



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Media Advisory

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For immediate release

May 3, 2012

MWRD to host ribbon cutting and unveil new sewerthermal heating and cooling system at James C. Kirie Water Reclamation Plant

Who: The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and the University of Illinois at Chicago

What: The MWRD will host a ribbon cutting ceremony and demonstrate a new sewerthermal system

When: Monday, May 7, 2012, at 10 a.m.

Where: James C. Kirie Water Reclamation Plant basement, 7601 W. Oakton, Des Plaines

A partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago and a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation has resulted in the successful installation and operation of a sewerthermal heating and cooling system. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Monday, May 7 at 10 a.m. at the MWRD's James C. Kirie Water Reclamation Plant, 7601 W. Oakton, Des Plaines.

This new system can result in a 25-50 percent reduction in electricity usage along with reductions in the maintenance expenses and pollutants associated with separate heating and cooling systems.

MWRD's Board of Commissioners, University of Illinois at Chicago Dean of Engineering Dr. Peter Nelson and chemical engineering professor Dr. Sohail Murad will be cutting the ribbon on the new heat pumps.

"This is established technology but its application is novel as the recovery of heat from treated water is not commonly practiced," explained Commissioner Frank Avila, chairman of the Board's engineering committee. "The data we collect could be used to design systems that can easily be applied at our other facilities."

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Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrld.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.