



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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New infrastructure at MWRD's Stickney Plant will upgrade energy savings and improve odor control

Officials with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) formally unveiled new energy-efficient infrastructure to keep operations flowing at one of the world's largest wastewater treatment plants.

The MWRD Board of Commissioners, staff and contractors, including IHC Construction Companies, FH Paschen, S.N. Nielsen Joint Venture and Greeley and Hansen, joined neighboring communities and stakeholders to celebrate the completion of the \$224.8-million upgrade at Stickney Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP). The nearly four-year project will improve operations and reduce odor issues associated with the wastewater treatment process at SWRP, where up to 1.44 billion gallons of water are treated per day for 2.3 million people living across 260 square miles of Cook County, including downtown Chicago and 46 other municipalities.

The MWRD constructed nine 160-foot diameter primary settling tanks and six 132-foot long aerated grit tanks, associated support facilities, service tunnels and conduits. The new infrastructure will replace labor-intensive tanks and increase digester gas production to reduce energy costs. The new tanks will also increase and improve grit removal, protect downstream piping and equipment, reduce sidestream water recycling and capture odors to benefit surrounding neighbors.

"These new tanks and facilities represent a major milestone in our evolution of water reclamation over a century of innovation at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "We are replacing 90 year old Imhoff tanks with current technology to treat water during the primary phase of treatment, and as a result, it will lead to major savings for our taxpayers and the environment. We commend our staff and



(L-R) Peter Nielsen, IHC Senior Project Manager; MWRD Commissioner Ken Dunkin; Stickney Mayor Jeff Walik; MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos; MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan; MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore; and Andy Martin, Principal and Managing Director of Midwest Operations for Greeley and Hansen, cut the ribbon on the new settling tanks at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant.



(L-R) MWRD Principal Civil Engineer Paul O'Brien and MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila survey a new primary settling tank.

contractors who worked diligently to complete this project on time and on budget, working through system shut downs while keeping daily plant operations running smoothly."

(continued)

New infrastructure demonstrates efficiency at MWRD's Stickney Plant, *cont.*

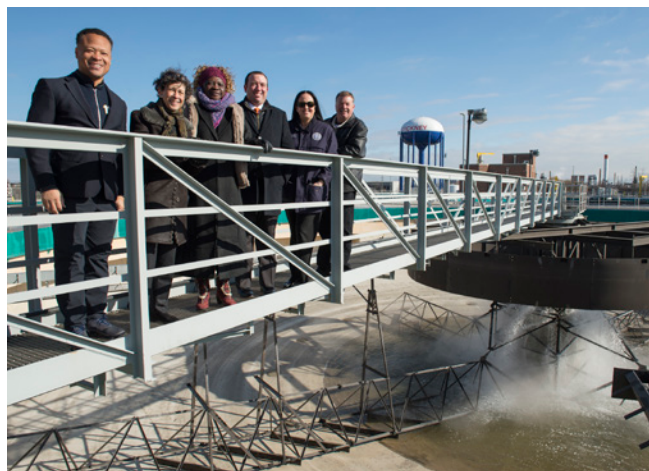


Aerial view of the new primary settling tanks.

The primary settling tanks replace 108 Imhoff tanks that had been in service since 1928. While productive over a significant lifespan, the Imhoff tanks were aging and required replacement. The new tanks will allow the MWRD to increase digester gas production, reducing both energy costs for the MWRD and greenhouse gas emissions.

“This is a major accomplishment for our engineers who designed a major overhaul of our primary and grit tanks and other support facilities,” said MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan. “The project highlights the importance of critical infrastructure investments.”

The new primary tanks will have effluent weirs and troughs covered for odor control and tunnel access pump stations containing new pumps, airlifts, an electrical substation, odor control vessels and fans and other equipment. The aerated grit facility, which will be covered for odor control, will also include shaftless screw conveyors, centrifugal and airlift pumps for improved grit removal, grit classifiers and a dumpster-loading system to weed out whatever unwanted materials flow to



MWRD Commissioner Ken Dunkin, MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore, MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan, Andy Martin, Principal and Managing Director of Midwest Operations for Greeley and Hansen, MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos, and Stickney Mayor Jeff Walik stand on a bridge above a primary settling tank.

SWRP. Process air for the grit tanks and primary tanks will be provided by new turbo blowers.

“To operate one of the world’s largest wastewater treatment plants, we have to constantly maintain it and improve our systems,” said MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila. “These upgrades speak to our mission in sustainability and as responsive members of the community trying to fulfill our role as a good neighbor working around the clock for the betterment of the community.”

Part of the project was funded through Clean Water State Revolving Funds. The State Revolving Funds program, administered by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, also received financial support through the U.S. EPA to provide communities the resources necessary to build, maintain and improve the infrastructure that protects water resources.

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.