



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Metropolitan Water Reclamation District treatment facilities achieve perfection

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) provides wastewater treatment for more than five million people living and working in Cook County. That work is strictly scrutinized and requires the monitoring, testing and evaluation of hundreds of water samples on any given day, and a flaw in any one could affect a perfect score.

Just as they have in the two past decades, five of the MWRD treatment facilities have achieved perfect scores on annual reports to earn the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' (NACWA's) highest honor, the Platinum Peak Performance awards.

These awards recognize exceptional performance under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements and federal Clean Water Act standards. The MWRD has received platinum peak performance honors for up to 22 consecutive years of 100 percent compliance.

"Congratulations on this extraordinary accomplishment," said Ken Kirk, NACWA Executive Director. "Your commitment to excellence in environmental protection is outstanding."

The awards were granted for the following compliance records:

- Calumet Water Reclamation Plant, Chicago, for 22 consecutive years of 100 percent compliance;
- Lemont Water Reclamation Plant, Lemont, for 17 consecutive years of 100 percent compliance;
- Kirie Water Reclamation Plant, Des Plaines, for 9 consecutive years of 100 percent.
- O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant, Skokie, for 8 consecutive years of 100 percent compliance; and,
- Hanover Park Water Reclamation Plant, Hanover Park, for 6 consecutive years of 100 percent compliance.

The Stickney and Egan Water Reclamation Plants each received silver awards for almost perfect compliance.

"We are very proud of our facilities, our certified operators, and all of the employees who work hard every day to protect the area waterways," said MWRD President Kathleen Therese Meany. "All Cook County residents can be proud of these achievements."

Awards were presented during a July ceremony at NACWA's 2014 Summer Conference and 44th annual meeting in Portland. As a multi-year platinum honoree, the five facilities were highlighted in a video presentation.

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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.



In the photo (L-R) Front Row: John Lazicki (Hanover Park), Sanjay Patel (O'Brien), Ken Kirk (NACWA), MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila (Chairman of the Engineering Committee), and Yiping Zhou (Kirie). Back Row: Hitesh Shah (Egan), Brett Garelli (Stickney), Pat Connolly (Calumet), Tom Conway (Calumet), and Sergio Serafino (North Area).