



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Andrew M. Weist

Operation & Maintenance Excellence Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to the staff and communities of the Village of Speculator Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Hamilton County and the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) in Montgomery County. They have been selected as winners of this year's New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Andrew M. Weist Operation & Maintenance Excellence Award.

The NYSDEC Division of Water selection committee selected the Speculator WWTP as the winner in the Small Secondary Treatment Category. The Gloversville-Johnstown WWTF was selected as the winner in the Large Advanced Treatment Category. The selection committee noted the outstanding compliance history of these facilities in their recommendation. Both facilities were nominated for the award by Rob Streeter from NYSDEC Region 5.

The NYSDEC Andrew M.

Weist O&M Excellence Awards honor wastewater treatment facilities that implement



Operators Paul Christman (left) and Richard Wager (center) accept their award from Joseph DiMura, P.E., Director, NYSDEC Bureau of Water Compliance

innovative and outstanding operations, maintenance and management programs that result in high levels of continued performance and efficiency.

The award memorializes Andrew M. Weist for his many positive contributions, which enhanced wastewater treatment plant operations in this state and at a national level. Andy's efforts

played a significant role in improving the quality of our waters. Andy was the section chief of NYSDEC's Facility Operations Assistance Section for 15 years and worked at DEC for more than 32 years before retiring in 1995. Andy passed away in 1999.

Municipal wastewater treatment facilities are the backbone of New York's water quality protection efforts, and these awards recognize municipalities that have gone the extra mile to protect the water quality of this state. This award also recognizes the entire staff at wastewater treatment facilities for their fine work and dedication to protecting public

health, the environment, and the public's investment.

The Gloversville-Johnstown WWTF staff received their award on July 2 at the wastewater treatment facility. The award was presented by Joseph DiMura, Director of the NYSDEC Division of Water,

(Continued on Page 2)

Operator Facts

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to inform wastewater operators about various operational practices, problem-solving approaches, technical developments and certification and training issues.

The bulletin is produced by:
Bureau of Water
Compliance Programs,
Phillip T. Smith, P.E., Chief,
Facility Operators Assistance
Section
Robert Wither, P.E.,
Editor

You are invited to submit technical articles or other information of interest to operators for publication in Operator Facts.

Be sure to notify us of a change of address if you wish to continue to receive Operator Facts and training notices. Please include your certificate number.

The mention of any product or listing of any company's seminar is not an endorsement by this department.

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625 Broadway,
Albany, NY 12233-3506
Phone (518) 402-8177 or fax
(518) 402-8082.

Visit our website at:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8464.html



Winter 2008/2009 Issue

Excellence Awards

(Continued from page 1)

Bureau of Water Compliance, to Operators Paul Christman and Richard Wager.

The Gloversville-Johnstown Joint WWTF is a 13.2 million gallon per day (mgd) design activated sludge treatment facility serving a population of about 25,000 people. Average daily flow is 6.0 mgd with 1.5 mgd from industrial users. The facility discharges to the Cayadutta Creek.

The Gloversville-Johnstown WWTF has an outstanding activated sludge process control program that optimizes the nitrification process while saving energy through a fine-tuned aeration blower control system. The system provides very stable dissolved oxygen levels in the aeration basin, resulting in predictable biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and ammonia removal rates as loads vary throughout the day.

Another highlight of the Gloversville-Johnstown WWTF is the operation of the anaerobic digesters. An anaerobic digester improvement project included cleaning both 1,500,000 gallon digesters. Staff from the facility pumped and dewatered each tank and removed several feet of grit. The in-house cleaning saved more than \$500,000.

The digester cleaning, along with other digester improvements initiated by the staff, has resulted in more biogas capture and more efficient and beneficial use of the biogas. In 2007, only 9% of the biogas generated was sent to flare, while the remaining 91% was used for

co-generation engine firing and for use in the boilers. This efficient use of biogas generated 40% of the electrical power on the site, reducing the purchase of off-site electricity. During calendar year 2007, more than \$300,000 worth of electrical savings was realized. George Bevington, manager of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint WWTF, plans to expand the electrical savings further in the near future through increased co-generation.

Staff from the Village of Speculator WWTP received their award on July 18 at the wastewater treatment facility. NYSDEC Region 5 Water Engineer Bill Wasilzuski, P.E. presented the award to Florence Braunius, chief operator of the facility.

