



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

**Allison Fore**

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

[allison.fore@mwr.org](mailto:allison.fore@mwr.org)

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release

June 12, 2019

## Platinum honors recognize MWRD's vigilance maintaining clean water



*MWRD staff take water samples during the treatment process at the Egan Water Reclamation Plant. The plant was recently honored for achieving 100 percent compliance for five consecutive years.*

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) has again earned strong praise for its pursuit of clean water.

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) recognized the MWRD with six Platinum Peak Performance Awards for at least five consecutive years of meeting stringent permit guidelines at six plants, including the John E. Egan WRP which earned platinum honors for the first time.

“We would like to commend Maintenance and Operations staff, pollution control teams and the Industrial Waste Division for protecting our water environment,” said MWRD President Kari K. Steele. “It is their critical work that keeps our pipes flowing and assures us that we can turn wastewater into clean water.”

The annual awards honor treatment plants for meeting 100 percent compliance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The MWRD was lauded with platinum status at six water (continued)

## Platinum honors recognize MWRD's vigilance *(cont.)*

reclamation plants (WRPs) for achieving 100 percent compliance for at least five consecutive years at each. The following facilities have earned Platinum status:

- Calumet Water Reclamation Plant, Chicago, 27 years
- Lemont Water Reclamation Plant, Lemont, 22 years
- James C. Kirie Water Reclamation Plant, Des Plaines, 14 years
- O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant, Skokie, 13 years
- Hanover Park Water Reclamation Plant, Hanover Park, 11 years
- John E. Egan Water Reclamation Plant, Schaumburg, 5 years

"We thank our staff for their ingenuity and hard work," said MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan. "It is not easy to manage increasing urban runoff mixed with wastewater, all while dealing with changing weather patterns, impervious pavement, and a flat terrain. But the Chicago region and our taxpayers should know we are up to the task and performing at platinum levels."

Serving Chicago and 128 suburban communities across an 882-square-mile-area, MWRD treats an average of 1.38 billion gallons of wastewater per day and serves an equivalent population of nearly 10 million people.

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***Recovering Resources, Transforming Water***

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