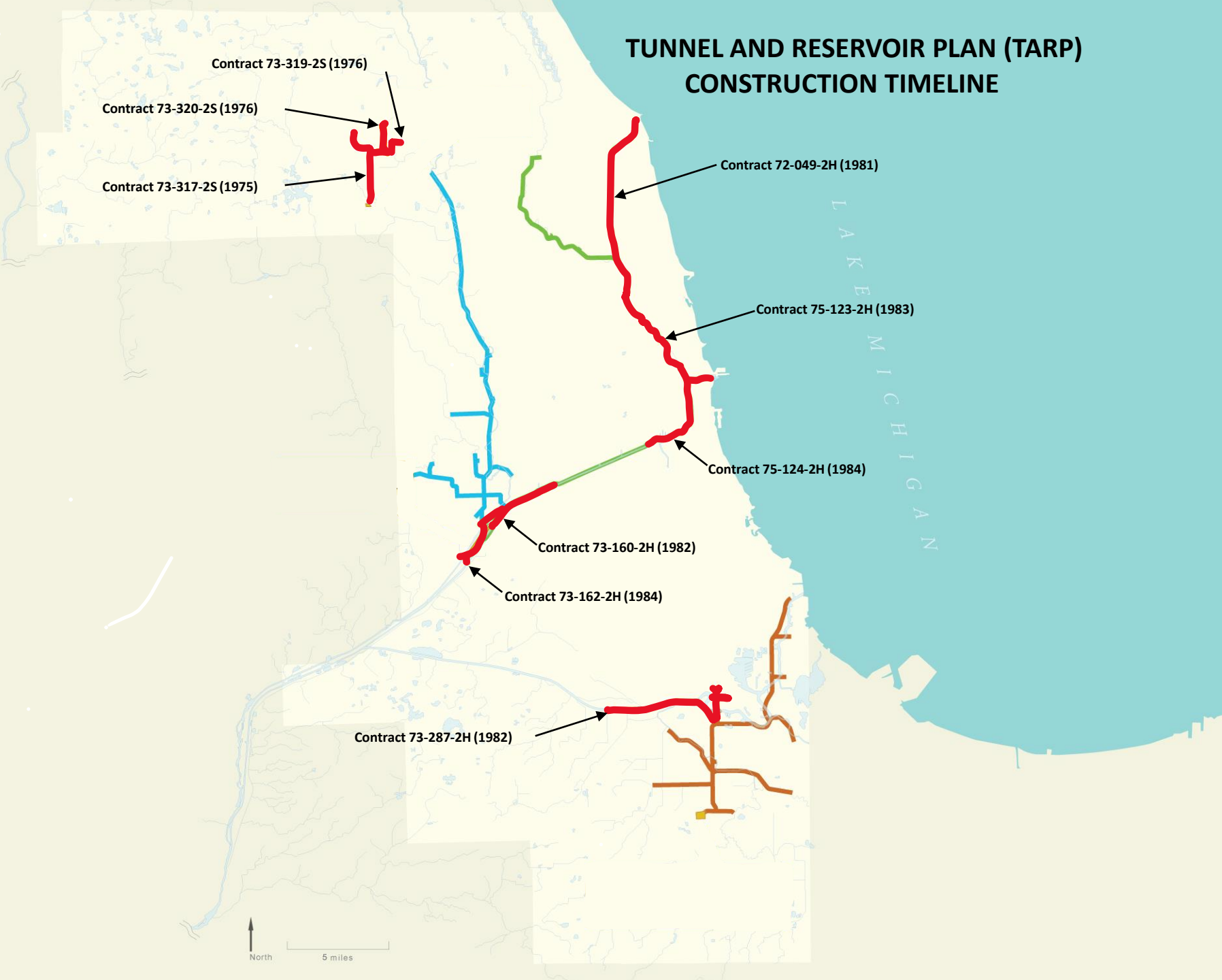
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# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

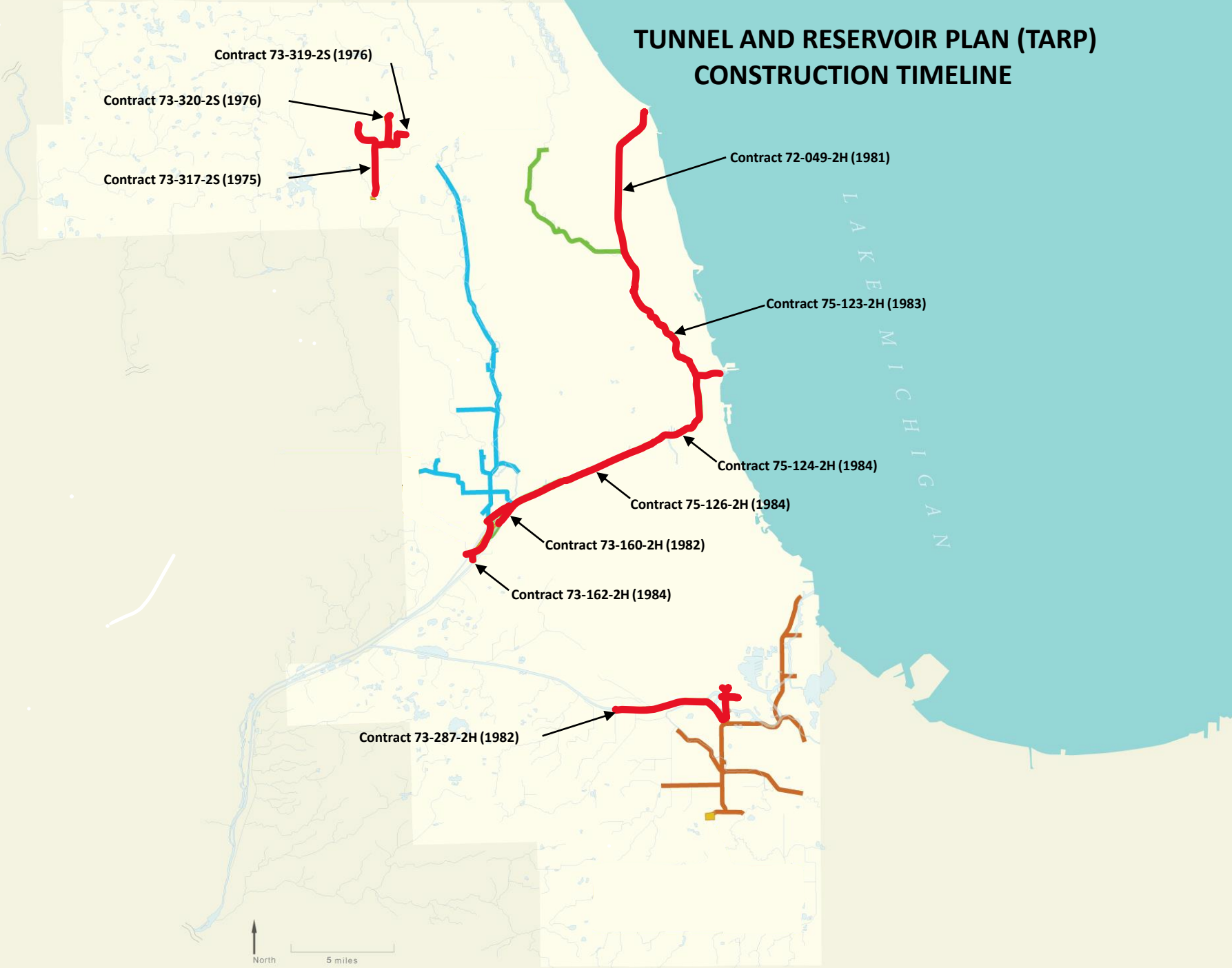


# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE





# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



Contract 73-319-2S (1976)

Contract 73-320-2S (1976)

Contract 73-317-2S (1975)

Contract 72-049-2H (1981)

Contract 75-123-2H (1983)

Contract 75-124-2H (1984)

Contract 75-126-2H (1984)

Contract 73-160-2H (1982)

Contract 73-162-2H (1984)

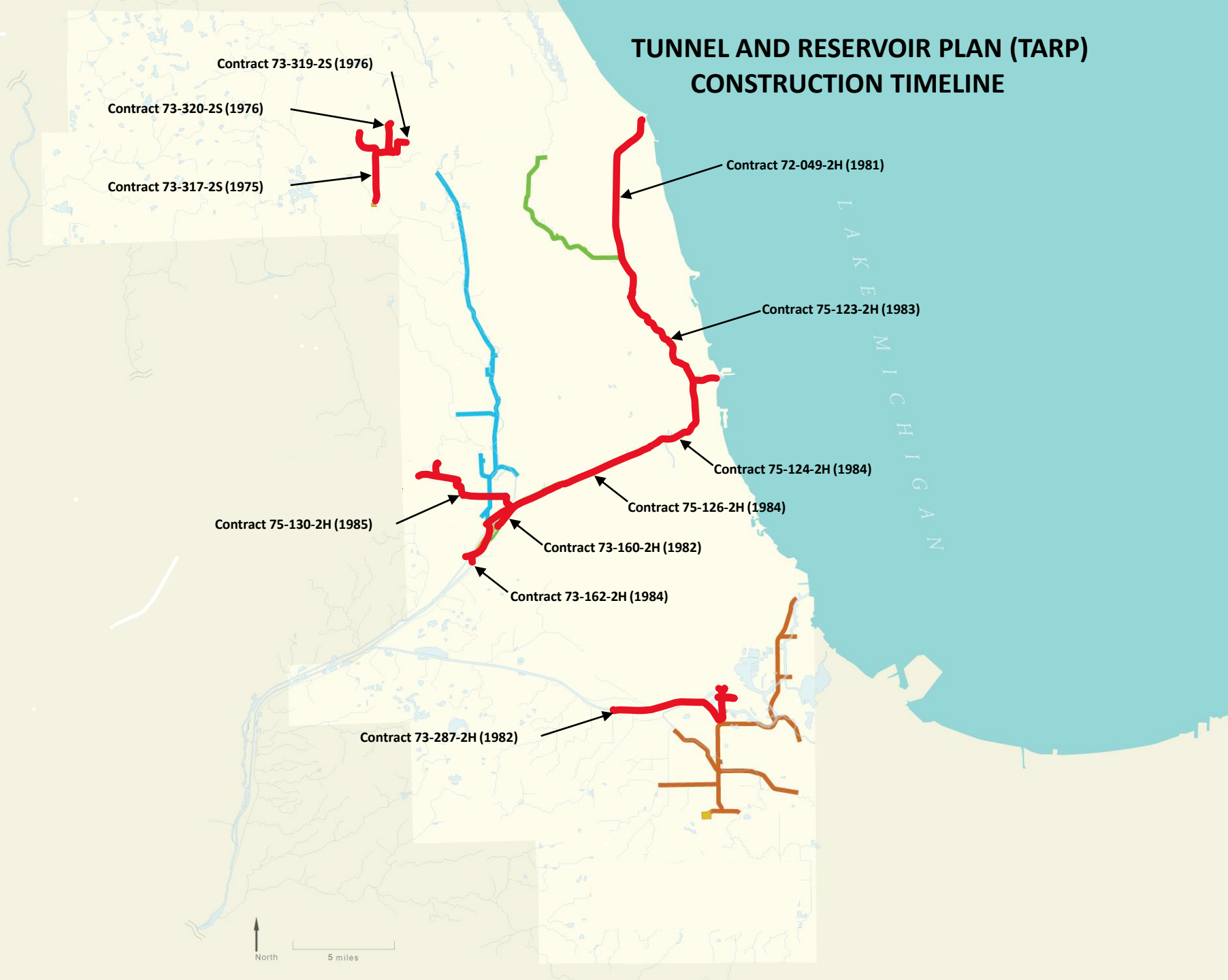
Contract 73-287-2H (1982)