The Village of Speculator WWTP is a 0.30 mgd design activated sludge treatment facility which currently treats an average flow of 0.09 mgd, with seasonal variations. The population of the village goes from about 300 people in the winter to about 1,300 in the summer. The facility discharges to the Sacandaga River.

Chief Operator Florence Braunius and her staff take great pride in the excellent compliance record of the treatment facility. Highlights are energy savings and better D.O. control. Modification of the Speculator WWTP frequency blower drives has led to savings in energy costs.

(Continued on Page 3)

Excellence Awards

(Continued from page 2)

The Speculator WWTP staff is heavily involved with community events and has hosted numerous open houses and tours of the facility. These events help the community understand how important their support is in achieving clean water.

These outreach activities contribute to positive public relations and help promote public awareness about wastewater treatment. The facility staff also takes pride in participating in the Adirondack Water Fest. They have hosted the festival on two occasions, including in 2007.

Congratulations to the staffs and communities of both of these extremely well-operated and maintained wastewater treatment facilities. The communities should be proud of their efforts.



Chief Operator Florence Braunius (center), and Operators James Desrochers (right), and Robert Peck (second from right) accept their award for the Speculator WWTP from Bill Wasilowski, P.E. (left) NYSDEC Region 5, Regional Water Engineer and Gregg Gendron (second from left) NYDEC, Facilities Operations Assistance Section.

The plant operators are the frontline protectors of the environment that not only meet

effluent discharge limits, but go to the extra effort to excel in their field.

New FOAS Contact Information

Regions 1, 4, and 7

Rich Malaczynski: (518) 402-8087
rmmalacz@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Region 2

Tim Miller: (518) 402-8106
tjmiller@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Regions 3 and 8

Gregg Gendron: (518) 402-8096
gwgendron@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Region 5

Phillip Smith: (518) 402-8092
ptsmith@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Regions 6 and 9

Bob Wither: (518) 402-8097
rewither@gw.dec.state.ny.us

DMR Non-Receipt Enforcement Initiative

Starting December-2008, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will be rolling out a new routine enforcement process for non-submittal of Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs). DEC will no longer send out reminder letters that a DMR was not received in Central Office. Notices of Violation (NOVs) will be sent to the permittee. These NOVs will contain a 30-day deadline to submit the delinquent DMR(s), after which, Orders on Consent with a penalty will be sent to permittees. Once this Order on Consent has been sent, there will be no opportunity to

settle the matter without payment of a penalty. This is a statewide initiative; no exceptions to the time frame or penalty will be accommodated due to the critical importance of SPDES compliance.



Village of Waterville Wastewater Treatment Facility Wins EPA's 2008 Clean Water Act Recognition Award in the Small Advanced Category

CONGRATULATIONS to the Village of Waterville Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) on winning the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2008 Clean Water Act (CWA) Recognition Awards in the Small Advanced Category. The Waterville WWTF was selected as the winner of the NYSDEC Andrew M. Weist Operation and Maintenance Excellence Award for the Small Advanced Category in 2007. The facility was then nominated by EPA Region 2 to compete for the 2008 EPA CWA Recognition Award.

Chief Operator Louis Langone accepted the award on behalf of the Village of Waterville during the Water Environment Federation's annual Technical Exposition and Conference on Monday, October 20, 2008 in Chicago, Illinois.

This award, like the Andrew M. Weist Operation and Maintenance Excellence Award, is heavily weighted on compliance. The Waterville facility has an excellent compliance record and has not had an effluent violation since September 1997. Mr. Langone and village staff take great pride in their public relations program, which reaches out to local middle school classes to participate in tours of the treatment facility.

Mr. Langone outlines the treatment processes at the plant and talks to the students about how the facility protects the environment. Having the students come to the plant and see what is involved in treating wastewater helps them understand how important clean water is to everyone.



Chief Operator Louis Langone (second from left) discusses the composting operation with Regional Engineer Skip Shoemaker (right), Jim Doyle (left), and Ann Rice (second from left) from NYSDEC Region 6.

residents of the community are allowed to pick up bags of composted material at the treatment facility for use in their gardens.

