

PERIMETER SOLUTIONS: UTILITIES SITE PROFILE

# Birmingham Water Works Board

Gallagher Trophy FT perimeter security solution secures vital water works sites.



“The quality, flexibility and reliability of the Gallagher technology meets all our expectations.”

**Terry Oden** Security Director, Birmingham Water Works Board

### **BIRMINGHAM WATER WORKS BOARD**

The Birmingham Water Works Board (BWVB) in Birmingham, Alabama uses the latest technology at its distributed treatment facilities, from which it delivers an average of 100-million gallons of fresh water a day to its customers in five counties. The company consistently meets and exceeds state and federal standards for safety and quality and takes pride in protecting the quality and safety of this essential resource.

#### **The Challenge**

In today's world, community water resources need to be protected by anti-terrorism technology, federal and state regulations and security solutions that deal with a range of health and safety issues. Accordingly, many industries, including water utilities, are implementing security system upgrades. The BWVB was one of the first water utilities in the nation to step up to advanced solutions on plant security.

In compliance with orders from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the BWVB performed a vulnerability assessment of each of its facilities. This involved determining where critical assets were vulnerable to physical destruction of infrastructure (e.g., pumps,

dams, filter plants) or contamination at any stage in the water treatment process. This assessment exposed weaknesses in perimeter security at each of the board's facilities. To address these weaknesses, BWVB needed a comprehensive physical perimeter security solution capable of deterring and detecting intruders 24/7, while meeting stringent legal

over more than 20 years and installed on a wide variety of sites from general commercial to critical infrastructure throughout the world; this is the same system used by the United Kingdom to protect its national utility grid. The system is made up of the Gallagher Trophy FT physical perimeter security system and Gallagher Command Centre

“The team at Gallagher were willing to work with us to customize a solution to meet our requirements.”

health and safety criteria, integrating with other security systems—such as access control and CCTV—and providing centralized management and fence zone monitoring of multiple remote sites.

#### **The Solution**

After investigating a number of options, Gallagher's perimeter security system was selected to provide a comprehensive, integrated perimeter security solution. Gallagher systems have been proven

software platform.

Gallagher's perimeter systems are non-lethal electric fence systems that detect intrusion attempts and deter would-be intruders. Attack is deterred through sending a regulated electric pulse around the perimeter security system approximately once every second. These pulses give a short, but safe, shock, making it impossible to climb the fence.



The fence also detects attacks, differentiating between serious breaches of the fence and disturbances caused by wildlife, birds or weather conditions.

Detection is made possible by Gallagher Command Centre software, which controls perimeter access and monitors fence activity. Using encrypted communication, Trophy FT allows BWWB to control and monitor unlimited sections of perimeter fence at Six separate facilities from a central command center. By adding the Gallagher Command Centre, BWWB is able to integrate legacy security systems, while leaving the door open for future expansion and upgrades.

For BWWB, the ability of Gallagher Command Centre software to integrate Trophy FT with their legacy security and access control system was a deciding factor. This integration makes it possible for both perimeter and access control alarms to be monitored from a remote command center. By providing a comprehensive audit trail and report templates, Gallagher Command Centre gives security personnel at BWWB easy access to information for status updates and security checks.

Terry Oden, CPP, Security Director

at BWWB, with over 40 years field experience in security and risk assessment, recalls, "Through prior experience with physical protection, I knew that Gallagher perimeter security technology had been approved by government agencies for use in highly classified locations. It has an excellent reputation."

Oden was able to conform to local ordinances related to electric fencing by using the Gallagher Code of Practice. The Gallagher Code of Practice and minimum installation standards meet and exceed the requirements of all national and international standards regarding safety and the application of electric fence systems.

The operations team at BWWB has found Gallagher's integrated perimeter security system to be easy to operate. Oden adds, "The operating system is highly compatible with our other security systems. The quality, flexibility and reliability of the Gallagher technology meets all of our expectations."

Gallagher North America Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Jack Turley, noted, "Given the security concerns about the nation's vital infrastructure,

we anticipate more water and electrical utilities will follow the lead of the Birmingham Water Works Board and invest in top-of-the-line security systems. From technological capability and experience standpoint, we believe Gallagher is well positioned to take advantage of these opportunities."

#### Acknowledgements

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## ABOUT GALLAGHER PERIMETER SECURITY SOLUTIONS

Gallagher is a global leader in perimeter security fencing. Over 70 years of experience in researching and developing the world's leading electric fence systems has enabled Gallagher to develop a total perimeter security solution for a diverse range of customers, such as utility sites, military installations, prisons, schools and many more.

To find out more about the perimeter security solutions that organizations all over the world choose to effectively deter and detect, contact your nearest Gallagher office, or visit us on the web at [www.gallaghersms.com](http://www.gallaghersms.com).

### GALLAGHER SECURITY WORLD HEADQUARTERS

Kahikatea Drive, Hamilton 3206  
Private Bag 3026, Hamilton 3240  
New Zealand

**TEL:** +64 7 838 9800  
**EMAIL:** [sales@gallaghersms.com](mailto:sales@gallaghersms.com)

### REGIONAL OFFICES

New Zealand.....+64 7 838 9800  
Asia.....+852 2910 7912  
Australia.....+61 2 9412 4477  
South Africa.....+27 11 974 4740  
United Kingdom / Europe.....+44 2476 64 1234  
Americas.....+1 888 430 0770

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