



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Media Advisory

For immediate release

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Sen. Durbin to lead ribbon cutting at MWRD disinfection facility

- **WHO:** Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and Senator Dick Durbin
- **WHAT:** A ribbon cutting ceremony and tour will be held to mark the opening of the Calumet disinfection facility designed to improve the water quality entering Chicago Area Waterways from the treatment facility that serves the South Side of Chicago and surrounding south suburbs.
- **WHERE:** Calumet Water Reclamation Plant, 400 E. 130th St., Chicago
- **WHEN:** 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 17, 2015

The Calumet Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) will introduce chlorination/dechlorination disinfection to its treatment process to reduce the amount of pathogenic bacteria in the water released from the plant into the Calumet River system.

The Calumet WRP serves more than one million people in a 300-square-mile area. Using an existing chlorine contact chamber retrofitted for more efficient contact, the disinfection technologies neutralize or kill bacteria and microorganisms in treated water. The goal is to destroy pathogens and reduce the risk of health problems resulting from direct contact with the water while swimming or recreating on a waterway.

Disinfection occurs after wastewater passes through a series of treatment processes, including screening, filtering, settling and microbial aeration. In addition to directly benefiting the water environment, the disinfection project put hundreds of tradespeople to work.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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.