



Operations & Maintenance

Client

City of Traverse City

Location

Traverse City, MI, USA

CH2M HILL's technology solution and design-build operate capability met the public's demand for higher-quality effluent, to help enhance the local environment, while providing best overall value to the City.

Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Project Description

CH2M HILL OMI and the City of Traverse City have enjoyed a successful operations and maintenance partnership since 1990. Through a series of public forums, city and county officials decided a wastewater treatment plant upgrade was needed to accommodate current and future growth, and they selected the CH2M HILL enterprise for a design-build-operate solution.

Northern Michigan is home to some of the most pristine and abundant sources of fresh water in the world, and Traverse City wanted to ensure its plant would continue to help enhance the local environment. With CH2M HILL having singlepoint control of the design engineering, construction, and operation of the plant, regulators were confident we could upgrade the facility without impacting the environment — even while keeping the plant fully operational during construction.

From the beginning of the project, decisions about how the new facility would be designed rested in the hands of the public. Public forums revealed that residents of the city and five local townships felt strongly that the city should increase capacity at the existing plant and that the quality of the effluent discharged should meet criteria more stringent than those specified by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. As a result, membrane bioreactor (MBR) technology and other processes were selected as the best solution for both meeting that objective and providing best overall value to the City.

Construction of the upgrade was completed in 2004. The facility, which is the largest municipal wastewater treatment plant in North America using MBR technology, won a 2004 Michigan Water Environment Association Health and Safety Award.