



MWRD - Tunnel & Reservoir Plan (TARP)

Vulcan and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) joint efforts bring sustainable solutions to stormwater management.

In 1972, the MWRD began developing the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) to comply with federal and state water quality standards within an area consisting of Chicago and 51 municipalities. Protection of Lake Michigan and the region's drinking water supply are the main goals of TARP. The system is designed to capture and store combined sewer overflow in tunnels and reservoirs until it can be treated at existing plants. The plan will enable flood control, improve aquatic life in local rivers and Lake Michigan, and enhance the quality of life along riverfronts.

Vulcan's Midwest Division has a pivotal role in the development of the McCook Reservoir, which will be the largest of three reservoirs in the system. Vulcan is mining MWRD property in order to create space in which MWRD can operate the reservoir. The mining will be completed in two stages: the first stage will result in 3.5 billion gallons of storage (to be completed in 2015) and the second stage will result in 6.5 billion gallons of storage (to be completed in 2023).

In addition to the environmental component of Vulcan's involvement in TARP, several other sustainable benefits exist as well. Utilizing Vulcan's expertise in excavating and processing stone into construction aggregates increases the availability of local stone aggregate reserves for up to 15 years. This benefits Chicago-area taxpayers by reducing the cost of road and building construction materials and by providing additional jobs and tax revenue for the city. It also decreases truck traffic on roads leading into the city, along with their associated exhaust emissions.