

News



from the Alexandria Sanitation Authority

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Media Contact:

Heather Thomas (703) 549-3381 x2237

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALEXANDRIA SANITATION AUTHORITY RECEIVES PLATINUM PEAK PERFORMANCE AWARD

ASA Maintains Perfect Compliance with Federal NPDES Permit for Five Straight Years

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia – August 6, 2010 - The Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA) was recently presented with a Platinum *Peak Performance Award*, a special tribute to agency facilities that have maintained 100 percent compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for five consecutive years.

The *Peak Performance Awards* program, presented by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), recognizes public wastewater treatment facilities for their outstanding compliance records in the 2009 calendar year. Joel Gregory, Process Manager, and Steven Lee, Maintenance Technician, accepted the award on ASA's behalf at NACWA's 2010 Summer Conference and 40th Annual Meeting, held July 20-23, 2010 in San Francisco, California.

"We take great pride in the work we do here at ASA, and it's definitely an honor to be recognized by NACWA," said Karen Pallansch, Engineer-Director for ASA. "This award is really a team achievement. ASA has great people working together to keep ASA innovative, while continuing to do their part protecting our natural resources."

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality issues the state specific version of the NPDES permit, referred to as the Virginia Pollutant Discharge System (VPDES). The VPDES permit mandates acceptable levels of nutrients found in the effluent – treated water leaving the facility and being returned to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. ASA has met or exceeded those requirements consistently, removing over 90 percent of the nitrogen and close to 100 percent of the phosphorus from the dirty water coming into the plant. These nutrients are what fuel the growth of algae blooms in the waterways.

"The Alexandria Sanitation Authority is an outstanding example of environmental efforts. NACWA is honored to showcase the achievements of ASA and our nation's public wastewater utilities through the *Peak Performance Awards* program." Ken Kirk, NACWA's Executive Director.

The Alexandria Sanitation Authority maintains one of the most advanced water treatment facilities in the United States, located on a 35-acre site within walking distance of Old Town Alexandria in Northern Virginia. ASA serves about 350,000 people in the City of Alexandria and part of Fairfax County, processing an average of 12 billion gallons of wastewater every year. ASA is committed to being an environmental steward, good neighbor, and industry leader in its day-to-day treatment of water. Visit www.alexsan.com for more information.

Contact:

Heather Thomas, Public Communications Liaison

(703) 549-3381 x 2237

heather.thomas@alexsan.com