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**Alexandria Sanitation Authority Called “the Best of the Best”  
In New Book on Water Reclamation**

(Alexandria, VA, November 28, 2008) The Alexandria Sanitation Authority continues to gain national and international recognition as one of the industry’s most innovative and leading water reclamation facilities. In her recently published book, *The Big Necessity* (Harry Holt & Company 2008) writer Rose George describes ASA as the “smartest, sweetest smelling sewage treatment plant I’ve ever seen.”

Earlier this month, ASA was honored for becoming the first water reclamation facility in the Commonwealth of Virginia and only the 20th in the nation to be admitted into the prestigious National Biosolids Partnership (NBP)

The British writer and journalist provides a candid account of both the history and current state of wastewater treatment throughout the world. The United Nations General Assembly designated 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation.

Ms. Rose was invited by the NBP to visit ASA in 2007 to gain a better understanding of biosolids. “They want me to see the best of the best; and the obvious choice is a small facility half an hour from the U.S. Capitol,” she writes.

Having visited numerous other water reclamation facilities in the United States and across the globe, the author is pleasantly surprised by how ASA “built this plant to blend in aesthetically with the old-worldness of Alexandria and with the city’s new-world sensitivities to smell.”

During its last redesign, ASA invested in a state-of-the-art odor control room and Ms. Rose observes that the biosolids processing building – ASA’s “crown jewel” – is “spotless and odorless.” She goes on to note that “I’d been told by [a wastewater manager] that I’d be able to eat off the floor, and he wasn’t lying.”

Last year, ASA produces more than 22,000 tons of certified Class A Exceptional Quality Biosolids that contain no traces of pathogens, extremely low levels of metals and are practically odor-free.

ASA’s biosolids are a highly efficient natural fertilizer making them a great resource for Virginia’s farmers who can apply them for free to their fields, thereby reducing the need for expensive synthetic fertilizers. Calling these biosolids a “marvel,” Ms. George goes on to say that “for a free product, it’s unbeatable.”

For more information on ASA, visit [www.alexsan.com](http://www.alexsan.com).

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