5 miles

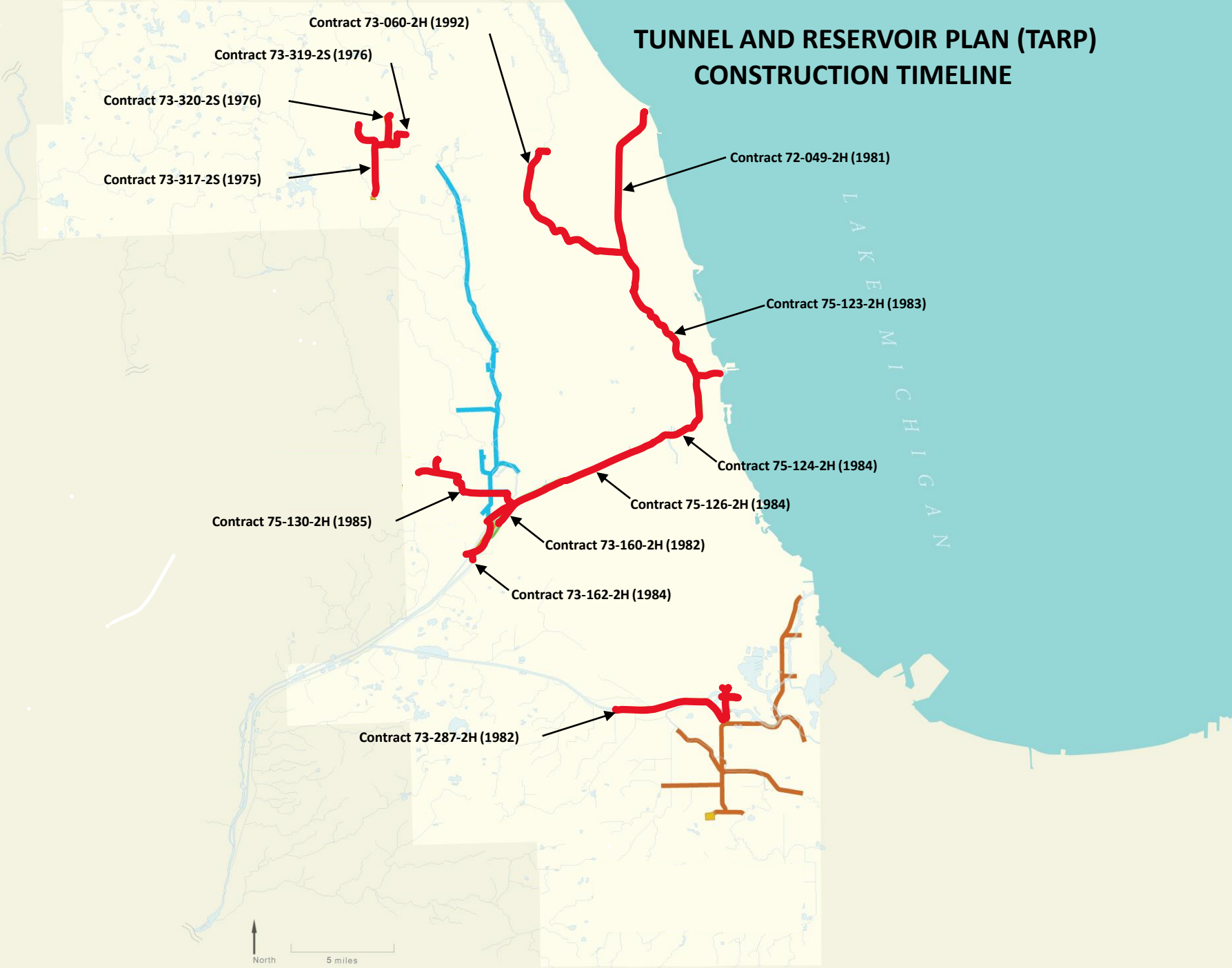
L A K E  
M I C H I G A N

# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



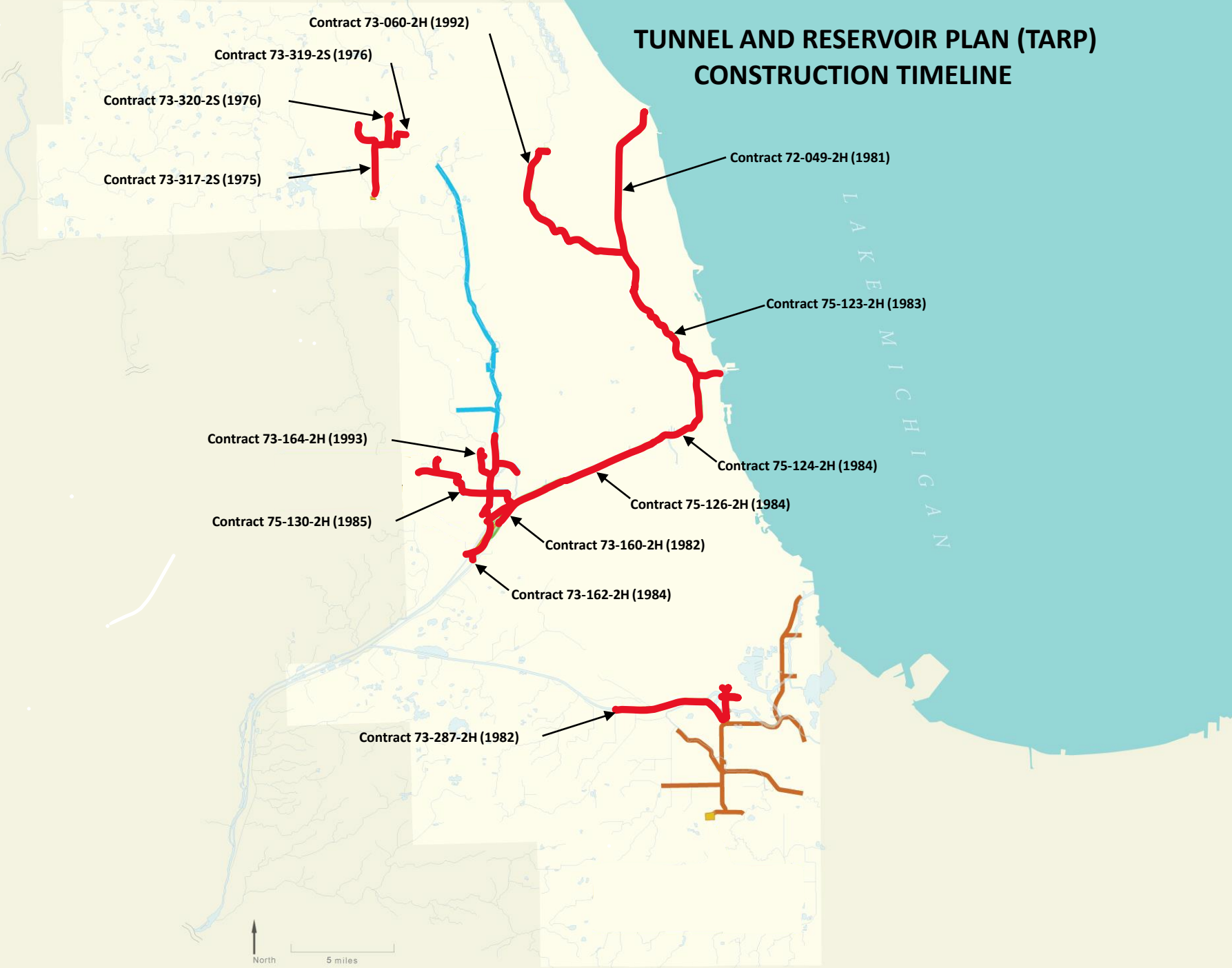


# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



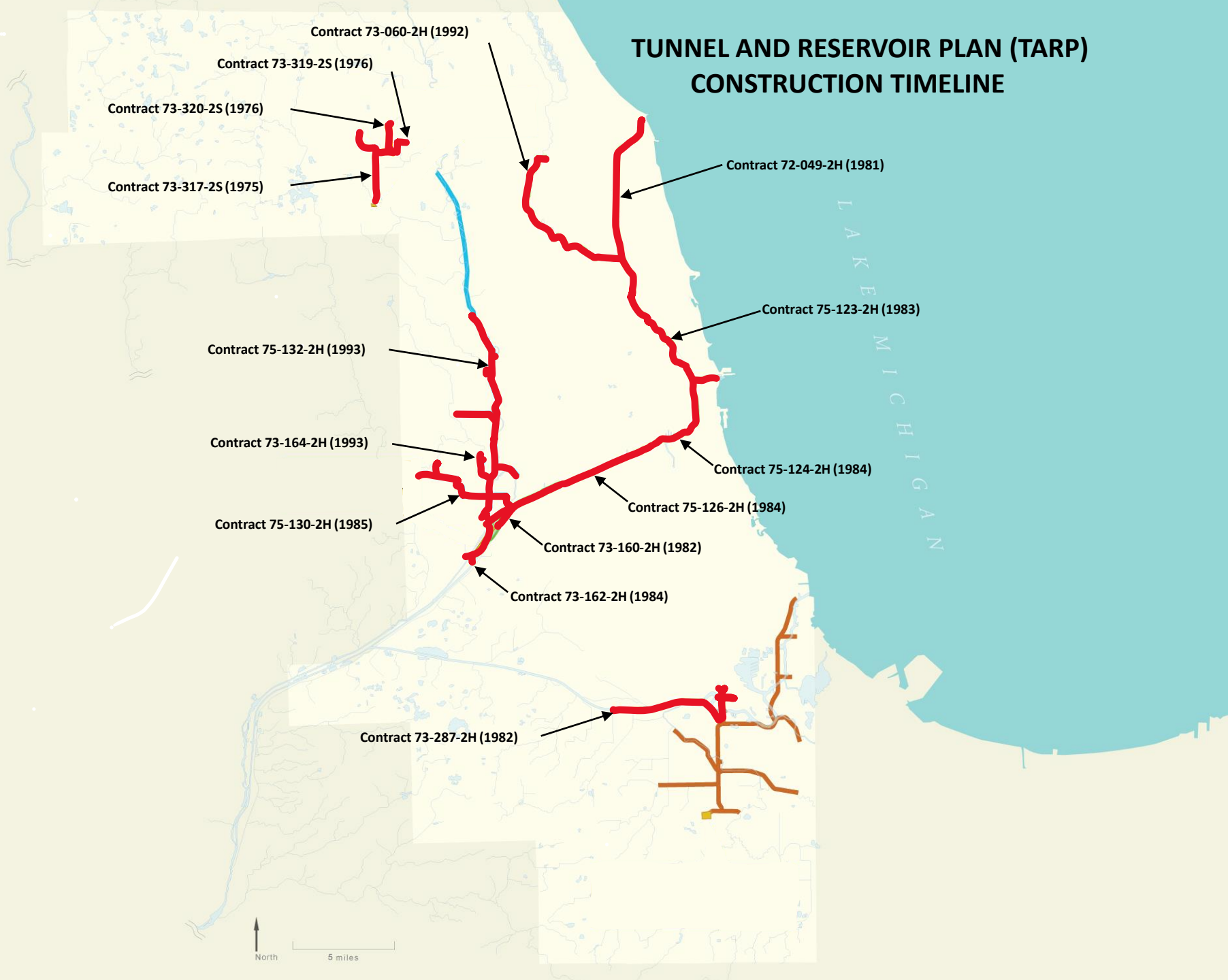
North  
5 miles

# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

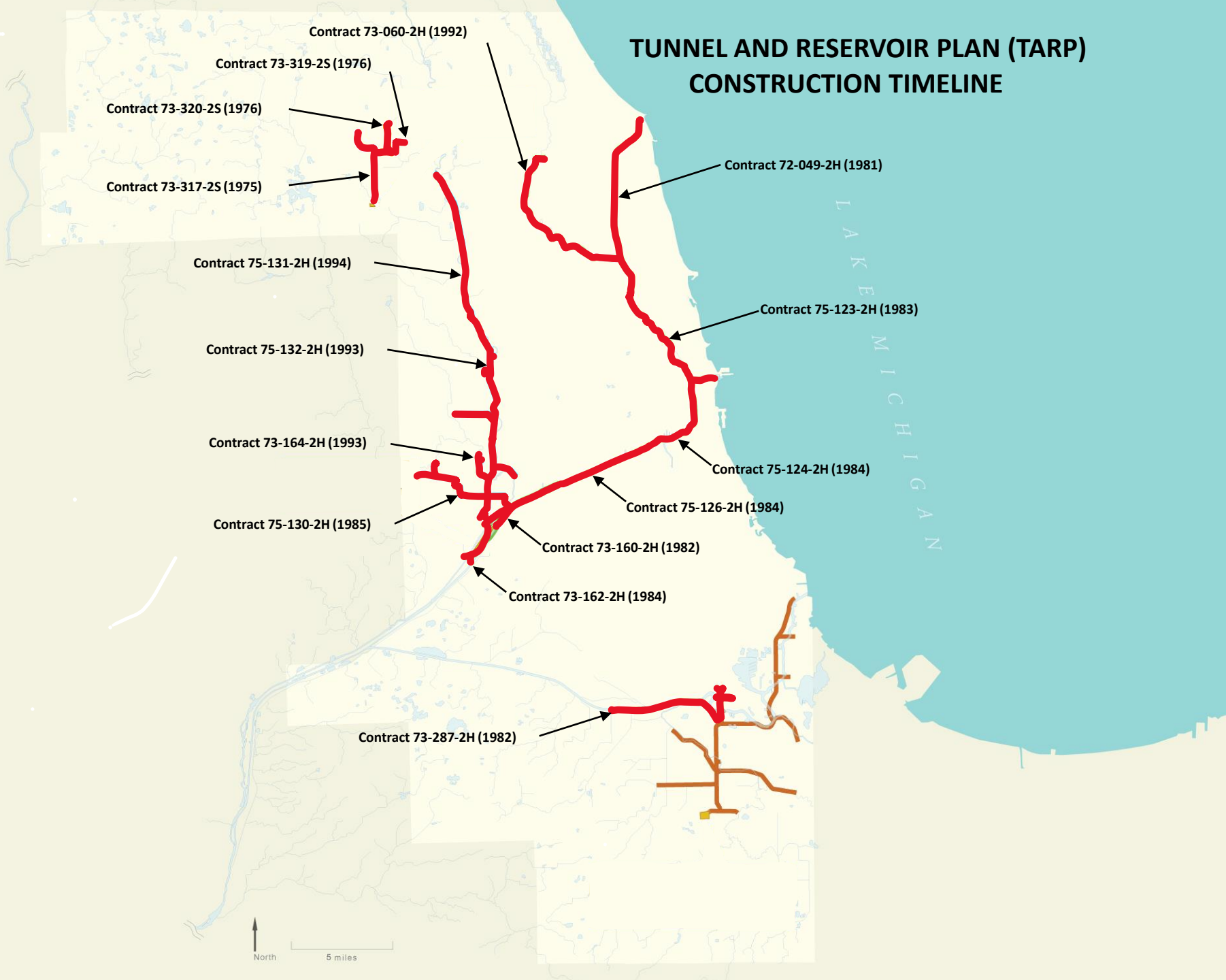




# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

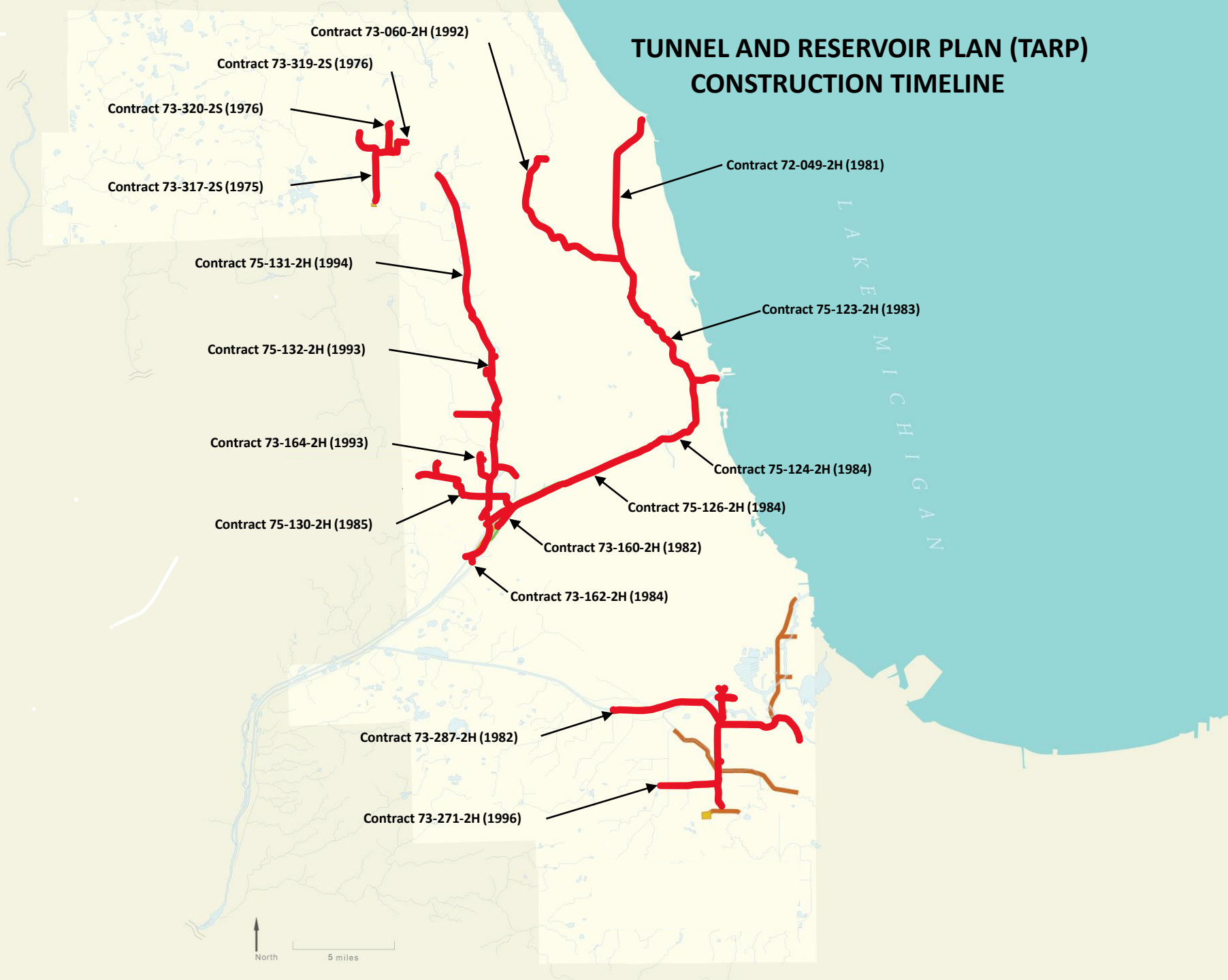


# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

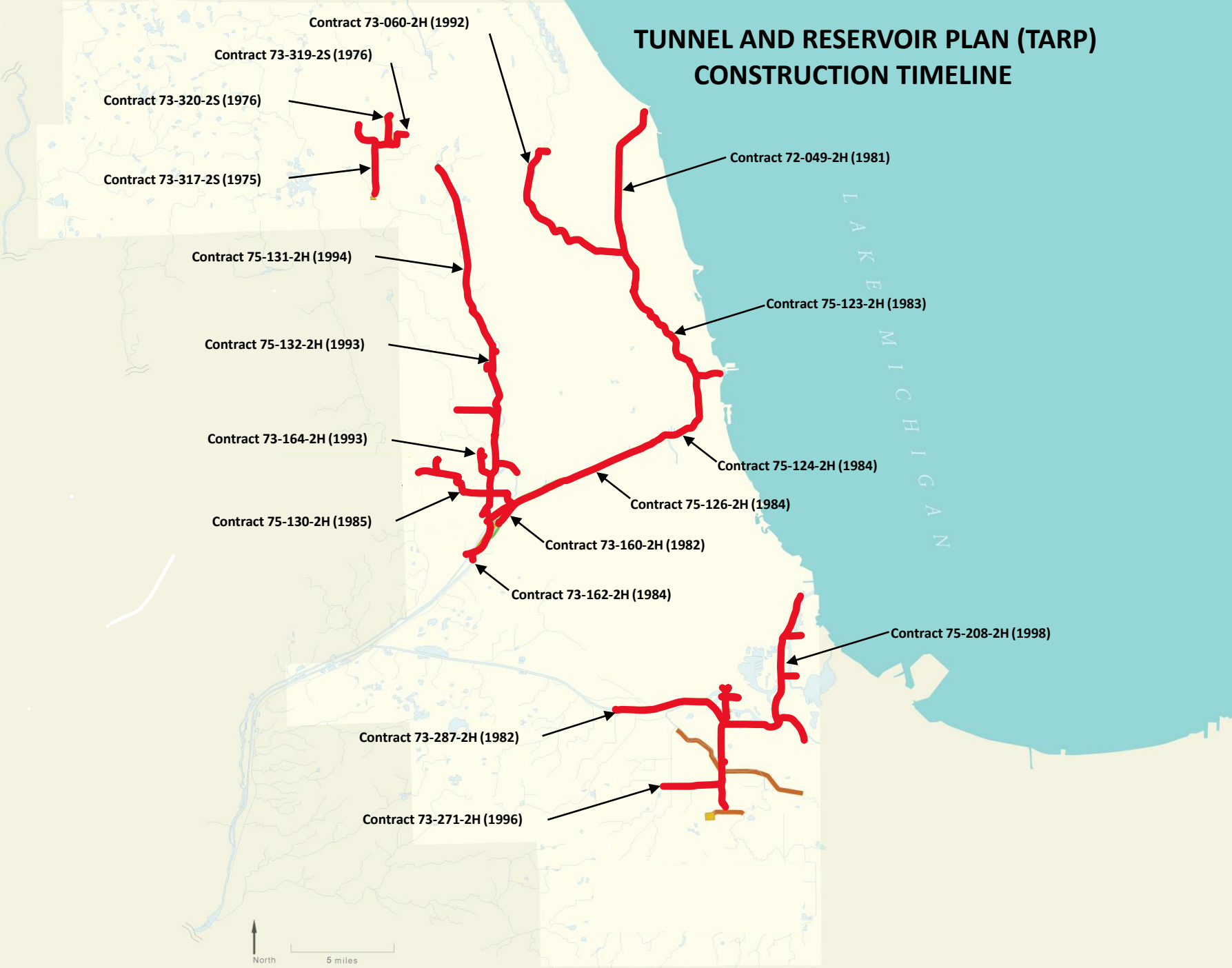




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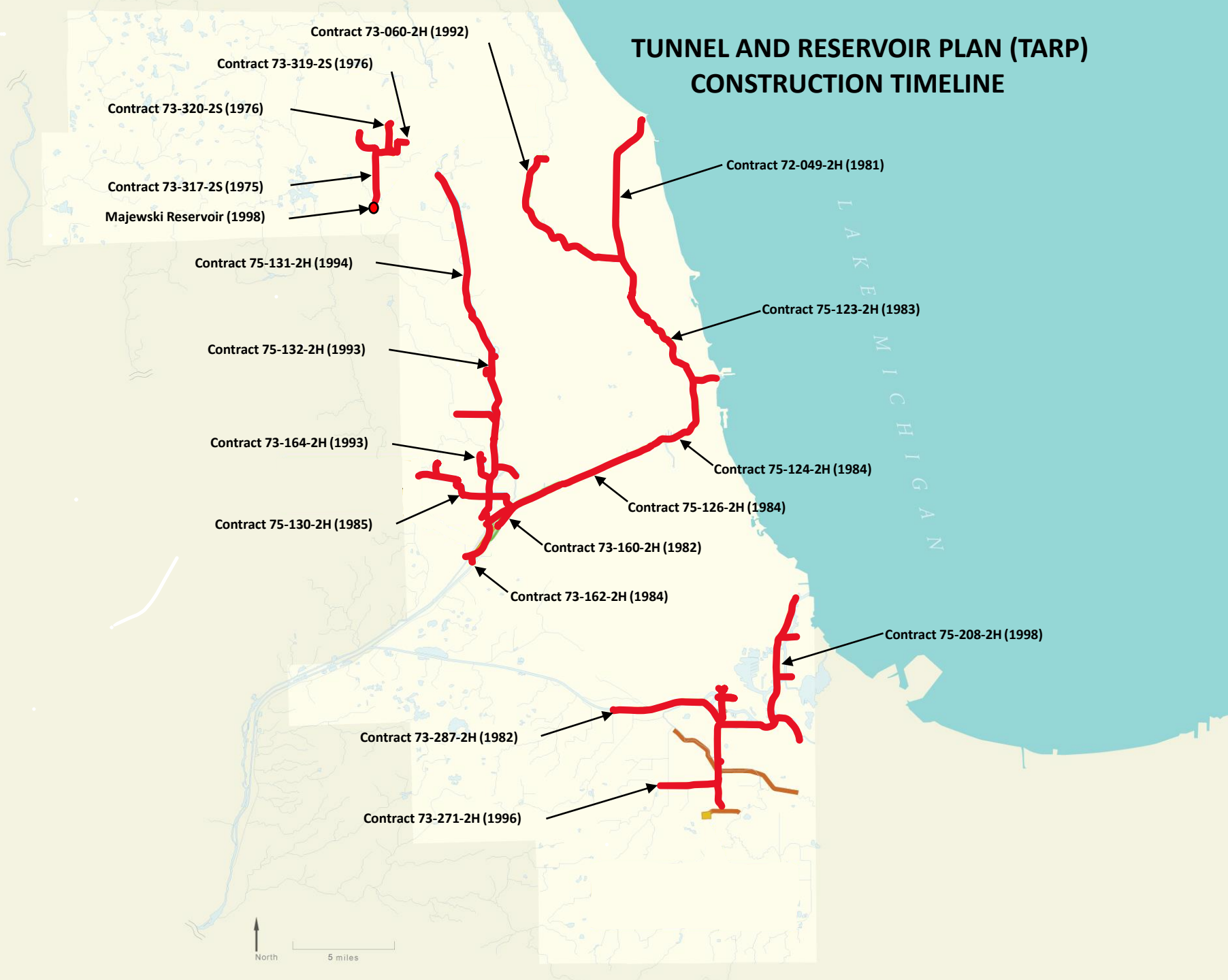


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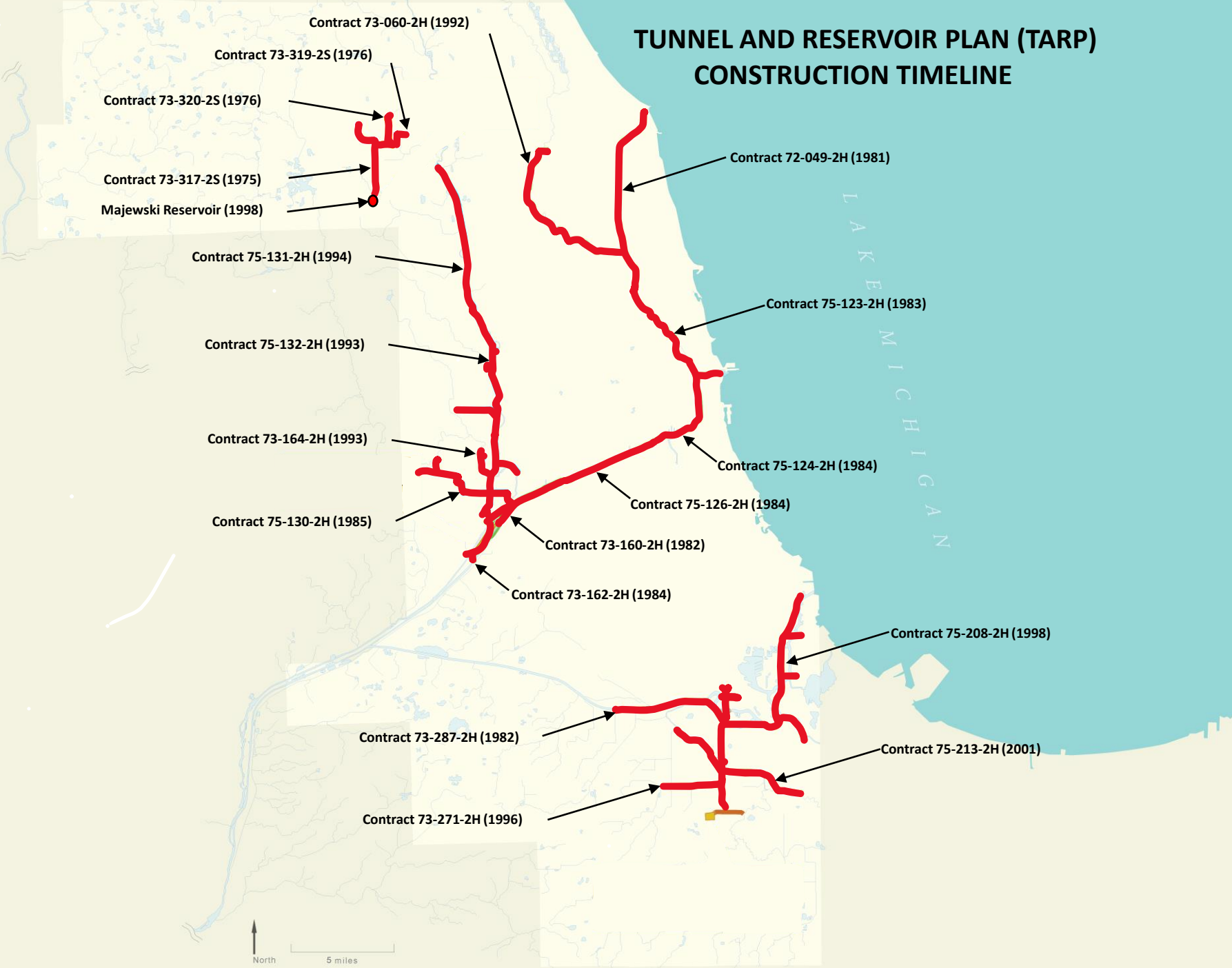




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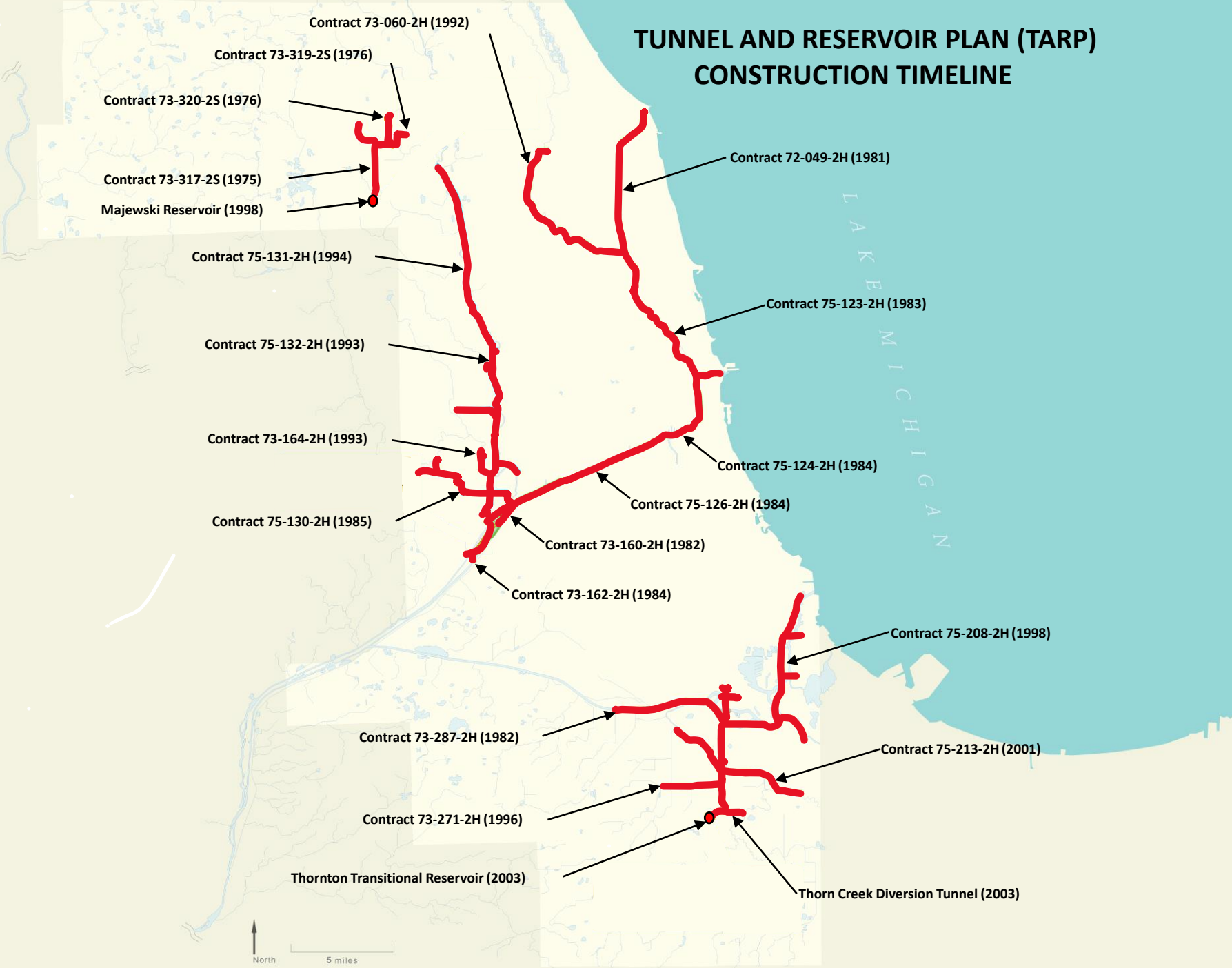


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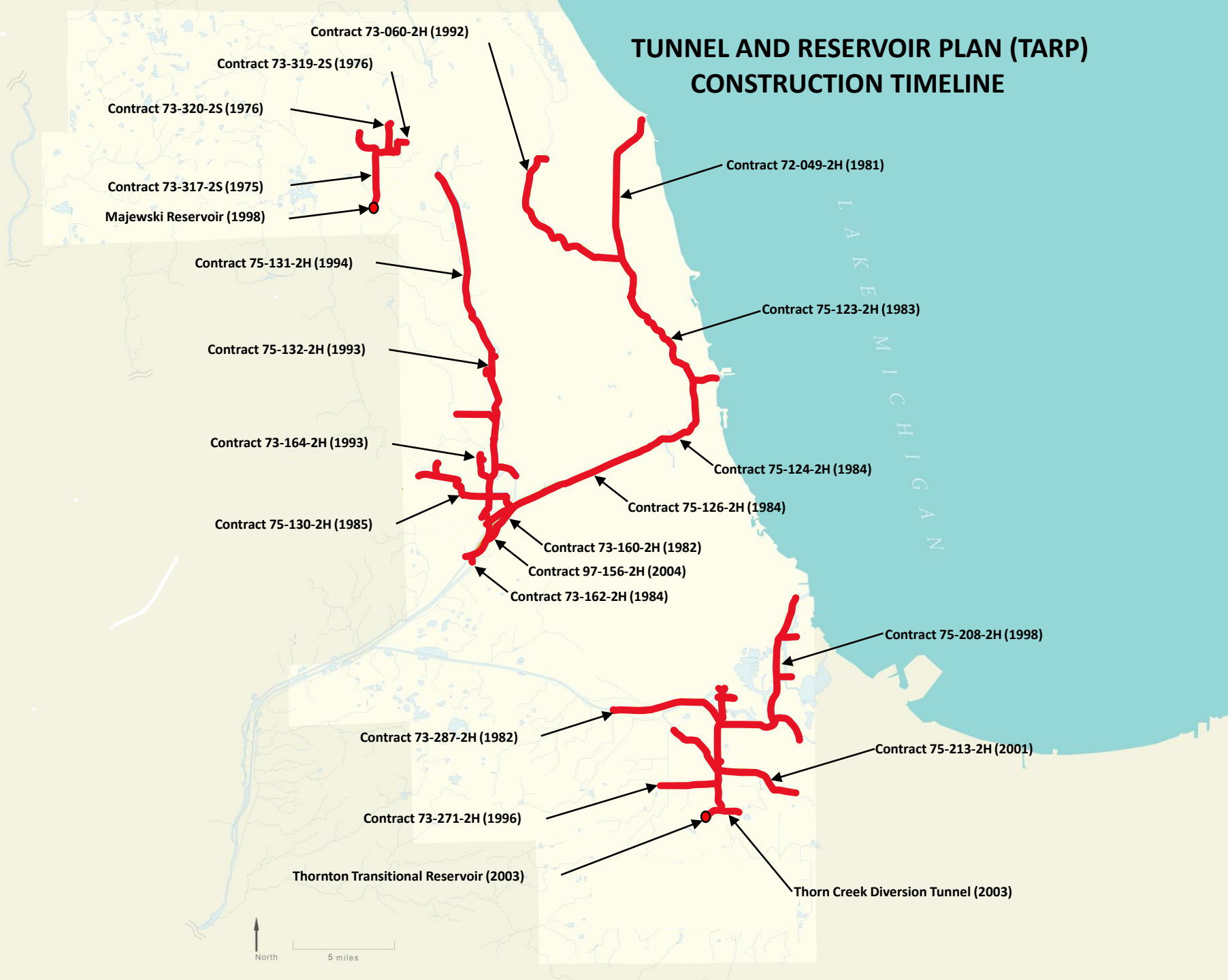




# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

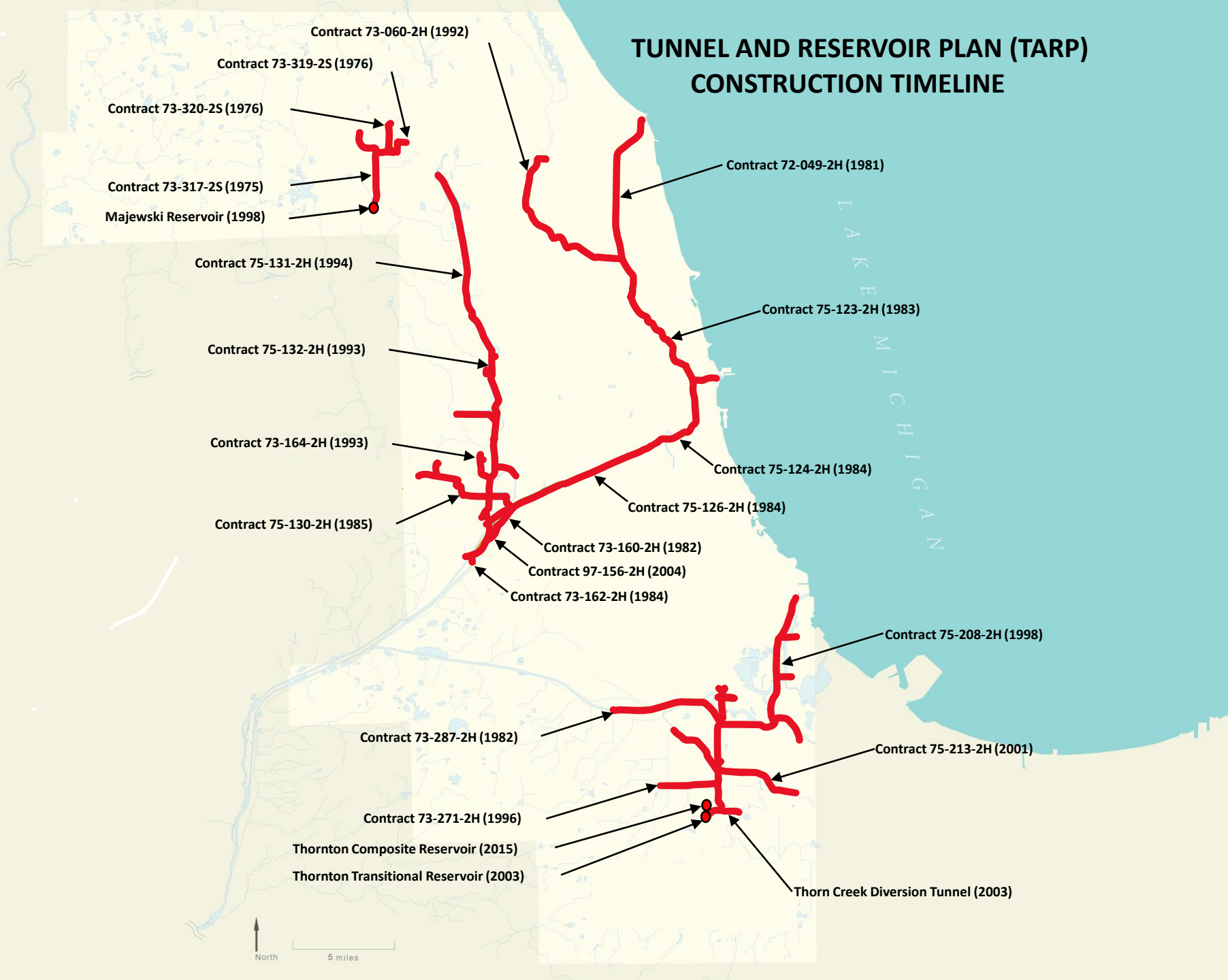


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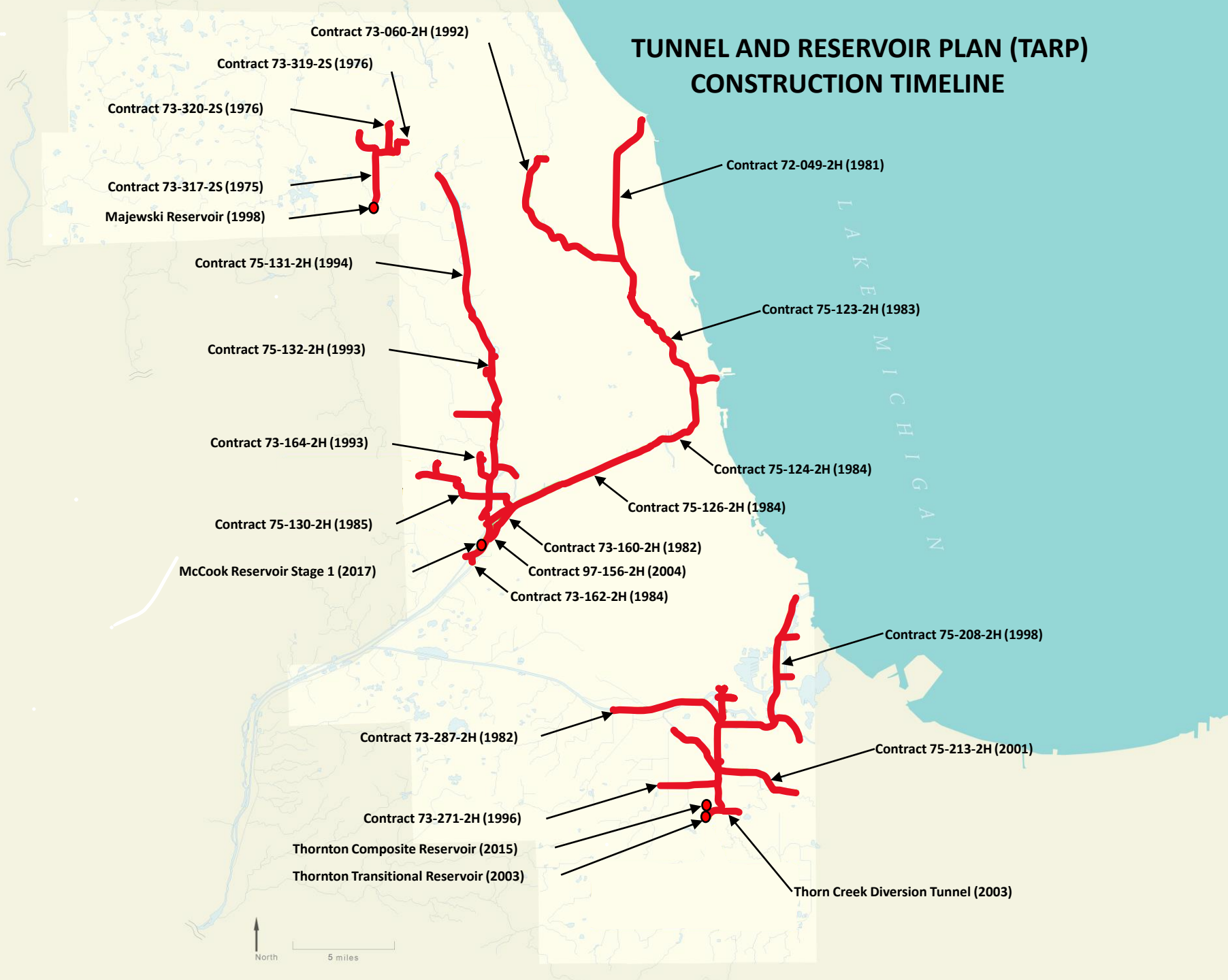




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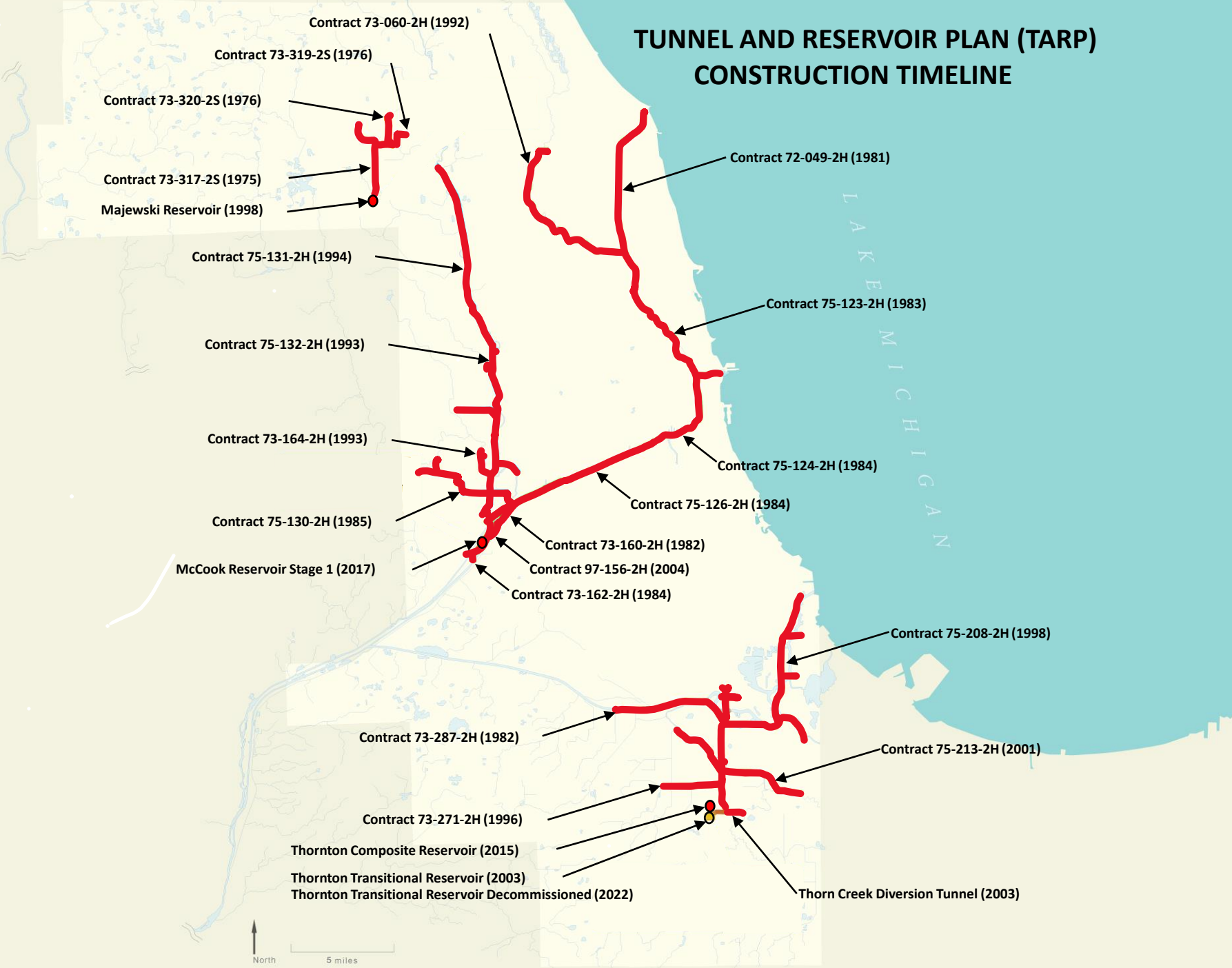


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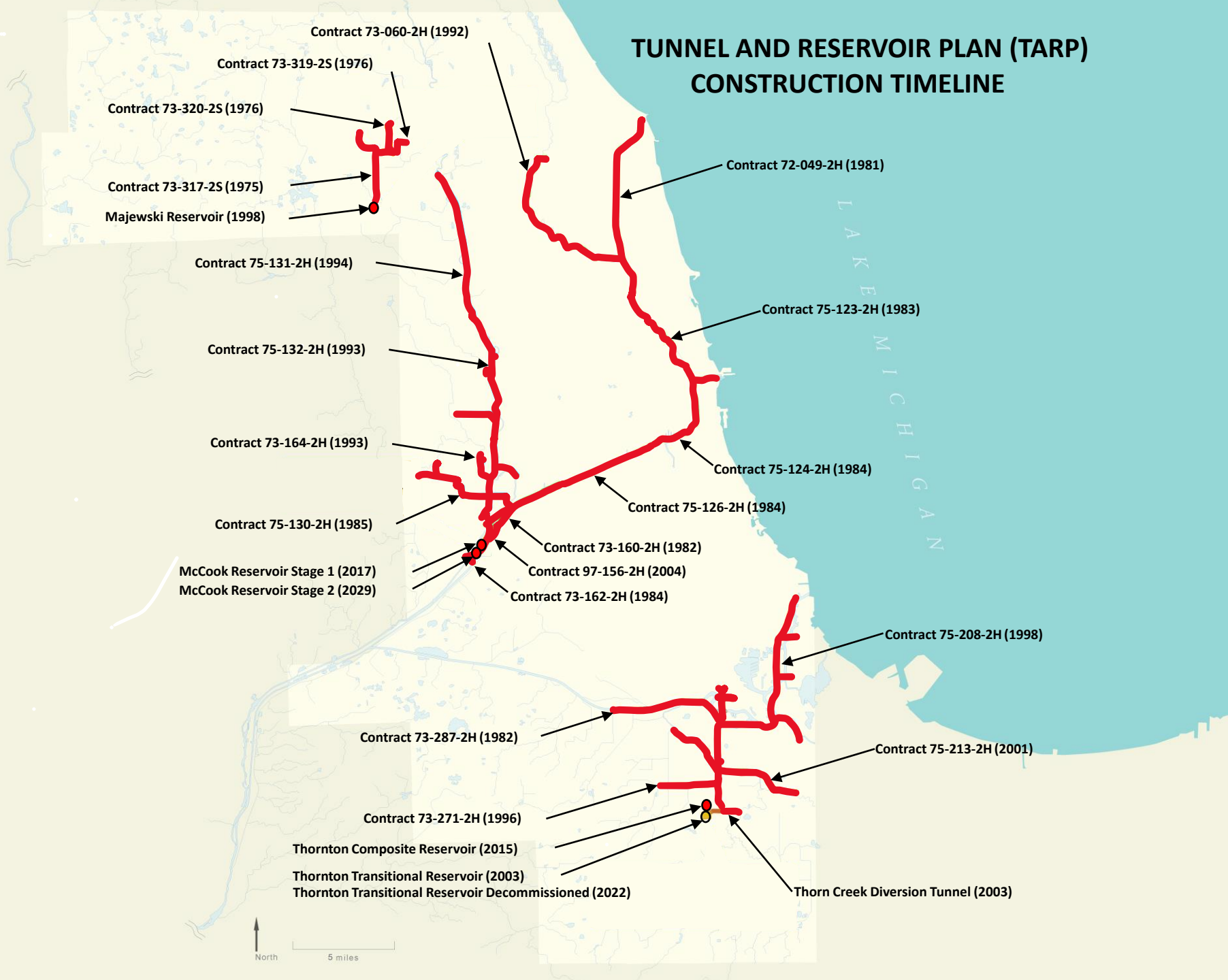




# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



# TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE







# **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

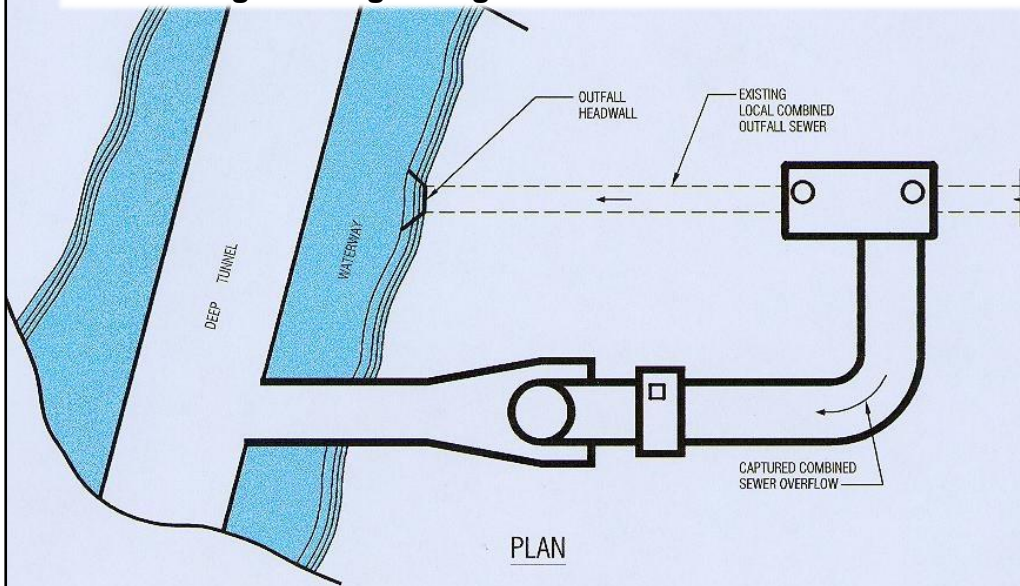
- **1972 – TARP approved by MWRD Board of Commissioners**
- **1975 – Tunnel Construction Begins**
- **1985 – Mainstream Tunnel Placed into Operation**
- **1998 – Majewski Reservoir Completed**
- **2006 – Tunnel System Completed**
- **2015 – Thornton Composite Reservoir Completed**
- **2017 – McCook Reservoir Stage 1 Completed**
- **2029 – McCook Reservoir Stage 2 Scheduled to be Completed**



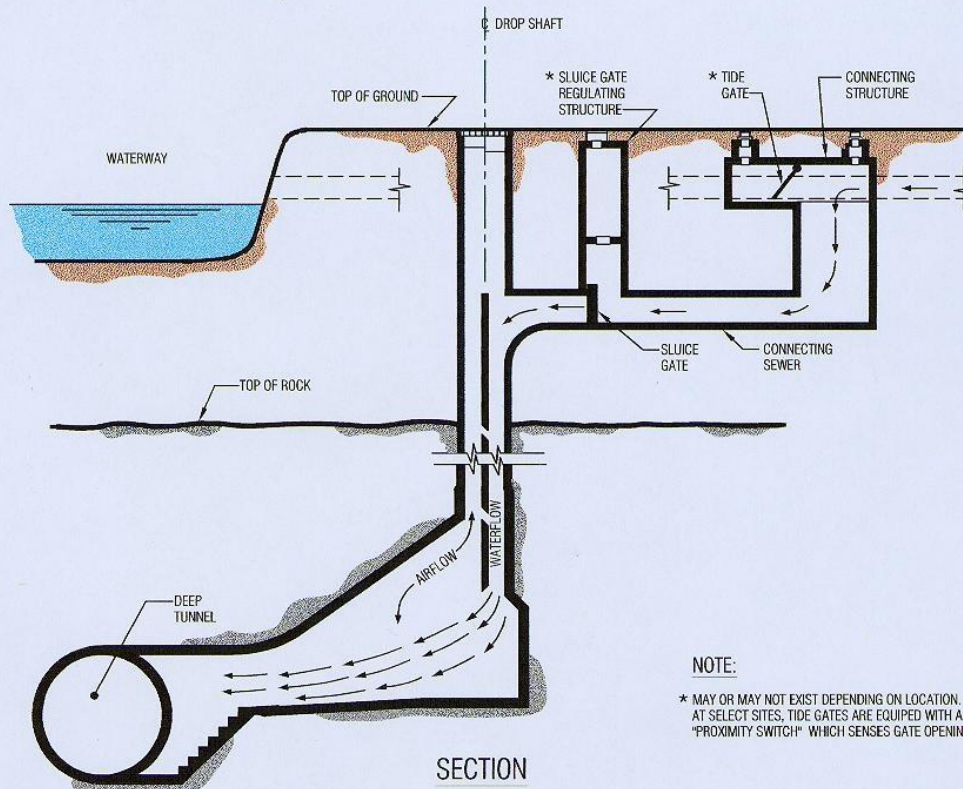
## TARP Phase 1 consisted of:

- **109.4** Miles of Concrete Lined Deep Tunnels
  - 8' – 33' Excavated Diameter
  - 150' – 350' Below Ground
- **264** Dropshafts (4' – 25' Diameter)
- **19** Construction Shafts (25' – 32' Diameter)
- **3** Major Pumping Stations
- Over **600** Near-Surface Connecting and Regulating Structures

# Connecting and Regulating Structures Divert Flows to TARP



PLAN



SECTION

**NOTE:**

\* MAY OR MAY NOT EXIST DEPENDING ON LOCATION. AT SELECT SITES, TIDE GATES ARE EQUIPPED WITH A "PROXIMITY SWITCH" WHICH SENSES GATE OPENINGS.





# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago



**Dropshaft DS-M61A**





# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago



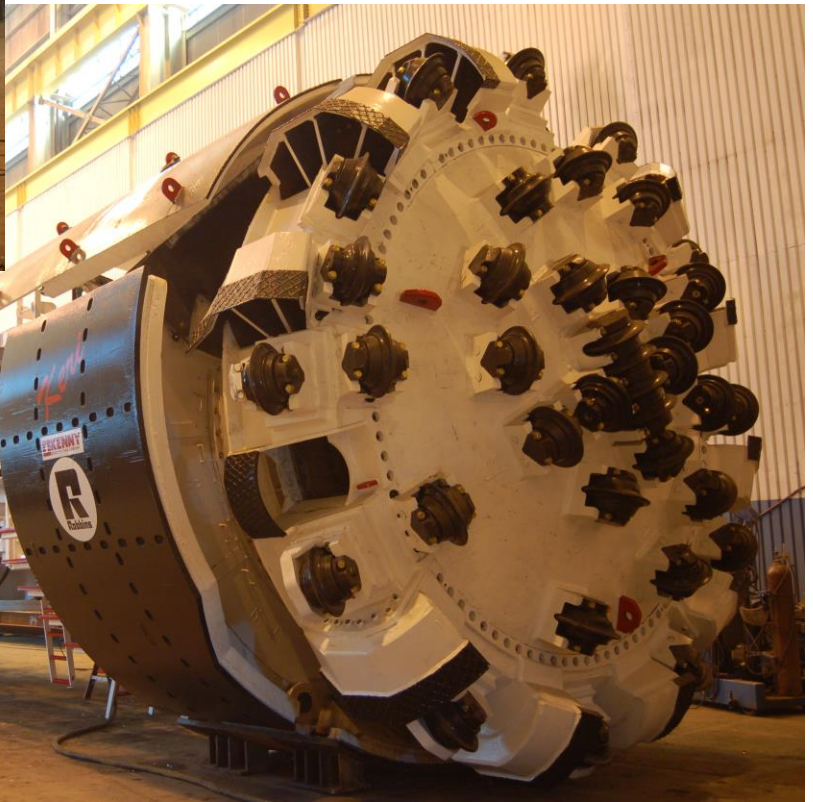
































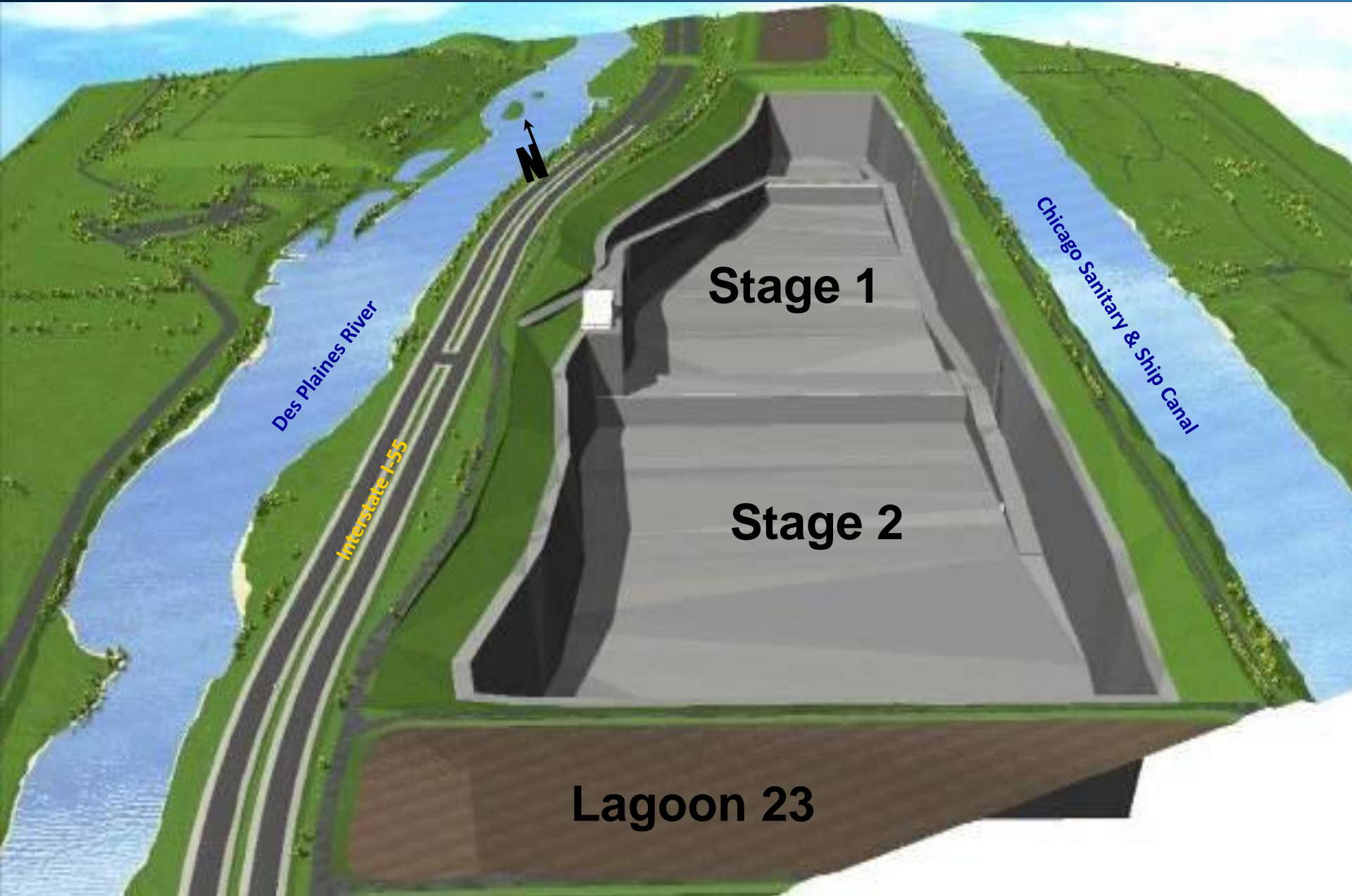




## TARP Phase 2 consisted of:

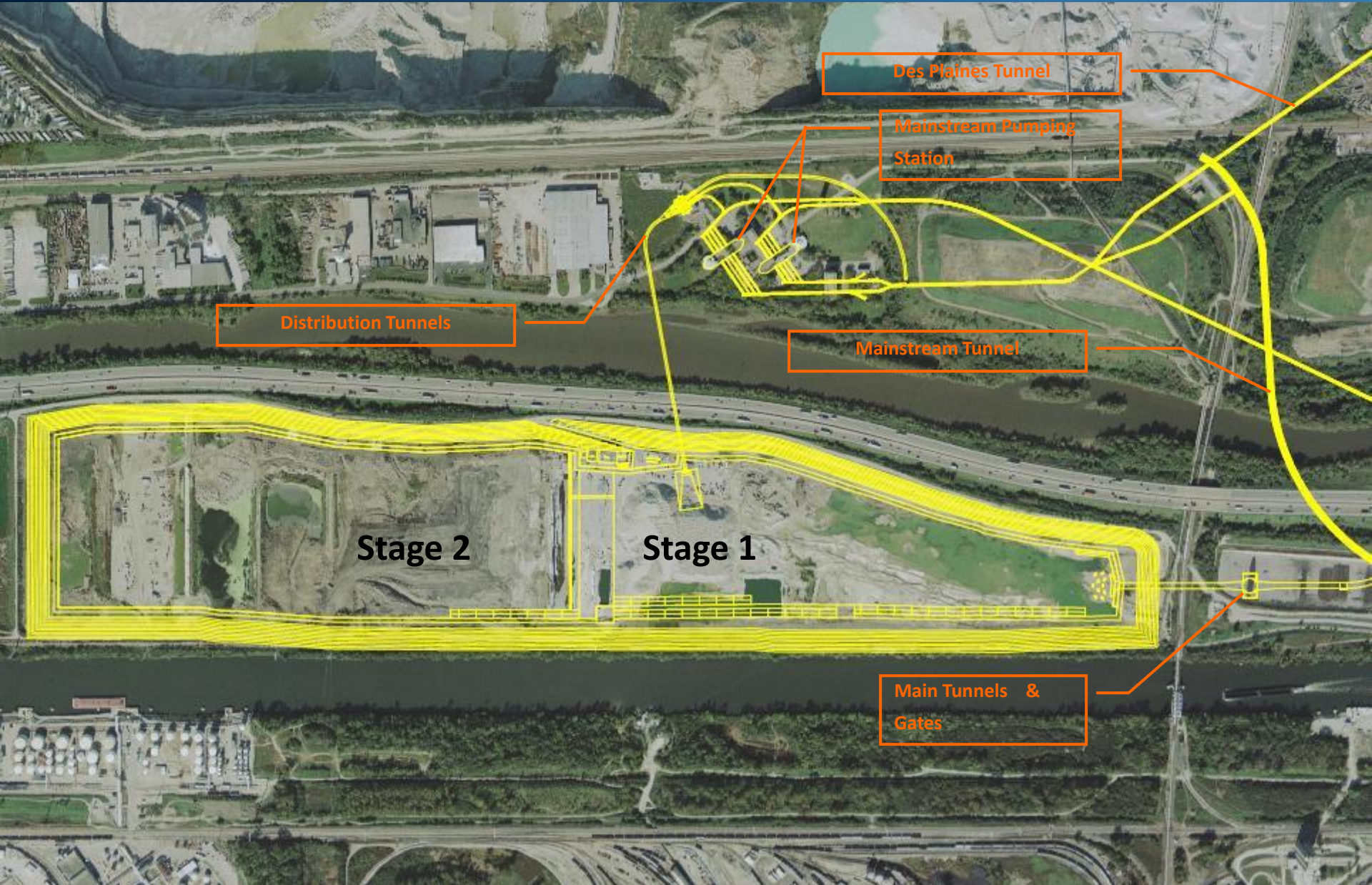
- **O'Hare Cup (Majewski) Reservoir (1998)**
  - Service Area = 11 square miles; 3 communities
- **Thornton Composite Reservoir (2015)**
  - Service Area = 91 square miles; 14 communities
- **McCook Reservoir (Stage 1 - 2017)**
  - Service Area = 255 square miles; 37 communities
  - Stage 2 to be completed in 2029

