



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

Media Advisory

Allison Fore
Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer
312.751.6633
public.affairs@mwrdd.org
100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release
March 21, 2016

O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant to bring disinfection online

WHO: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD)
Board of Commissioners, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and other area leaders

WHAT: Ribbon cutting for the MWRD's new disinfection facility at the
O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant

WHERE: 3500 Howard St., Skokie, IL

WHEN: Wednesday, March 23, 2016, 10 a.m.

The MWRD's O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) will introduce ultraviolet (UV) radiation to disinfect water as part of a final layer to its treatment process. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Wednesday, March 23 at 10 a.m. The O'Brien WRP is located at 3500 Howard Street, Skokie.

The O'Brien WRP serves more than 1.3 million people within 143 square miles. Upon completion, the UV disinfection system is now the largest water treatment UV installation in the world, having the potential to treat 450 million gallons of water per day, using 896 lamps that provide a low pressure, high output performance. The disinfection technologies neutralize or kill bacteria and microorganisms in treated water and reduce the risk of health problems

resulting from direct contact with the water while swimming or recreating on a waterway. Between last year's disinfection upgrades implemented at Calumet WRP, the MWRD now has a system in place that will dramatically improve the quality of water throughout the Chicago Area Waterway System, while protecting the region's drinking water supply in Lake Michigan.

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 during the construction of the facility.

###

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.