The Clean Water Act Recognition Awards program is sponsored by EPA's Office of Wastewater Management. The awards recognize municipalities and industries, including tribal nations and U.S. military commands, for demonstrating outstanding technological achievements or innovative processes, methods or devices in their waste treatment and pollution abatement programs. The program is intended educate the public about the contributions that publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities make to clean water. The program recognizes communities that go far beyond the minimum needed to

meet Clean Water Act requirements.

Another highlight of the facility is the biosolids management program. The Village of Waterville, under the leadership of a progressive plant operator and superintendent of public works and with the approval of a proactive board, has taken a negative (sludge) and made it a positive (compost). This has been a great public relations tool. The compost operation is second to none and



Renewal Training & Upcoming Meetings

January 14-15, 2009
Advanced Activated Sludge
Co-sponsored by NYWEA Lower Hudson Chapter
Location: Town of Walkkill Golf Club, Circleville, NY
Cost: \$70
Contact Hours: 12
Contact: Tim Miller @ (518) 402-8106 or
tjmiller@gw.dec.state.ny.us

February 5, 2009
Solids Handling/Aerobic Digestion
Co-sponsored by CRPWOA
Location: Village of Mayville Community Building, Mayville, NY
Cost: \$30
Contact Hours: 6.5
Contact: Bob Wither @ (518) 402-8097 or
rewither@gw.dec.state.ny.us

February 6, 2009
Anaerobic Digestion
Co-sponsored by NYWEA Genesee Valley Chapter
Location: Village Meeting Hall, Webster, NY
Cost: \$10
Contact Hours: 4
Contact: Gregg Gendron @ (518) 402-8096 or
gwgendro@gw.dec.state.ny.us



NYWEA, Inc.
525 Plum Street, Suite 102
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 422-7811
E-mail: mail@nywea.org
<http://www.nywea.org>

February 1-4, 2009
NYWEA 81st Annual Meeting
Location: New York Marriott Marquis, New York, NY 10036

March 26, 2009
Basic Panel on Wastewater for Local and Elected Representatives
Location: SUNY Potsdam, Potsdam, NY
Cost: Free
Contact Hours: 0

Blue Cards Now Issued When You Apply For Renewal

When you renew your wastewater certificate, you will *not* receive the renewal approval letter. Instead, a new blue card (new certificate) will be issued. Note that your five-year renewal training cycle will *not* change. Your renewal training must still be completed within the specified five-year cycle. Check the reminder on the new card.

For example, if your current certificate expires on 9/1/2010 and you have the necessary hours, you can renew now. However, the new blue card you will receive will have an expiration date of 9/1/2015. That means all renewal training for that certificate must be completed between 9/2/2010 and 9/1/2015.

Job Opportunity

Assistant Operator, Grade 3 (Wastewater)
Town of Orangetown, Rockland County, NY

Safe and efficient operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment plant, including use of physical and chemical treatment process other than activated sludge process. Work is done on a rotating shift under the general supervision of the chief operator.

Must possess a valid Grade 3 Wastewater Certificate issued by NYSDEC and must be a resident of Rockland County at the time of mandatory civil service examination. Starting 2009 salary is \$58,458.00.

Resumes to Eileen Schlag at eschlag@orangetown.com or fax to (845) 359-9046. Contact Eileen Schlag at (845) 359-5100, ext 2219 for more information.

Congratulations

To Our New Certified Operators

Grade 1

Dustin B Dwyer	Oneida
Henry O N Emembolu	Westchester
Gregory D Lisk	Schuyler
Michael A Merritt	Westchester
William G Sherrard	Nassau
Edward A Smith	Sullivan
Angelo Zeppetelli	NYC

Grade 1A

Robert N Andersen	Orange
William E Barden	Westchester
Brendan Barry	Putnam
Paul R Frey	Dutchess
James J Irwin	Chautauqua
David L Rathbun	Warren
Brian N Ruper	Cattaraugus
Ryan J Rysinger	Sullivan

Grade 2

Joseph F Berghammer	Delaware
Michael J Brennan	Sullivan
Raymond P Bzduch	Wyoming
Daniel P Czelusta	Erie
Michael R Davis	Ontario
Gary D Edwards	Broome
Richard J Furiosi	Broome
John P Hawley II	Broome
Gary C Holmes	Saratoga
Jason H Leimsider	Nassau
Scott Marean	Broome
Cynthia Mendes	Broome
Michael D Rude	Steuben
Tyson R Stiles	Tompkins
David L Tully	Seneca

