

System voltage conversions

Electrical distribution systems operate more efficiently and reliably at higher voltages, so the BLP recently converted its remaining systems from 2.4 kilovolts (kV) to 13.2kV, supporting Ferrysburg, West Spring Lake Rd, Grand Haven near the hospital, near the YMCA, and from Beacon Blvd to Despelder St.

Splitting Ferrysburg circuits

The BLP added a new substation transformer and circuits to improve redundancy and reliability north of the US 31 bridge supporting Ferrysburg and Spring Lake Township.



VAR (Volt-Amps Reactive) support with capacitor banks

With a system load that is very seasonal and primarily residential, the BLP constantly monitors system VAR flow for optimization.

Infrared Scans (Reliability)

The BLP completes semiannual infrared scans of all substation equipment and transfer buses. The BLP crew takes scans during seasonal peaks, both in the summer and winter months. Necessary elements are inspected monthly and a robust preventive maintenance and testing program is performed on a 5-year rotation schedule.

Conductor or line loss upgrades

The BLP increased the minimum design standard for primary conductors from 6 AWG copper, to 2 AWG aluminum, nearly doubling the current carrying capacity of the lines.



Conclusion

In maintaining a balanced focus on all three legs of the stool, the BLP team consistently provides over 15,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the City of Grand Haven, City of Ferrysburg, Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Robinson Townships with affordable, sustainable, and as shown, award-winning reliable service.



Reporting an Outage in OMS

Visit our Outage Center at ghblp.org & click on the yellow plug



Customer Service 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
24 hour Emergency Service

616-846-6250



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PLUGGED IN



BLP's Ongoing Commitment to Reliability



May - June 2024

BLP's Ongoing Commitment to Reliability

Reliability is one of the pillars of the BLP's mission. The other two pillars, Affordability and Sustainability, balance out the three-legged stool of effective utility management. The BLP continues to receive Diamond Level RP3 service ratings, which reflect both the work and dedication of the BLP team and the metrics associated with reliable electric service. Regarding the average amount of time it takes to restore service, the BLP takes less than half the time as the national average and less than a third of the Michigan average. The same differences exist when comparing the total number of minutes of interruption the average customer experiences. The BLP dramatically outperforms both the state and national averages.

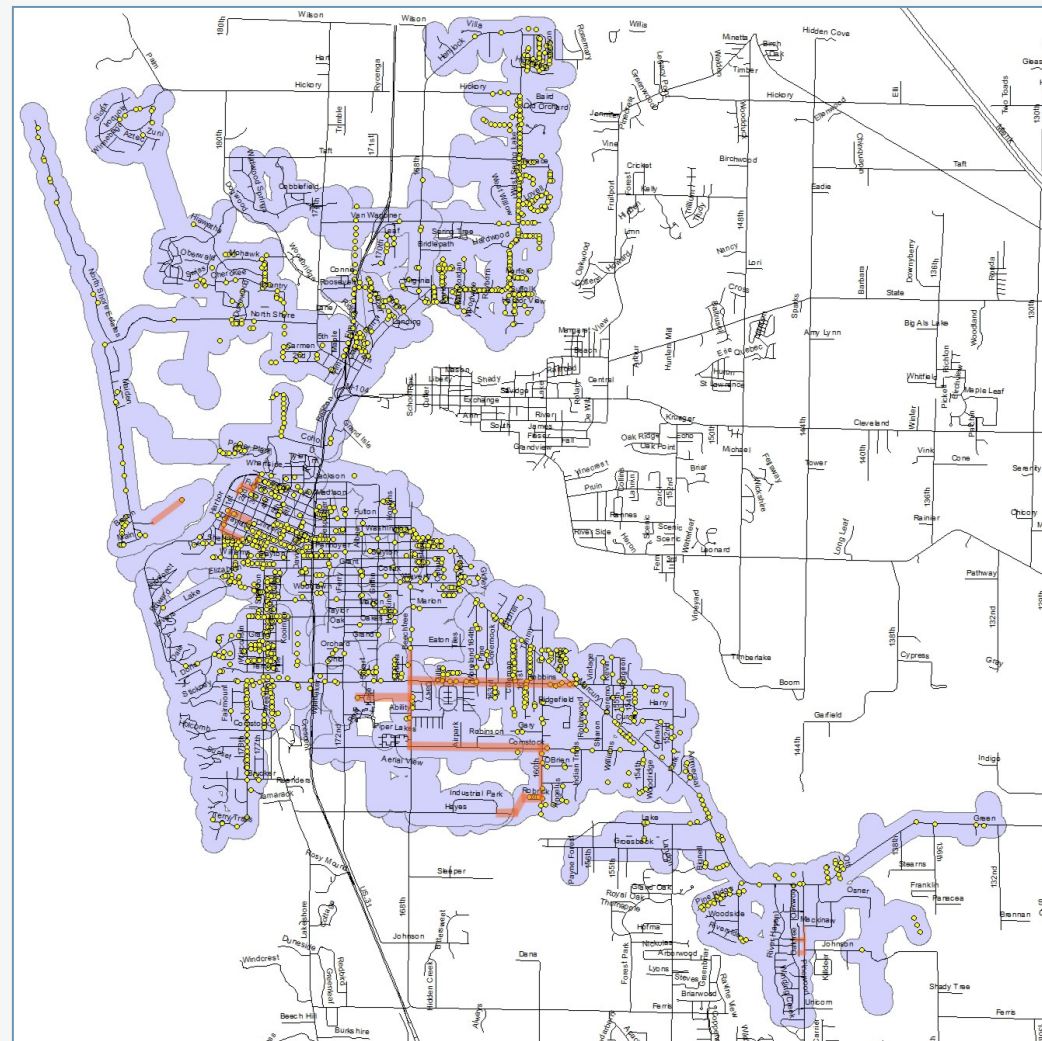
Staying on Top

This kind of reliability doesn't happen in a vacuum. The BLP team has, over the past five years, planned and implemented extensive repairs, maintenance and upgrades of the electric distribution system to consistently provide the highest quality of service to the community it serves.



Distribution Investments in Reliability

A herculean effort has recently been undertaken on the distribution system to increase reliability. The map below illustrates the work BLP has put into ensuring the reliability of the distribution systems necessary to maintain the high level of service the Grand Haven community has come to expect. Since 2018, the BLP has installed over 1,500 new utility poles to replace aging infrastructure and improve reliability for its customers. Each yellow dot represents a new pole with all its accompanying equipment (transformers, insulators, fuse cutouts, surge protection, crossarms, supports), all of which have been replaced since 2018 and have a lifespan of 30 years. The pink lines represent the routes of major projects undertaken.



That work includes:

Active management of the distribution system to limit line loss

The BLP continuously monitors system conditions to identify street-level issues before major problems occur. You may see crews upgrading transformers and wires in specific locations to improve performance and prepare for growth in electrical load. This also included:

- Replacing all electric meters (over 15,000) with advanced metering infrastructure (commonly referred to as smart meters) in 2020
- Implementing Advanced Grid Analytics in 2022 with 24/7 monitoring and 18-month data capture for planning and optimization

New Circuit Construction (South East Grand Haven and GH Township)

Two new circuits are being constructed, with new lines installed along Robbins Rd. from Beechtree to Mercury Dr, along 168th from Robbins to Comstock, following Comstock to 160th, and following 160th to Hayes.

