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**GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY LAUNCHES PROGRAM TO ASSESS CONDITION OF WATER TRANSMISSION MAINS USING NEW INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY**

*Pilot program to focus on an eight mile stretch of pipe impacted during last year's 14 Mile Road main break*

**DETROIT**— Today, the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), in partnership with Pure Technologies, announced the launch of a program designed to assess the condition of its water transmission mains using two technologies: the SmartBall and PipeDiver. The launch of the pilot program, which will initially examine eight miles of water transmission pipe along 14 Mile Road in Oakland County, comes just one year after the Oakland County water main break that impacted nearly 300,000 residents in 11 communities. This latest innovation is a part of GLWA's commitment to move from a preventative to a predictive maintenance and asset management strategy.

"The sustainability of the regional system is one of GLWA's top priorities," said Sue F. McCormick, Chief Executive Officer, GLWA. "Our commitment to the use of best practices and innovative technologies is central to our ability to ensure that our system functions at its optimal level - now and into the future. The use of this groundbreaking technology will allow us to do just that."

The SmartBall technology, which will be utilized first, employs acoustic technology to detect leaks and gas pockets. The PipeDiver technology assesses the pipes to detect structural weaknesses. Both SmartBall and PipeDiver operate while the pipes remain pressurized and in operation, which is what makes it so state-of-the-art.

The data collected from testing will allow the Authority to predict where an area of main might be weak and intercede before a break ever happens. This early detection of leaks and structural defects is expected to result in cost savings, by allowing for cost effective repairs and avoiding emergency situations, that will benefit all GLWA customer communities.

"Since being launched in 2016, GLWA has been working to assess the condition of its assets throughout the regional system," said Cheryl Porter, Chief Operating Officer – Water and Field Services, GLWA. "Earlier this year, and in just 24 months, we completed the assessment of more than 190 miles of the sewer collection system, a task that was expected to take seven years. The partnership and technology we've announced today supports our

mission to continually innovate solutions that will minimize disruptions and assist us in taking another step forward in our shift to a predictive maintenance and asset management strategy.”

Developed by Pure Technologies, the PipeDiver and SmartBall technologies are being used by several peer utilities throughout the country. GLWA is the first utility in Michigan to use the PipeDiver technology.

Weather permitting, GLWA expects to begin the pilot assessment program before the end of the year.

“These two technologies [shown today] have helped other utilities nearly eliminate large diameter main breaks, like the one that happened here last year along 14 Mile Road,” said Michael Higgins, Senior Vice President, Pure Technologies. “Improving the integrity of these pipelines allows water suppliers like GLWA to maintain reliability in providing water to all of its member partners.”

For more information on the Authority, please visit [www.glwater.org](http://www.glwater.org).

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### **About the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA)**

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is the provider of choice for water and wastewater services to 127 municipalities in seven Southeastern Michigan counties. With the Great Lakes as source water, the GLWA is uniquely positioned to provide its customers water of unquestionable quality. GLWA has capacity to extend its service to other Southeastern Michigan communities. The authority offers a Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) to assist low-income residential customers throughout the system. The GLWA board includes one representative each from Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties as well as two representatives from the City of Detroit, and one appointed by the governor of Michigan to represent customer communities outside the tri-county area.