# McCook Reservoir





# McCook Reservoir



Des Plaines Tunnel

Mainstream Pumping Station

Distribution Tunnels

Mainstream Tunnel

Stage 2

Stage 1

Main Tunnels & Gates























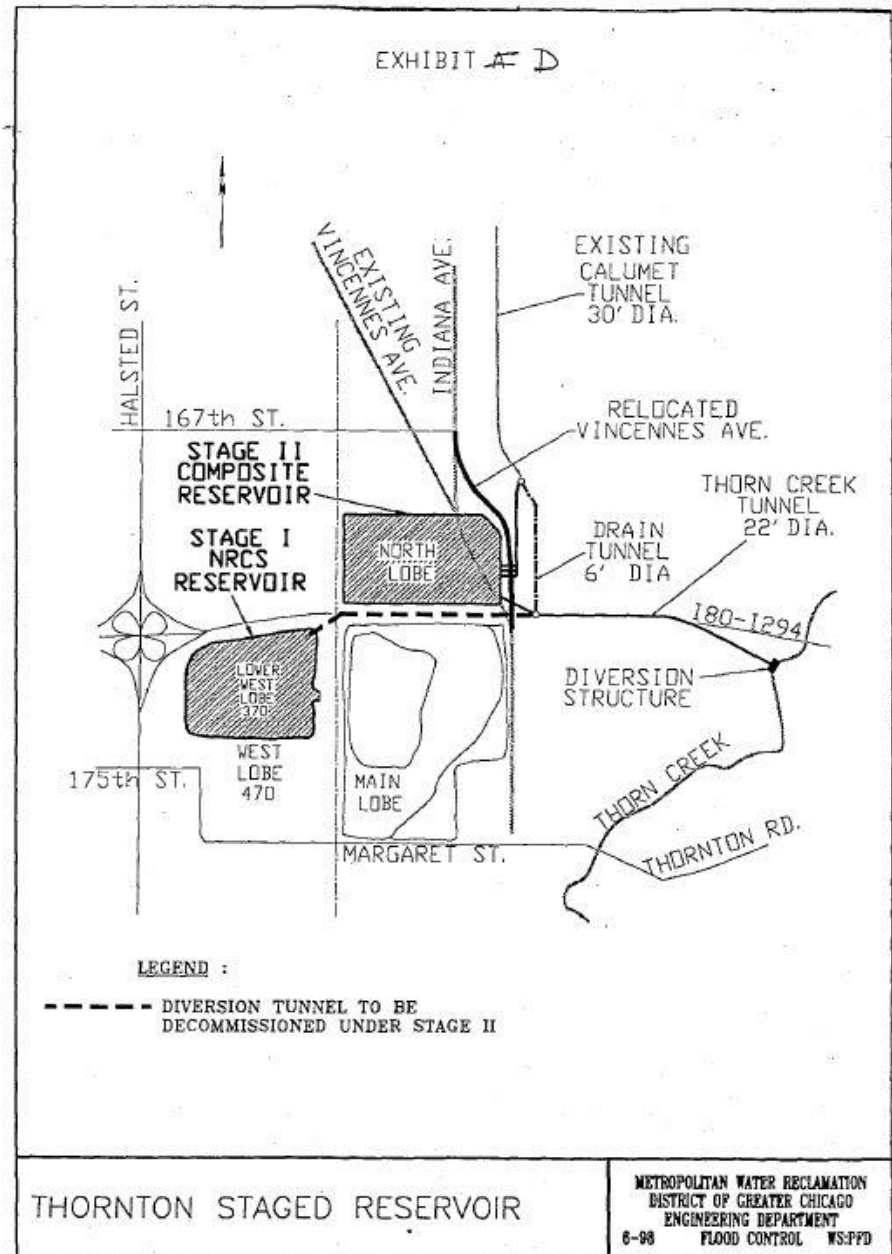


# Thornton Composite Reservoir

Flood Control

AGREEMENT  
BY AND BETWEEN  
MATERIAL SERVICE CORPORATION  
AND  
THE METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION  
DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO

DATED JUNE 18, 1998





# Thornton Composite Reservoir



Andy's Grille

Transport Finishes, Inc

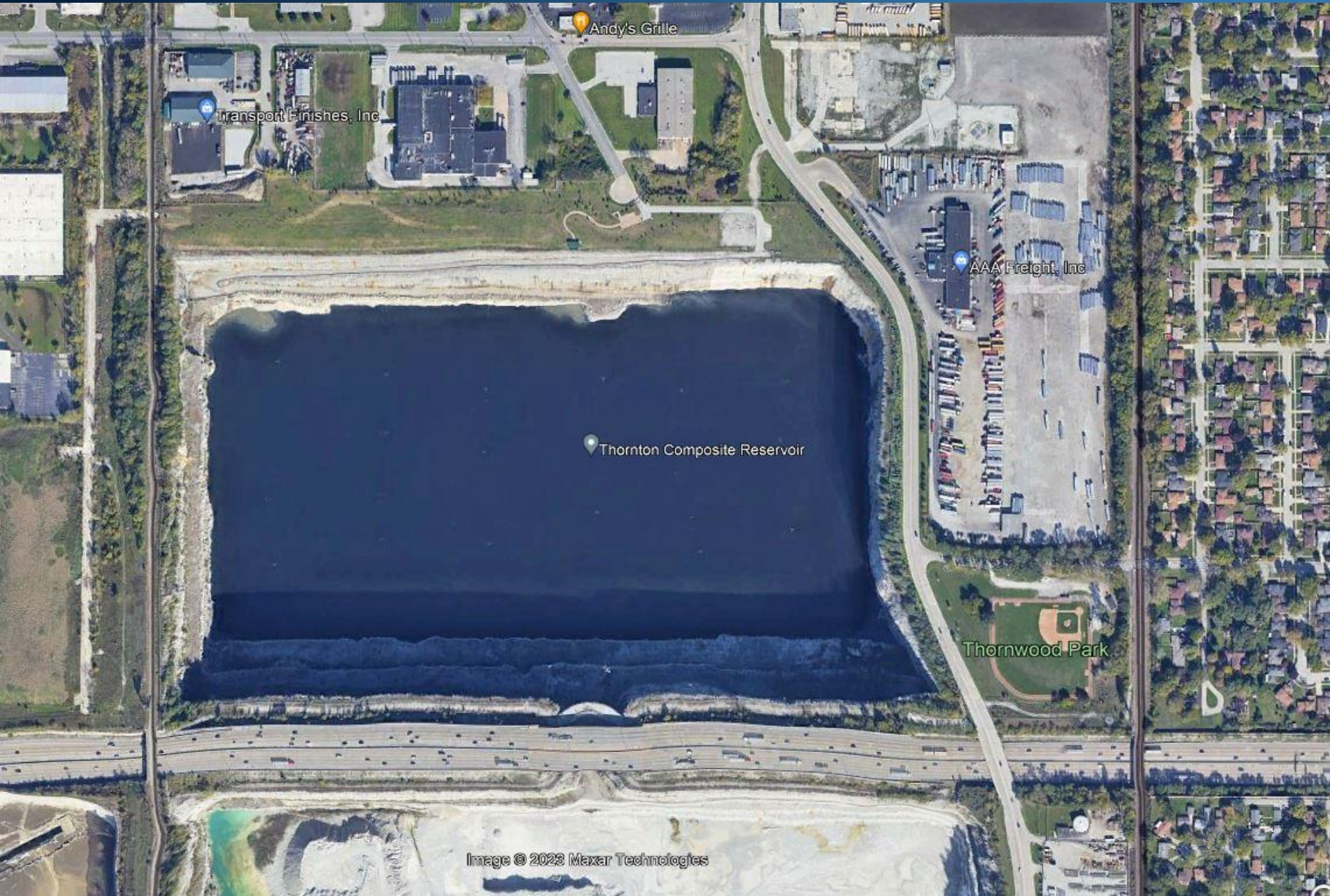
AAA Freight, Inc

Thornton Composite Reservoir

Thornwood Park



# Thornton Composite Reservoir





# Thornton Composite Reservoir



# NORTH LOBE OF THORNTON QUARRY LOOKING SOUTH

Gap Dam Location







JLG ULTRA BOOM 1350SJ

CENTRAL  
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, INC.  
709-230-7940  
777  
9013



# Gloria Alitto Majewski Reservoir

Completed 1998; Volume = 350 Million Gallons





# Thornton Composite Reservoir

Completed 2015

Volume = 7.9 Billion Gallons

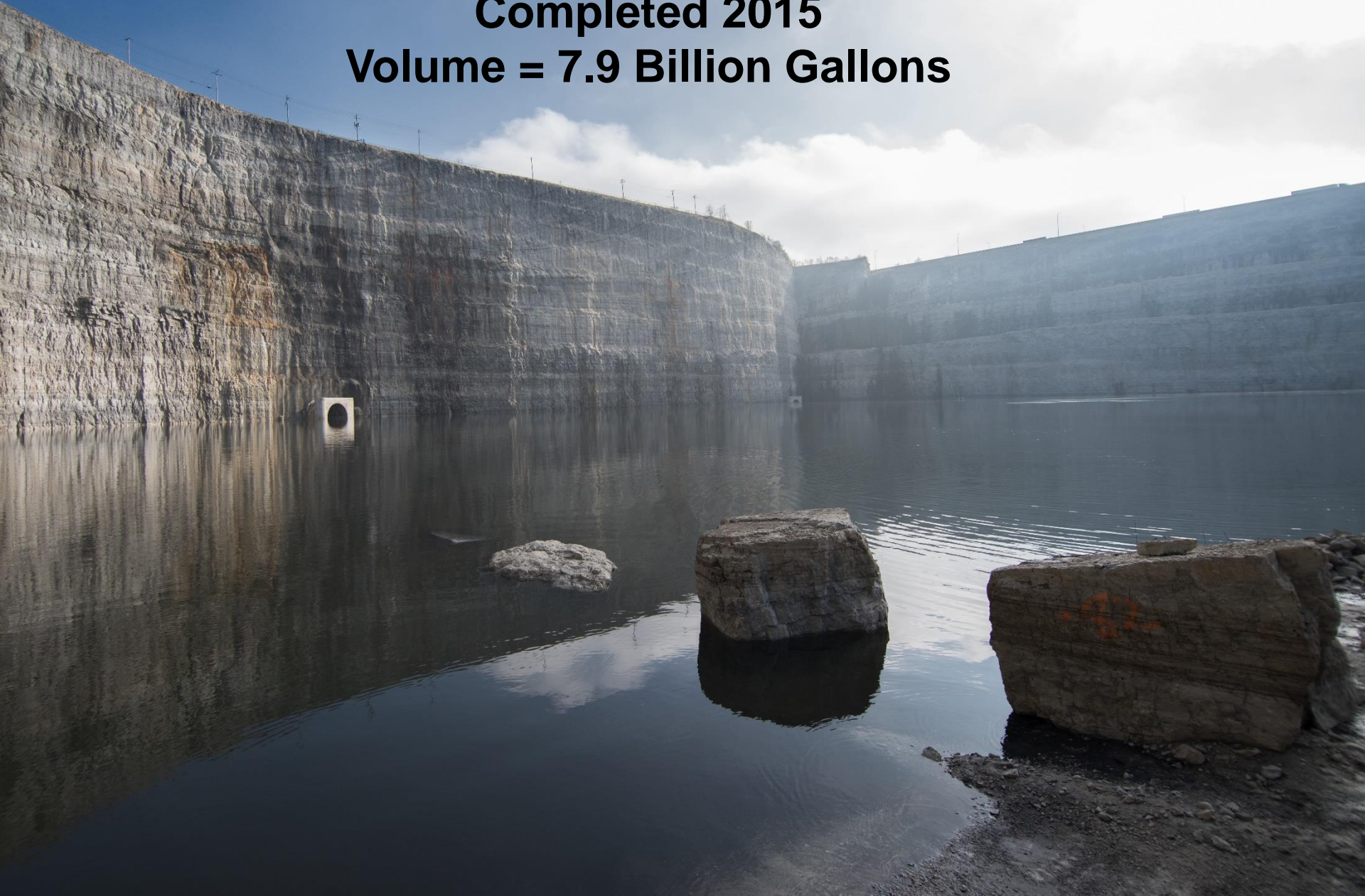




# Thornton Composite Reservoir

Completed 2015

Volume = 7.9 Billion Gallons





# McCook Reservoir

**Under Construction**

**Stage 1 online 2017 (3.5 Billion Gallons)**

**Stage 2 online 2029 (6.5 Billion Gallons)**





# **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

## **Thornton Composite Reservoir CSO Capture**

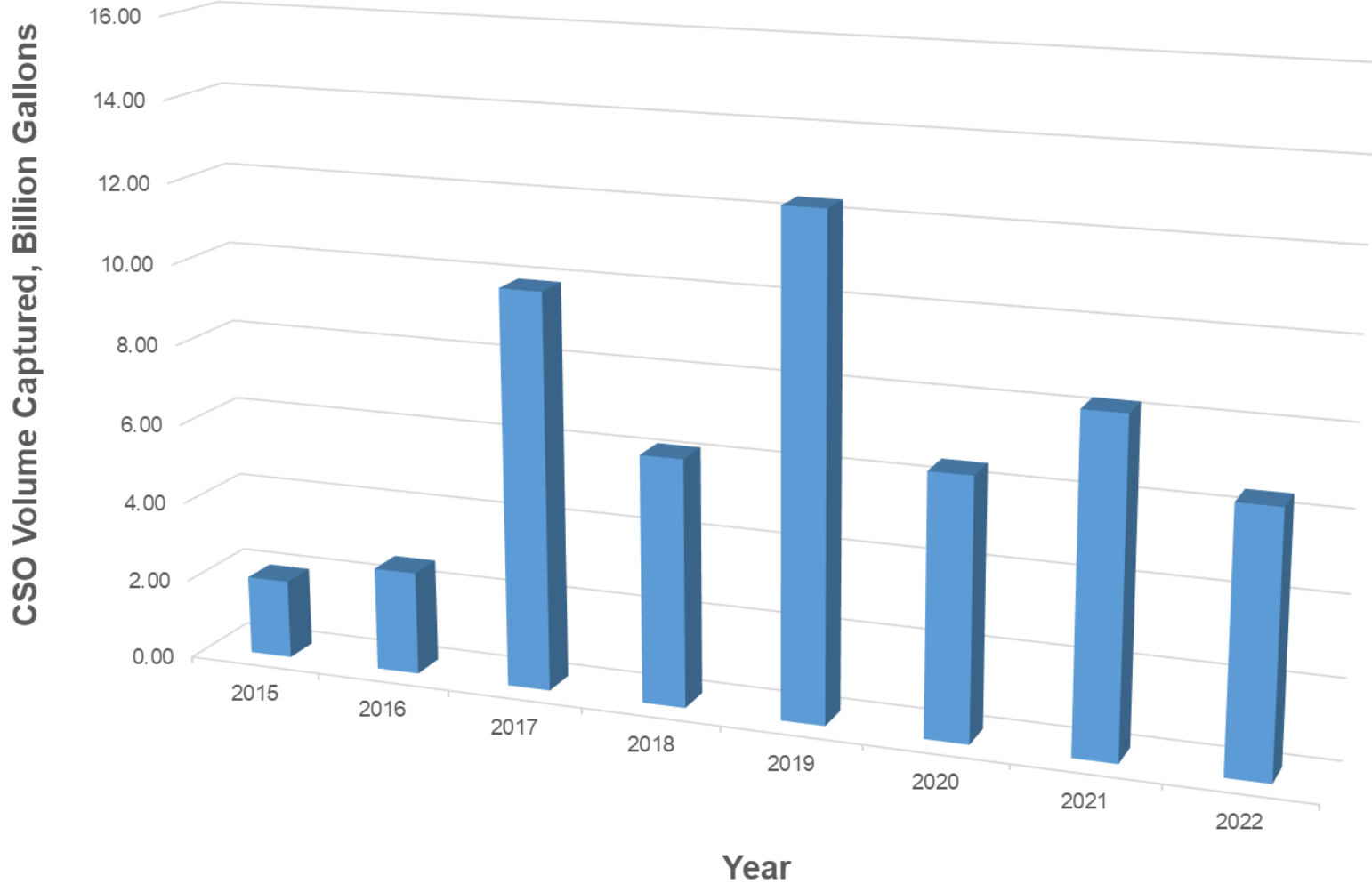
- **TCR commissioned November 2015**
- **140 Reservoir Fill Events through February 2023**
- **TCR has captured 54.3 BG of CSO volume**
- **\$491M in flood reduction benefits in present day value (2003 LRR)**
- **TCR and Calumet TARP system total capture 65.5 BG 2015 to 2023**
- **99.99% Capture of CSOs**





# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## Thornton Composite Reservoir CSO Volume Capture by Year

