



A message from BMU
 Executive VP / General Manager
 -Steve Meyer

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of our company newsletter. This publication represents our ongoing commitment to keeping you informed about key developments, initiatives and the latest news from BMU and Swiftel. You are a valued customer, and we look forward to staying connected by providing news that will be beneficial to you.



34th Ave Water Treatment Plant Operational

BMU celebrated a major milestone on December 10th, 2025, with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new 34th Avenue Water Treatment Facility.

Construction on the 34th Avenue Water Treatment Plant began in 2022, with final completion anticipated May 2026. The new water treatment plant was designed with long term community needs in mind, allowing for future improvements and system expansions as demand increases.

One of the plant's signature features is its underground reservoir, capable of storing approximately 2 million gallons of treated water to help ensure consistent, reliable service.

BMU continues to prioritize consistent treatment standards, including the removal of iron and manganese, lime softening, required fluoridation, and residual disinfection prior to distribution to the community.

The new plant also includes three lime drying beds on its 19 acre site. Lime extracted during the treatment process is repurposed for agricultural use, providing an environmentally conscious outlet for this byproduct. As the new facility begins operations, BMU's East Water Plant will remain in service.

Meanwhile, the North Water Plant—originally placed into service in 1934—has now been formally decommissioned after more than 90 years of operation and is currently being demolished. BMU will retain ownership of the land where the plant once stood.

Looking ahead, plans are underway to schedule a public open house this spring at the new facility. The event will give community members an inside look at the advanced technology and infrastructure ensuring the delivery of safe, clean drinking water for decades to come.

While the facility remains under construction, BMU staff began operation of the facility in November 2025 and has continue daily operation since then.

The Ribbon Cutting brought together community members, city leaders, contractors, engineers, Board members, media, and Water Department staff.





North Water Plant

Just north of the Highway 14 bypass, the North Water Plant has served Brookings since the 1930s.

Built after residents approved a 1933 bond to fix rust-colored, hard well water, the project also provided much-needed jobs during the Great Depression.

The plant used sand filtration to remove iron and sediment and was expanded in 1957 to meet growing demand.

After more than 90 years of service, the plant was officially decommissioned on September 12. It is currently being demolished. BMU will continue to own the site and protect the wellhead area.



Swiftel: New Internet Packages

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Delivering Exceptional Reliability to Brookings

At Brookings Municipal Utilities, we are proud to offer some of the nation's most reliable electric service to our community. In 2025, BMU's electric system was operating efficiently and consistently 99.998% of the time, ensuring that you could depend on your power for everything you do at home and at work. Our team's dedication is reflected in our outstanding reliability performance. Last year, the average Brookings resident experienced fewer than one-tenth of a power outage, and when interruptions did happen, they lasted just over 13 minutes on average.

These results show that BMU crews respond quickly and work efficiently to keep our power on and any disruptions brief. This commitment to excellence has brought BMU national recognition.



American Public Power Association

In 2025, BMU received the highest honor from the American Public Power Association's Reliable Public Power Provider program, in which we received the "Diamond" designation. BMU is proud to be the first community in South Dakota to earn this top recognition, which highlights our high standards in reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement.

As Brookings grows, BMU remains focused on investing in our infrastructure, maintaining our systems, and supporting our team to ensure you continue to enjoy safe and dependable power. Thank you for trusting us to serve your homes and businesses. We look forward to providing outstanding service for years to come.



Starting March 15, BMU customers must route sump pump discharge outside. This reduces water sent to the wastewater treatment plant during spring rains by directing it to storm drains instead of the sanitary sewer, improving system efficiency and preventing unnecessary strain.