

HRSD Makes Sweep At AMSA 2001 National Environmental Achievement Awards

The National Environmental Achievement Awards, sponsored by the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA), are the Oscars of the wastewater industry. All nine HRSD treatment plants received Peak Performance Awards for outstanding compliance of their Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

the Southside: Army Base (Norfolk), Atlantic (Virginia Beach), Chesapeake-Elizabeth (Virginia Beach), and Nansemond (Suffolk). On the Peninsula, Boat Harbor (Newport News), Williamsburg (James City County), and York River (Seaford) treatment plants also won Gold Awards. The James River Treatment Plant (Newport News) was a Silver Award winner, with five or fewer

Donnie Wheeler, General Manager (center), accepts the Platinum Award on behalf of the Virginia Initiative Plant. Jim Canaday, AMSA Awards Committee Chair (left), and Ken Kirk, AMSA Executive Director (right), present the award.



Inside

General Manager's Corner	2
Notable	2
Applause, Applause, Applause!	3
Kudos	4
Field Day Highlights	
Potential of Water Reuse For Irrigation	5
Chesapeake Turns Over Hickory Plant Operation	6

(VPDES) permits in 2000. The Peak Performance Award categories are Platinum, Gold, and Silver.

The Virginia Initiative Treatment Plant (Norfolk) was honored with the highly coveted Platinum Award for meeting all VPDES permit limits for five consecutive years. Of the 365 AMSA member agencies, only 13 won Platinum Awards. Gold Awards for achieving 100% permit compliance during 2000 were presented to these treatment plants on

permit violations for the calendar year.

"I am delighted all our treatment plants were recognized with Peak Performance Awards, given the hundreds of thousands of opportunities to violate permits," said Donnie Wheeler (General Manager). "This is an extraordinary accomplishment and a credit to the outstanding staff at our plants."

In addition to the Peak Performance Awards, HRSD also won two Member

continued on page 2

GENERAL MANAGER'S CORNER

An earlier issue of *WaterWays* mentioned the development of a Strategic Communications Plan. I'm pleased to report the plan has been completed and will be used as a tool to help us determine the best methods to communicate with our target publics to reach mutually acceptable solutions for handling biosolids, a critical issue facing HRSD.

The next step in determining our future needs is to develop a long-term Solids Management Plan (SMP), an engineering study that will recommend methods and facilities to handle and process all solids—biosolids, grit, and grease—that are produced at our treatment plants. The last formal SMPs, prepared in the late 1970s, have served us well in designing new treatment plants and major plant improvements for the past 20 years.

Currently, HRSD is operating at approximately 90% of its solids handling capacity. Based on historical production data, which suggest an increase, production is anticipated to exceed capacity some time in 2004. However, short-term options are available, should capacity be exhausted before we determine a viable solution.

The new SMP will evaluate a variety of solids handling technologies, industry trends, applicable government regulations, existing and future production, existing and future capacity at

continued on page 4

AMSA Awards

continued from page 1

Agency Achievement Awards in the Public Information and Education category. The 60th anniversary commemorative calendar was the only award for a printed publication, and Celebrate Farming Day was one of three awards for an education program.

"Congratulations to HRSD on its well-deserved AMSA National Environmental Achievement Awards," comments Ken Kirk (AMSA Executive Director). "As a valued member of AMSA and a leader among wastewater utilities nationwide, HRSD received two prestigious Member Agency Achievement Awards and nine Peak Performance Awards. This affirms

HRSD's innovative leadership and dedication to public service."

The National Environmental Achievement Awards are presented annually by AMSA to recognize exceptional environmental achievements. Consistent winners, HRSD treatment plants have received 120 awards for outstanding permit compliance since 1987, when AMSA established the program.



◀ Nancy Gray, Public Information Manager (2nd from left), and Rhonda Bowen, Recycling Manager (2nd from right), accept the Public Information and Education Awards for the commemorative calendar and Celebrate Farming Day, respectively. Jim Canaday, AMSA Awards Committee Chair (left), and Ken Kirk, AMSA Executive Director (right), present the awards.