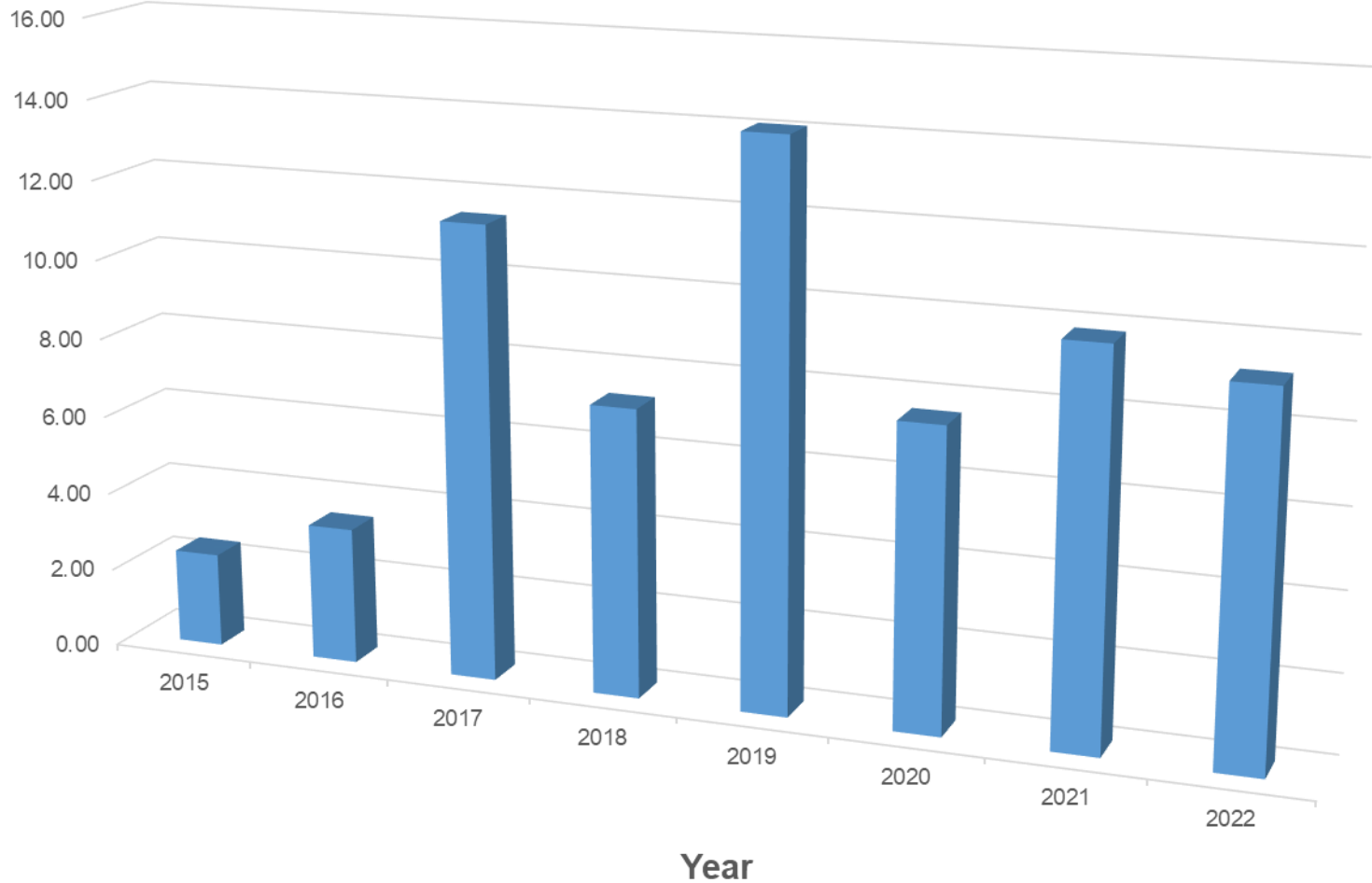




# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## Thornton Composite Reservoir + Calumet TARP System CSO Volume Capture by Year

CSO Volume Captured, Billion Gallons

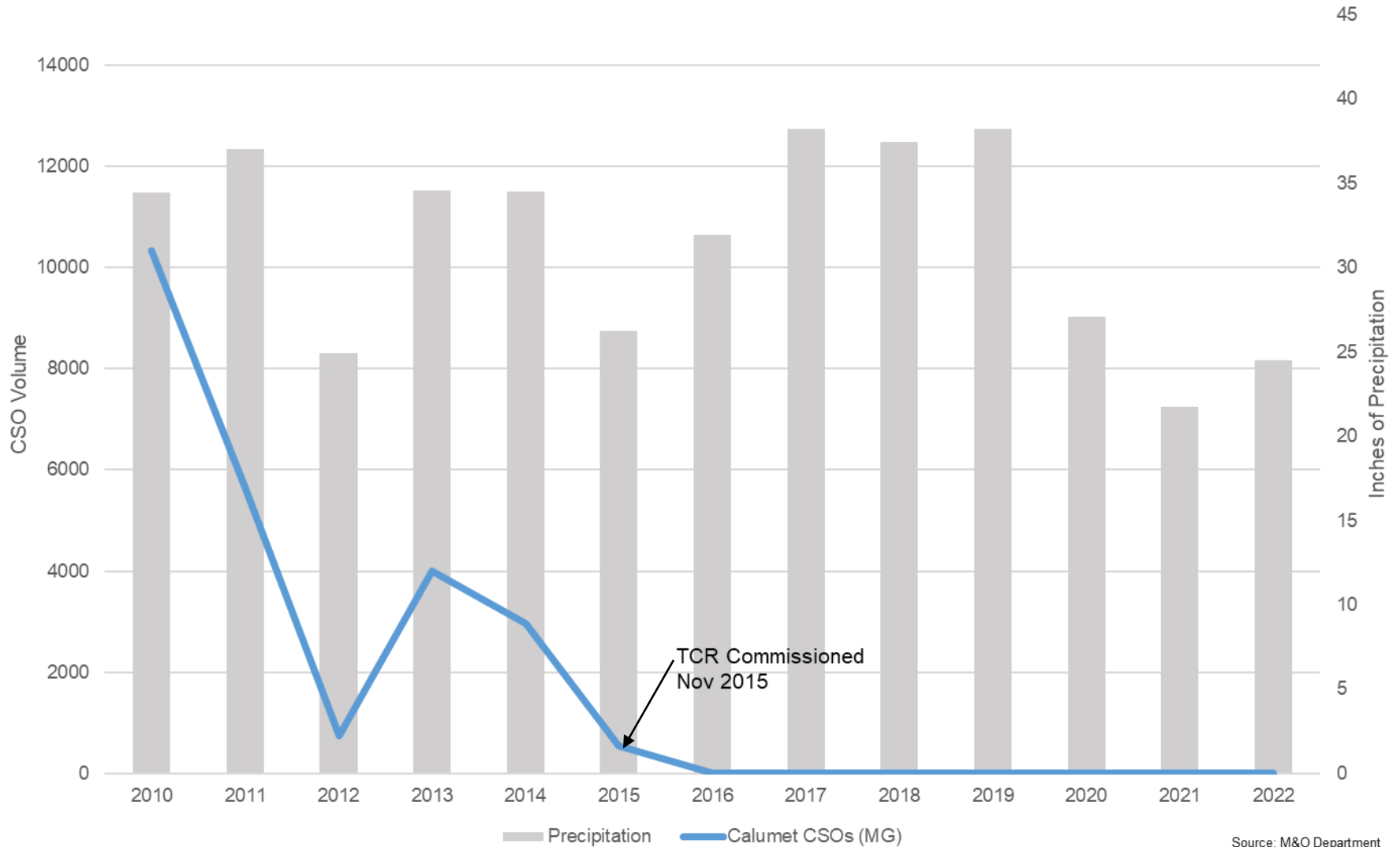






# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## Calumet (Thornton) TARP System CSOs/Precipitation Totals 2010-2022





# **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

## **McCook Reservoir – Stage 1 CSO Capture**

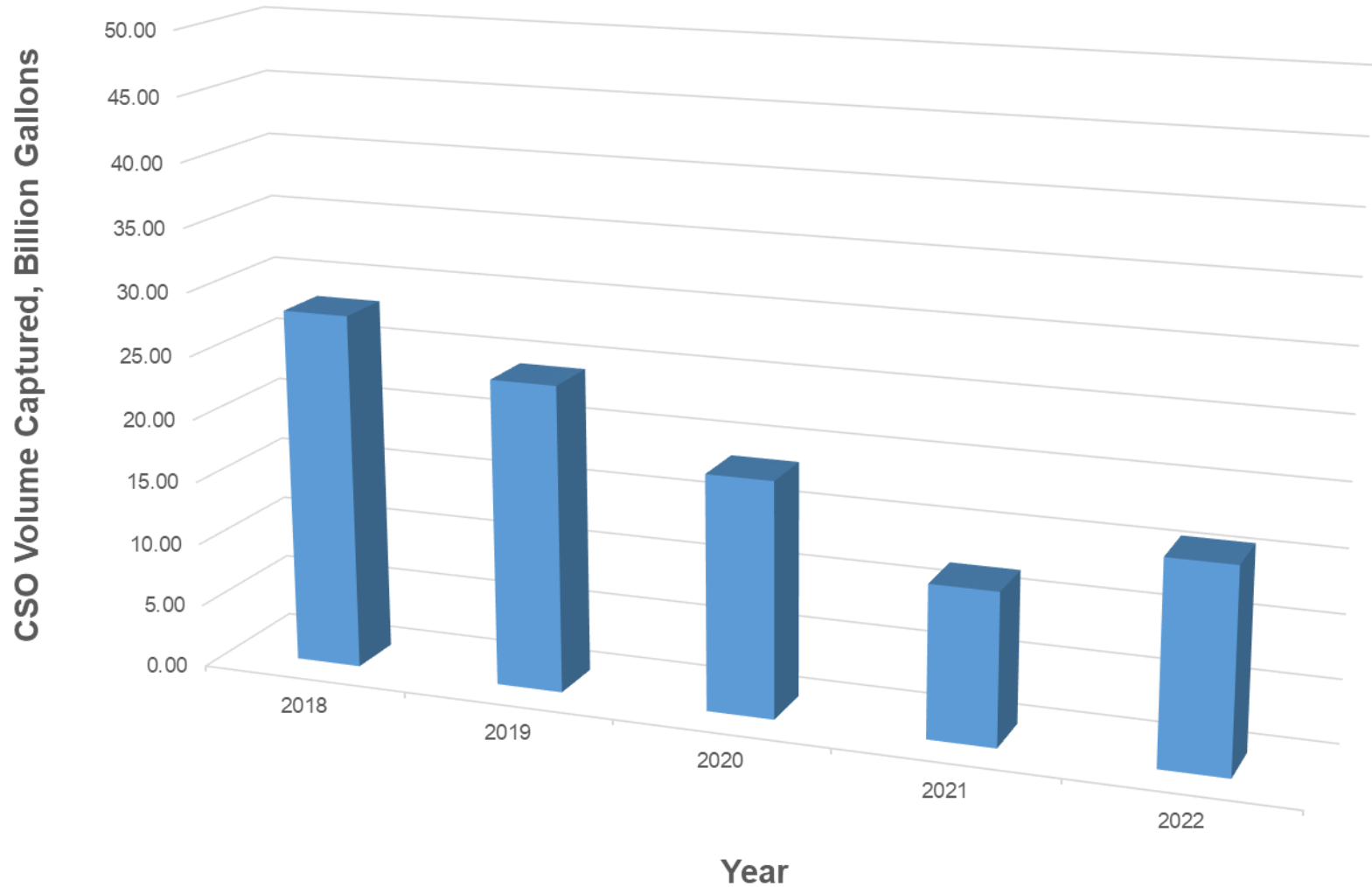
- **McCook Stage 1 commissioned December 2017**
- **197 Reservoir Fill Events through December 2022**
- **McCook Stage 1 has captured 99.0 BG of CSO volume**
- **\$143M in annual flood reduction benefits once Stage 2 completed**
- **McCook, Mainstream and Des Plaines TARP system total capture 175 BG Dec 2017 to Dec 2022**





# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

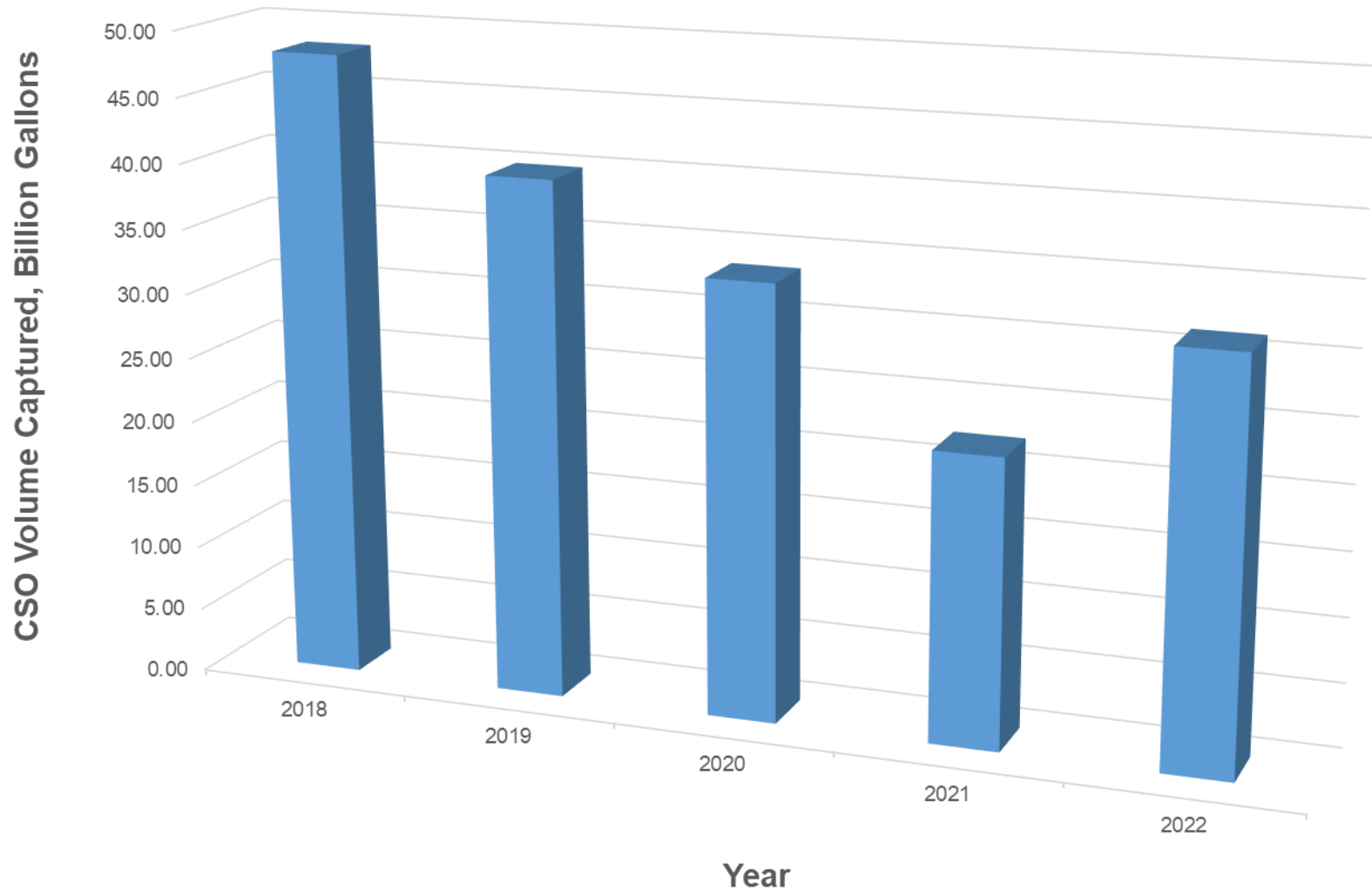
## McCook Reservoir CSO Volume Capture by Year





# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## McCook Reservoir + Mainstream + Des Plaines TARP System CSO Volume Capture by Year

