



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6633

allison.fore@mwr.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

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MWRD, US DEA partnership to remove drugs from waterways continues; national collection set for April 29, 2017

- WHO:** Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- WHAT:** As part of the bi-annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, the MWRD and DEA encourage the public to bring their drugs to special collection boxes to eliminate the potential abuse of medications and the pollution that can harm waterways.
- WHERE:**
- Calumet Water Reclamation Plant, 400 E. 130th St., Chicago
 - Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, 6001 W. Pershing Rd., Cicero
 - O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant, 3500 Howard St., Skokie
- WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, 2017

In conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Chicago Field Division, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is accepting unused or expired medication for safe disposal on Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at three water reclamation plants (WRPs). The event aims to provide a safe, convenient and responsible means for disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications and harm to the environment.

To prevent or reduce accidental contamination of streams, rivers and lakes, the MWRD has participated in the DEA's initiative each year since the event was launched in 2010.

Water treatment facilities are not designed to remove

minute concentrations of pharmaceuticals, and the chemicals could eventually wind up in area streams and waterways and have a negative impact on water quality. Numerous studies show significant negative effects that pharmaceutical drugs have on aquatic life pulled from area waterways.

MWRD collection boxes are also available year round Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the three plants and at our main office building at 100 E. Erie St., Chicago, and our partnership with the Cook County Sheriff's office has supported collection boxes throughout the county. Visit https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/ and http://www.cookcountysheriff.com/SupportServices_PrescriptionDrugTakeBack.html to find more collection opportunities.

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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.