



HRSD NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Nancy Gray, APR
Phone: (757) 460-7049
Pager: (757) 677-8313
Email: ngray@hrsd.com
Web site: www.hrsd.com

For Immediate Release
November 20, 2002

HRSD WASTEWATER OLYMPIANS TRIUMPH IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

**~ Local Utility Workers Defeat 200 of Industry's Best and Brightest,
Ousting Defending Champs from L. A. by One Point ~**

VIRGINIA BEACH--HRSD Bio-Force, Virginia's 2002 wastewater Olympics champion, also won first place in the international Operations Challenge competition in Chicago. Thirty-six teams competed in this unique, fast-paced skills contest for wastewater operations and maintenance professionals.

Representing HRSD at Operations Challenge 2002 were:

- Erin Girardi, plant operator, Virginia Initiative Plant, Norfolk
- Gene Groszek, plant operator, Atlantic Treatment Plant, Virginia Beach
- Mike Harris, plant operator, Chesapeake-Elizabeth Treatment Plant, Virginia Beach
- Joel Niemi, plant operator, Army Base Treatment Plant, Norfolk
- Wesley Warren, lead operator, Nansemond Treatment Plant, Suffolk
- George Gregory, team coach, retired superintendent, Chesapeake-Elizabeth Treatment Plant

Competitors earned points for accuracy and speed in five events: collection systems, pump maintenance, laboratory analysis, process control, and safety. HRSD Bio-Force scored a combined total of 457.4 (of 500), defeating the defending champions, the L. A. Wrecking Crew of Los Angeles, by just one point.

Operations Challenge was held as part of the Water Environment Federation's WEFTEC '02 conference. Recognized as tough competition, HRSD has won first place six times and second place four times since Operations Challenge began in 1988.

HRSD, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, was created by public referendum in 1940 and currently serves 1.5 million people in 17 cities and counties. Our mission is to prevent pollution, protect public health, and support community development by providing wastewater collection, treatment, and related services.

###