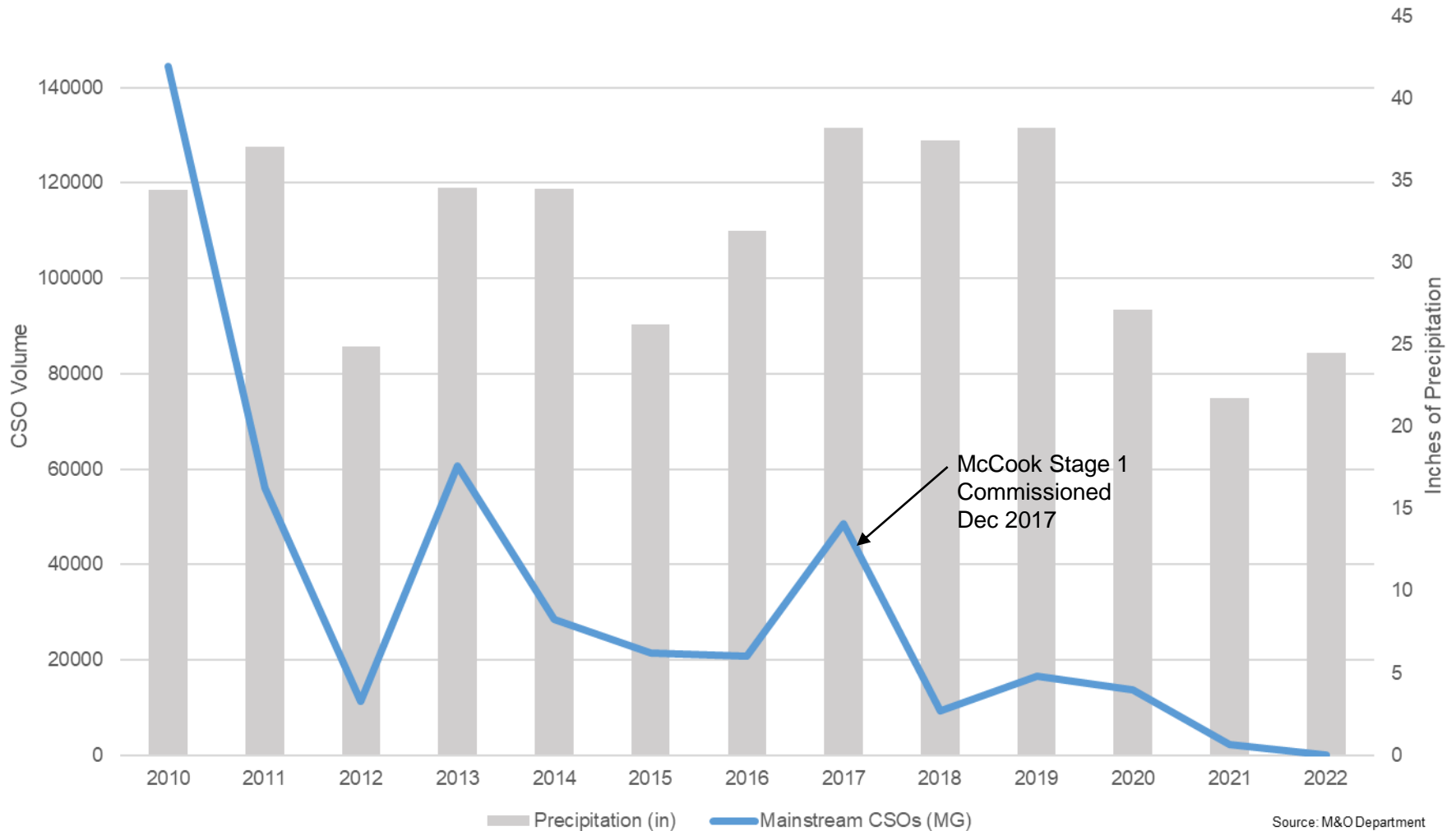






# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## Mainstream/Des Plaines (McCook) TARP System CSO Volume/Precipitation Totals 2010-2022

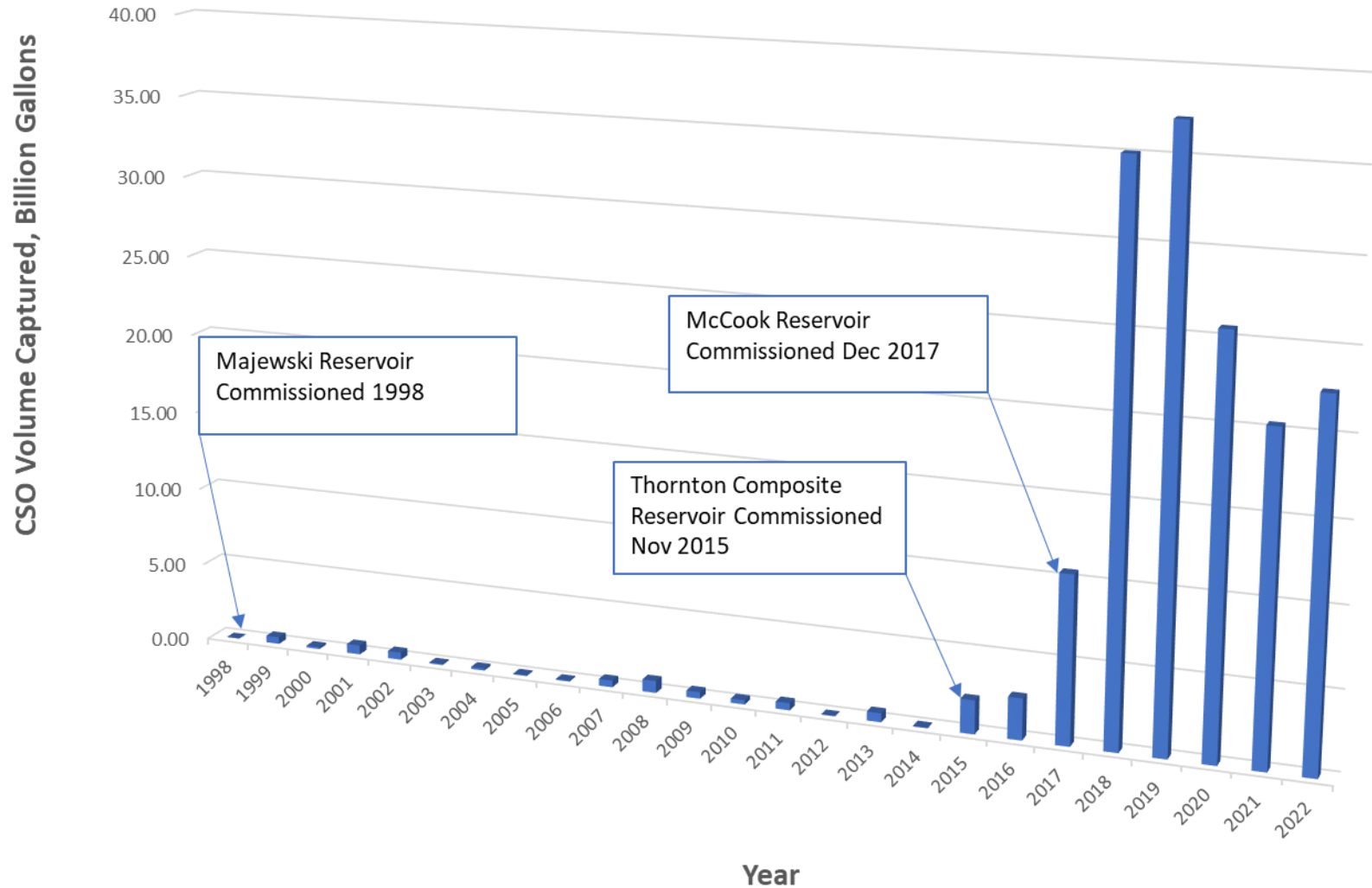


Source: M&O Department



# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## Combined Reservoir (Thornton + McCook + Majewski) CSO Volume Capture by Year

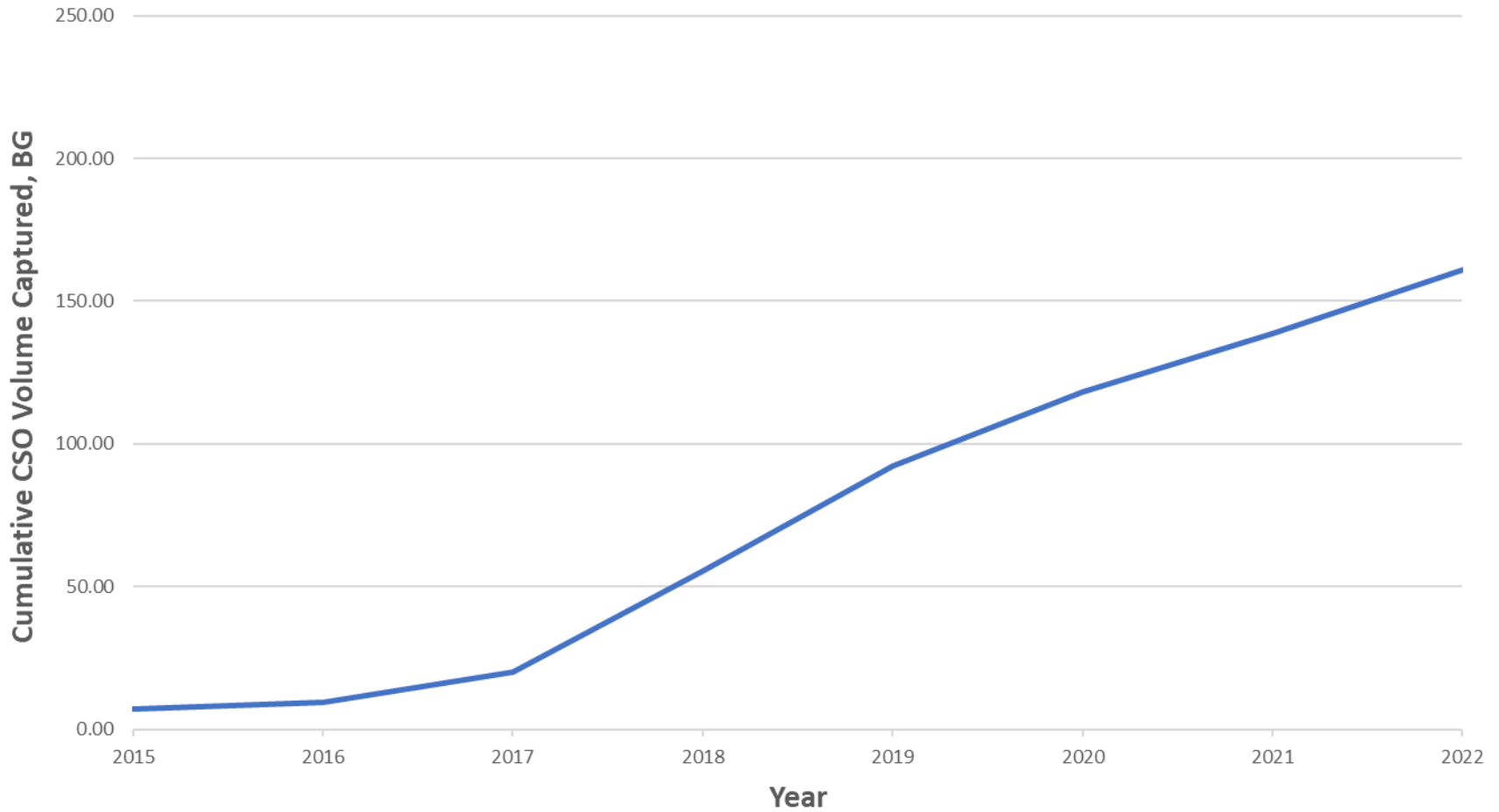






# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Cumulative Reservoir Capture (2015 - 2022)

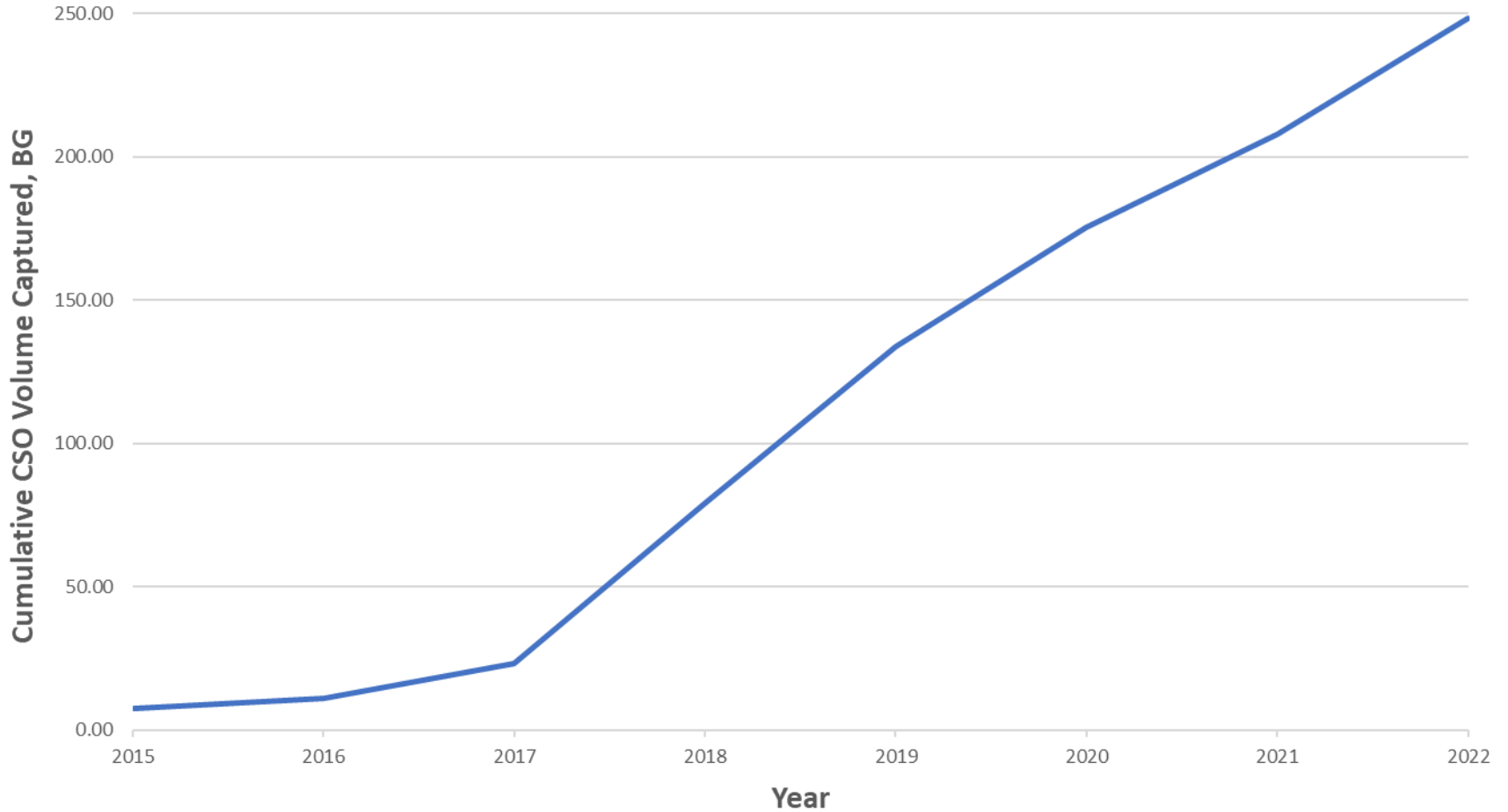


**161 BG captured 2015-2022**



# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Cumulative TARP System Capture (2015 - 2022)



**248 BG captured 2015-2022**





# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## TARP CSO Capture Since 1985

- **Engineering has tracked CSO capture on fill-event basis for reservoirs and tunnels using stage-storage data since commissioning of reservoirs**
- **M&O has tracked flow capture for tunnels on annual basis dating back to 1980s**
- **M&O data is comprehensive (includes dry weather flows, I/I, pumpback)**
- **CSO Tunnel Capture 1985 to 2014 = ?????**



# **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

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- **CSO Tunnel Capture 1985 to 2014 = 750 BG (estimated)**





# **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

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- **M&O has tracked flow capture for tunnels on annual basis dating back to 1980s**
- **M&O data is comprehensive (includes dry weather flows, I/I, pumpback)**
- **CSO Tunnel Capture 1985 to 2014 = 750 BG (estimated)**
- **Total CSO Capture 1985 to 2022 = 1 Trillion Gallons (estimated)**



# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## TARP Summary

- **TARP Overall Capacity = 20.55 BG**
- **Tunnel Capacity = 2.3 BG**
- **Reservoir Capacity = 18.25 BG**
- **Service Area = 352 square miles; 3.75 million people**
- **1.5 million structures protected from flooding**
- **\$180M+ annual flood reduction benefits**





# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## Water Quality Benefits Little Calumet River

Summary Table of Mean Waterway Parameters at Halsted Street Sampling Station, 1975-2018

Parameter	1975	1993	2015	2018
Dissolved Oxygen, mg/L	4.1	6.0	8.0	8.2
Total Suspended Solids, mg/L	37	25	12	8
Total Ammonium-N, mg/L	8.8	2.0	0.6	0.34
Total Cyanides, mg/L	0.042	0.013	<0.005	<0.005
Fecal Coliform, CFU/100 mL	8,000	6,000	1,811	114
Fish Species	8	18	30	30

Source: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's Research and Development Department, Report No. 98-23, *Water Quality Improvements in the Chicago and Calumet Waterways between 1975 and 1993, Associated with the Operation of Water Reclamation Plants, the Tunnel and Reservoir System, and Instream and Sidestream Aeration Stations (September 1998)*; Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's Research and Development Department, Report No. 16-34, *2015 Annual Summary Report, Water Quality within the Waterway System of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (October 2016)*; REPORT NO. 19-13 *POST-CONSTRUCTION MONITORING REPORT FOR THE CALUMET TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN SYSTEM*



# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago







# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago







# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago



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**[WawczakB@mwrdd.org](mailto:WawczakB@mwrdd.org)**