



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

April 30, 2014

MWRD collects 161 pounds of drugs during National Take-Back Day

Staff at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD's) Calumet, Egan, O'Brien, and Stickney Water Reclamation Plants collected 161 pounds of unwanted or expired medications from the public during the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA's) national Take-Back day on April 26.

The DEA launched its first Take-Back event in September 2010 to offer a more environmentally responsible and secure way to dispose of medications. Wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to remove minute concentrations of pharmaceuticals and as a result, the chemicals could wind up in our streams and waterways and potentially have a negative impact on water quality.

There are many ways to reduce the amount of pharmaceuticals before they reach treatment facilities and/or the waterways. The first is to complete the course of treatment as prescribed by the physician. For over-the-counter products, monitor your supply and store them in one location at home to prevent the purchase of additional or extras.

Once the pharmaceuticals are in your home, never pour them down the toilet or drain and never give or sell them to others.

The City of Chicago collects unwanted medicines 24 hour per day, seven days per week at all of its police facilities.

For more information about pharmaceuticals in the waterways or to find out more about proper disposal of medical and hazardous wastes, visit http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/ and www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm101653.htm.

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Our Water Environment: **Take it personally**

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