NOTABLE

www.improving4u

HRSD, and its engineering consultants CH2M Hill, will be introducing a project Web site, www.improving4u. The Web site will be online the beginning of 2002 and will feature major improvements to the Chesapeake-Elizabeth Treatment Plant as its first project. The Web site will provide information about the project team, an overview and schedule, public meeting, announcements, photos, traffic alerts, a "contact us" button, and links to the HRSD and team member Web sites. Look for more information about the Chesapeake-Elizabeth project in the April 2002 issue of *WaterWays*.

Election of Commission Officers

Both Linda Grantham and Edmund Goldsticker will serve another year as HRSD Commission Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. Linda, a landscape designer and resident of Newport News, was appointed to the Commission in 1994. Ed, an accountant and resident of Virginia Beach, was also appointed to the Commission in 1994.

Applause, Applause, Applause!

Pretreatment Excellence/ Pollution Prevention Awards

HRSD honored 138 local businesses for exemplary permit compliance and outstanding pollution prevention (P2) measures for 2000. This is HRSD's 4th annual recognition for P2 award winners and the 8th for pretreatment excellence award winners. Honoring businesses for their outstanding efforts provides deserved recognition and

an incentive to prevent pollution beyond environmental regulations.

Of those businesses honored, 7 received P2 awards, 95 received gold pretreatment excellence awards, and 43 received silver pretreatment excellence awards. P2 awards are presented to businesses for outstanding multi-media (water, land, and air) efforts that focus on source reduction, rather than traditional treatment, control, and disposal.



▲ Those accepting P2 awards are (from l to r) Karen Barta (Langley Air Force Base), Tim Gantley (Southern Atlantic Label Company), Orville Calhoun (Shorewood Packaging Corporation), Frank Ottofaro (Catalina Cylinders), Van White (NOVA Chemicals), Roger Hill and Lt. Carolyn Medina (NOSTRA, Yorktown Naval Weapons Station), and Michelle Morris (NASA Langley Research Center).



▲ Ocean Lakes High is the first to receive HRSD's Science and Environmental Education Award. Pictured are (from l to r) Dr. Carolyn Keen (Assistant Principal), Erwin Bonatz (HRSD Atlantic Plant Manager), Michelle Bailey-Hennessey (instructor, marine biology), and Carolyn Doetsch (instructor, advanced placement statistics and calculus). Not shown: Gail Tompkins (instructor, advanced placement environmental science and biology) and Lisa Kendall (instructor, biology and chemistry).

Gold awards are presented to businesses that have a perfect compliance record, with no administrative or technical violations. Silver awards are presented to significant industrial users with three or fewer such violations and to nonsignificant industrial users with one such violation.

Science & Environmental Education Award

Ocean Lakes High School is the first recipient of HRSD's Science and Environmental Education Award, which recognizes special achievements in promoting stewardship of water resources in southeast Virginia. Approx-

imately 100 students from Ocean Lakes are participating in a five-year Forest Biodiversity Monitoring Program, which is being conducted on the property of the Atlantic Treatment Plant. The plant property features 150 acres of forest and wetlands and is a vital link in supporting animal migration from south Virginia Beach to other habitat areas. Students will identify the types of plants and trees in a designated study area as part of the program, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation and Research Center (Front Royal) and others.

In celebration of Earth Day, 72 students, as well as 8 Boy Scouts and 10 adults, restored natural groundcover with 257 plantings in a biodiversity grid. The plants will provide groundcover and food for wildlife. Students also built and mounted bat houses and bird houses and then returned to measure the wildlife and trees within the grid.

Virginia Resources Authority Award

VRA nominated HRSD for an Award of Excellence for projects funded in 2000 through the Virginia Wastewater Revolving Loan Program. The HRSD projects recognized by VRA were treatment plant chemical feed disinfection (to convert seven of nine major plants from gaseous to liquid disinfection), odor control on the Peninsula (Boat Harbor, York River, and Williamsburg treatment plants), and needed equipment for the new Middle Peninsula facilities. The other nominees were the Town of Tappahannock and the Sussex Service Authority, with Sussex winning the award.

