



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

December 16, 2015

O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant to connect new disinfection treatment process; 72-hour outage planned

A 72-hour plant treatment outage is scheduled for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD's) O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) in Skokie to allow for work on a new disinfection facility, designed to improve the water quality in the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS). Despite the outage, there will be no disruption in service for the area.

The pumping and water treatment outage will give construction crews the opportunity to connect the new ultraviolet (UV) disinfection facility to the existing conduit that contains the treated water flowing from the plants. During the outage, all wastewater will be diverted to the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) systems and sent to the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant in Cicero for treatment. Pumping is scheduled to be stopped between 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 17 and Sunday, Dec. 20 at 7 a.m., depending on dry and favorable weather and available capacity of TARP and Stickney WRP.

As a precaution, the MWRD is taking steps to mitigate any temporary impacts resulting from the lower water elevations in the North Shore Channel due to the lack of discharge from the O'Brien WRP which makes up a significant portion of the typical flow in the channel.

The O'Brien WRP serves 1.3 million people within



Crews begin forming the foundation to one of two new facilities that will house part of the MWRD's new ultraviolet disinfection facility at O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant in Skokie. The new facility will improve the quality of treated water entering the North Shore Channel.

143 square miles in the northeast area of Cook County, stretching from the North Side of Chicago on the south to Northbrook and Glencoe on the north. The plant treats on average 230 million gallons of water per day (mgd), while the plant is designed to meet an average flow of 330 mgd.

In 2016, the O'Brien WRP will begin tertiary treatment using UV light disinfection. The new treatment will destroy any remaining pathogenic bacteria before being released into the North Shore Channel. When completed, it will become the largest UV disinfection facility for a wastewater plant in the U.S., with a capacity to treat over 500 mgd. Between new disinfection technologies brought online at O'Brien and at Calumet WRP in 2016, the MWRD will be *(continued)*



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The MWRD's O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant will house a new disinfection facility in the northeast corner of the plant. In order to make a final connection to this last phase of water treatment, MWRD crews must empty the conduit for the contractor by diverting the incoming wastewater flow to TARP for three days. This outage will not change the level of service for area residents.

providing major upgrades to water quality along the Chicago River and surrounding waterways.

To report an incident, call 1-800-332-DUMP, visit www.mwr.org or download the MWRD Incident Report App for Apple iOS devices via iTunes.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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