



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Rep. Margo McDermid tours Stickney Water Reclamation Plant



State Rep. Margo McDermid learns about the phosphorus recovery process from MWRD Managing Engineer Joe Cummings during a tour at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant in Cicero.



MWRD Managing Engineer Joe Cummings provides insight about the used water treatment process to State Rep. Margo McDermid during a tour at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant in Cicero.

In September, Illinois State Representative Margo McDermid (37th) toured the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD's) Stickney Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) to learn more about the role of this vital infrastructure in treating Cook County's used water and managing stormwater. She also travelled along the Chicago Area Waterways to learn more about the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and the MWRD's role in constructing it.

The Stickney WRP cleans on average 700 million gallons of water per day with the capacity to treat up to 1.44 billion gallons per day. In addition to visiting various buildings that house the process equipment, Rep. McDermid toured the phosphorous recovery facility that was placed into service in 2016.

Excess phosphorus enters bodies of water from a number of sources, including urban water treatment facilities and farm run-off. Phosphorus in waterways can cause algae to grow and bloom, creating toxic conditions that threaten aquatic life and severely limit recreational enjoyment of lakes and rivers.

However, phosphorus is a nutrient that is vital in sustaining life. Worldwide phosphorus reserves are dwindling but the MWRD worked with Canadian-based Ostara to engineer the recovery of phosphorus from its treatment processes.

"The operational capacity of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is a true feat of civil engineering," Rep. McDermid said. "It's not something most people like to consider, but what happens to the water that goes down our drains and our sewers is essential to a productive, clean community."

"I'd like to thank Representative McDermid and other members of the Illinois General Assembly who take time out of their hectic schedules to visit MWRD facilities," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "As a utility of the future, we realize the vital role we play in protecting the health of our environment and citizens."

The 37th district includes all or parts of New Lenox, Mokena, Tinley Park, Frankfort, Homer Glen, Joliet, Lockport, and Orland Park.

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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 used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.