The program provides financial assistance through low-interest

continued on page 4

Applause, Applause, Applause!

continued from page 3

loans to local governments for needed wastewater treatment improvements at publicly owned wastewater collection and treatment facilities. The State Water Control Board is authorized to determine loan recipients, establish loan amounts, and set repayment terms. On behalf of the Board, VRA provides financial management, and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality provides program management.

Government Financial Officers Association Award

GFOA has presented HRSD with a Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in financial reporting, based on our annual financial report. This is the 18th consecutive year HRSD has been honored with the highest level of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting.

KUDOS

The following received the Class I license, Wastewater Works Operator, issued by the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation:

- Scott Fisher**, ST Plant Operator (Virginia Initiative Treatment Plant)
- Erin Girardi**, ST Plant Operator (Virginia Initiative Treatment Plant)
- Bryan Horton**, ST Maintenance Operator (Virginia Initiative Treatment Plant)

The following received the Class II license, Wastewater Works Operator, issued by the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation:

- Allen (Buddy) Wyatt**, SH Plant Operator (Army Base Treatment Plant)

Other employee achievements:

- Rhodes (Chip) Artz**, Accounting Manager (Accounting), was elected to the Board of Directors, Hampton Roads chapter, American Payroll Association.
- Joe Battersby**, ST Lead Operator (James River Treatment Plant), was recognized by the Distance Education and Training Council as an Outstanding Graduate for 2001. Joe graduated with honors with an A.S. degree in specialized technology from the Center for Degree Studies (Harcourt Learning Direct).
- Kris Bauer**, Human Resources Manager (Human Resources), was recognized as a Certified Professional by the International Personnel Management Association (IPMA-CP).
- Stephanie Black**, Industrial Hygienist (Safety), completed OSHA compliance training by the Board of Safety Professionals and was certified by the National Safety Council as an audiometric technician, pulmonary function technician, and HazMat Level III emergency responder.
- Carolyn Cagle**, Industrial Hygienist (Safety), completed OSHA compliance training by the Board of Safety Professionals and was certified by the National Safety Council as an audiometric technician, pulmonary function technician, and HazMat Level III emergency responder.
- Juanita Kendall**, Machinist (Machine Shop), received an A.S. degree in science from Paul D. Camp Community College.
- Terry Perkins**, Investment Manager (Accounting), was designated as a Certified Cash Manager by the Association of Financial Professionals and the Chauncey Group International.
- Bob Rutherford**, Plant Manager (James River Treatment Plant), was appointed to the Executive Committee, Water Environment Federation.

General Manager's Corner

continued from page 2

our plants, and solids management alternatives. Any deficiencies will be noted, and recommendations will be developed for current and future solids handling projects. The SMP, which will be presented in a phased approach, will be completed in July 2002.

A unique feature of the plan is conducting two workshops: one on the national level, where industry experts will be invited to discuss both technical and regulatory trends and issues, and the other on the local level, where regional stakeholders will be invited to discuss siting and approval issues. The knowledge and insight gained from these workshops will help us address the ever-changing and increasingly complex regulatory and public climates.

Initially, the Regional Planning Team recommended that HRSD prepare a formal SMP as credible documentation of our needs. Formed in 1996, the group was composed of representatives from all the localities' planning and utility departments. Its short-term purpose was to create a regional planning process to coordinate the planning and construction of wastewater facilities with the localities. Now, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission coordinates regional efforts with HRSD and planning and utility staffs. These stakeholders, and others, will play a role in helping HRSD determine the best solution for handling solids in the future.

WaterWays is published in April and October and highlights HRSD's activities, projects, innovations, services, and goals.

WaterWays is published by HRSD
P.O. Box 5902
Virginia Beach, VA 23471-0902

For further information, contact
Nancy E. Gray
Public Information Manager
(757) 460-7049
E-Mail:
ngray@hrsd.dst.va.us

At HRSD our mission is to prevent pollution, protect public health, and support community development by providing wastewater collection, treatment, and related services.



