



USG WATER  
— SOLUTIONS —

## Teaming up for the long-term care of water storage tanks in Youngstown, OH



### Project Summary

**Customer:**

City of Youngstown, OH

**Type of Project:**

Water tank renovation and mixer installation

**Results:**

- Renovated four water tanks ranging from 500,000 to 2.2 million gallons
- Improved water quality
- Met Ohio EPA Asset Management Requirements
- Transferred risk from City to USG Water Solutions

Located in northeastern Ohio, midway between Cleveland and Pittsburgh, the city of Youngstown and its surrounding metro area are home to half a million people. In the heart of the Rust Belt, Youngstown has continued to redefine itself since the decline of the U.S. steel industry in the 1970s. The city prides itself on an entrepreneurial tradition and created the Youngstown Business Incubator, a program that offers resources for entrepreneurs.

The city buys water from the nearby Mahoning Valley Sanitary District (MVSD) and distributes it to 150,000 customers in the city and neighboring areas, making it one of the five largest systems in northeast Ohio. The city system has seven water tanks, ranging in size from 500,000 to 2.2 million gallons.

A recent inspection showed that four out of the seven water tanks were in need of renovation work in the near future. Four of the tanks had visible rust and corrosion and some were experiencing steel failure. Roof rafters in two of the tanks were corroded and were experiencing steel loss resulting from previous renovations not being done correctly and lack of inspection. USG Water Solutions (USG) not only guarantees the initial renovation but also provides yearly inspection services, ensuring the tanks remain in like new condition until the next scheduled renovation under the asset management program.

The city found it beneficial that USG allowed them to spread the renovation cost of their largest and most important capital assets in their water system. This increased their interest in the USG asset management program.

*“Prior to the asset management program, we relied on our staff to do inspections, which is a safety concern. Now USG takes all responsibility.”*

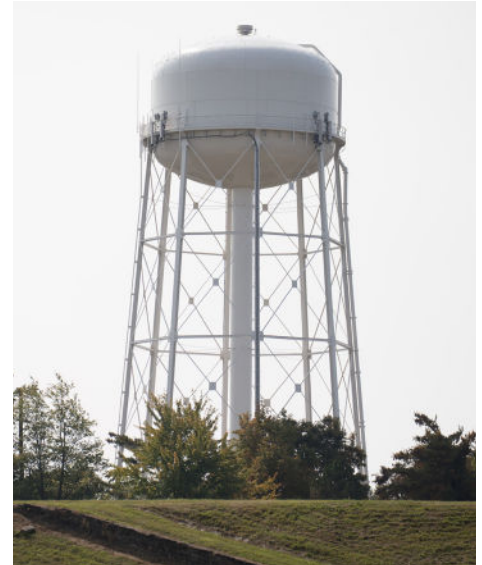
— Eugene J. Leson Jr., Chief Engineer, Youngstown, OH Water Department

*“Having USG as a resource is very reassuring, knowing that with one phone call all tank-related inspections, repairs, renovations, questions or issues will be taken care of properly.”*

—Eugene J. Leson Jr., Chief Engineer, Youngstown, OH Water Department

Asset management is a relatively simple approach in which a municipality, like the city of Youngstown, enters into a multi-year agreement with a qualified professional – in this case, USG – to rehabilitate and maintain its water assets. After the initial rehabilitation, the municipality transfers the responsibility for annual inspection and maintenance of the asset to the professional who assumes all maintenance risk for a set annual cost. Funds are accrued annually to cover the cost of future rehabilitations.

USG renovated four of the tanks in the first three years, replacing the entire roof on one tank because of rafter corrosion. The other three tanks will be renovated over the next few years. The company also installed mixers in all seven tanks as a preventative measure for improved water quality.



The city is very pleased with the result. By transferring responsibility for upgrading and maintaining the tanks to the USG asset management program, the City of Youngstown is now able to focus on maintaining other parts of its water distribution system. And they very much prefer having a single point of contact for all their tank management needs.



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**855-526-4413**

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