Printed on recycled paper

Field Day Highlights Potential Of Water Reuse For Irrigation

A field day was held at the Virginia Initiative Treatment Plant (VIP) in Norfolk to highlight the results of a two-year irrigation demonstration project. Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Agricultural Research Center, Virginia Tech, and HRSD have been collaborating to determine the potential of using reclaimed VIP wastewater effluent to irrigate golf course turfgrass and ornamental plants. Approximately 90 attendees listened to speakers and viewed the demonstration plots established at VIP as part of the field day.

Four turfgrass plots have been established at the treatment plant and are being maintained to meet U. S. Golf Course Association golf course standards. Two plots, one bermudagrass and one creeping bentgrass, are being irrigated with reclaimed water only. Two identical plots are being irrigated exclusively with potable water. In addition, six identical raised beds have been planted with trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals commonly found in Hampton Roads. Three are being irrigated with potable water, and three are being irrigated with reclaimed water.

▼ *Six raised beds of landscape plants are being irrigated with reclaimed water (three beds) and potable water (three beds). Soil and water samples are analyzed monthly. The aesthetic quality of the plants is also rated monthly. The mailbox stores project literature.*



Scientists have been monitoring the plots to determine the effects of reclaimed water on the growth and quality of the grass and landscape plants. First-year results are promising and consistent with results achieved nationwide. Scientists are continuing to monitor the reclaimed water quality, irrigation amounts, soil types, and plant species before making specific recommendations for use. Water reuse has already proven successful in Florida, California, Arizona, and other parts of the United States, where reclaimed water is being produced for irrigation, industrial purposes, and other nonpotable needs.

Donnie Wheeler (General Manager) says HRSD supports innovative practices such as water reclamation that demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental and resource protection. "Water reuse is a good water management strategy because it conserves water resources and reduces effluent discharges to surface waters such as the Chesapeake Bay," states Wheeler.

HRSD is already under agreement to provide reclaimed water from its York River Treatment Plant (Seaford) to the adjacent BP Amoco Yorktown Refinery. Beginning in July 2002, the Yorktown refinery will use 500,000 gallons per day of polished secondary treatment plant effluent for industrial processes.

House Bill 1282, passed by the 2000 Virginia General Assembly, requires the State Water Control Board to promote and establish requirements for wastewater reclamation and reuse. "The VIP project as well as the BP Amoco project exemplify the types of projects supported by the new legislation," said Wheeler.

HRSD is also considering a future water reuse project at the James River Treatment Plant (Newport News). Any water reuse projects must abide by regulatory requirements established by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Chesapeake Turns Over Hickory Plant Operation



▲ *Wastewater from the Hickory Treatment Plant will be diverted to HRSD's interceptor system after construction of the S. Battlefield Boulevard pipeline. The plant treats wastewater from four Chesapeake public schools.*

Hampton Roads Sanitation District is now operating the Hickory Treatment Plant in Chesapeake under a contract with the city's school system. According to Steve Gilbert, Assistant Superintendent for Operations (Chesapeake Public Schools), "The school system understands that the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) would prefer to see the plant closed. Until it is possible to do so by connecting to HRSD's force main, the school system is pleased to have the plant operated by HRSD, as they have an excellent reputation with DEQ."

Located near S. Battlefield Boulevard, the plant serves four public

schools: Hickory Elementary, Hickory Middle, Hickory High, and Southeastern Elementary. The design capacity is 43,000 gallons per day. Built in the mid-1990s, the plant provides tertiary, or advanced, treatment because the effluent discharges to a drainage ditch.

As a result of construction of the Edinburgh development, the developer is installing over 13,000 feet of pipeline along S. Battlefield Boulevard. The new pipeline will serve Edinburgh, any other new development along S. Battlefield, and these four schools. Once the pipeline is operating, the plant's flow will be diverted and the plant deactivated. The pipeline will become part of HRSD's interceptor system.

IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE PUBLIC INFORMATION MANAGER AT ngray@hrsd.vt.us OR 460-7049.

Virginia Beach, VA 23471-0902
P.O. Box 5902