Grade 2A

Devanand Beharry	NYC
Wesley J Bouck	Herkimer
Andrew J Butler	Orange
John D Calamari	Suffolk
Christopher Cummings	Ontario
Paul E DelForno	Dutchess
Erik K Dingman	Jefferson
Fernando E Dongo	Dutchess
Ray W Dunbar	Out Of State
John J Emmi	Oswego
John H Ennis III	Out Of State
Douglas Fialkoff	Westchester
Jeremiah J Flannery	Delaware
Duane P Gates	Allegany
Frank Guele	Nassau
Justin M Hart	Oswego
Steven E Jappell	Nassau
Ronald E Jennings	Livingston
David E Jones	Nassau
John H Lennon, III	Albany
Joseph Lombardo	Suffolk
James E Luke	Monroe
John B Mitchell	Herkimer
Brian W Mott	Suffolk
Scott L Newton	Suffolk
Kevin E Novak	Westchester
Damian P Petrick	Ulster
Timothy J Rausch	Delaware
Ryan P Riefler	Onondaga
Edwin E Villa, Sr	Nassau
Robert A Waligroski	Orange
James H Walls	Orleans
Lynn H Wheaton	Steuben
Mark P Wiatrowski	Erie
Kim A Young	Herkimer

Grade 3

Timothy B Clark	Delaware
Carl G Romesser	Wyoming

Grade 3A

Jeffery A Boyer	Orange
Ray W Dunbar	Suffolk
Alton B Leggett	Erie
Charles C Mancuso	Erie
Tay Shine Mao	NYC
Thomas J Morreale, Jr	Oneida
Thomas M Niciu	Westchester
Joseph M Tullo	Suffolk
Joshua Rego Vital, Sr	Greene
Vito J Vitelli	NYC
Robert L Waite	Out Of State

Grade 4A

Joseph P Greene	Saratoga
Ronald E Jennings	Livingston
James J Justvig	Dutchess
Barry A Parfitt	Putnam
Jason M Wheeler	Rensselaer

ABC Exam Statistics

(December 2007 – September 2008)

Grade	% Passing	# Exams	Ave Score
1	64	11	71
1A	89	9	81
2	60	25	72
2A	35	51	73
3	25	8	61
3A	17	52	61
4	0	1	65
4A	17	23	65

Energy Conservation

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) offers an energy efficiency program aimed at reducing energy costs and energy usage at wastewater treatment facilities across New York State.

New York Power Authority has had successful energy conservation projects at facilities in Oneida and Monroe Counties and the Town of

Canajoharie. The program requires no out-of-pocket costs or expenses of participants, as the installation and construction costs are paid for using the savings generated from the upgrades in the equipment's energy efficiency.

NYPA finances the projects, recovering its costs by sharing in the resulting electric bill savings. Best measures

identified by NYPA technicians at wastewater treatment facilities include installation of premium efficiency motors, DO sensors, variable speed drives, boiler plant improvements, building automation and controls, and high efficiency lighting.

For information, visit www.nypa.gov or call (518) 433-6734.

EPA Develops an Asset Management Tool for Small Water and Wastewater Utilities

EPA has developed a user-friendly asset management tool for small drinking water and wastewater utilities. This tool (CUP\$\$) is designed to help integrate asset management activities into utility practices. CUP\$\$ provides a simple, comprehensive approach based on EPA's highly successful Simple Tools for Effective Performance (STEP) Guide series. The program uses a series of modules to collect information on the utility's assets, operation, and maintenance activities, and financial status. This information is used to produce a prioritized asset inventory, financial reports, and a customized asset management plan.

CUP\$\$ is free software that can be used to help you, the operator, develop:

- A record of your assets
- A schedule of required tasks
- An understanding of your financial situation
- A tailored asset management plan

CUP\$\$ Background

CUP\$\$ was developed in response to a clear need from communities and trainers to consolidate and package asset management materials in an easy-to-use, clear, and up-to-date fashion. EPA's Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water (OGWDW) developed CUP\$\$ with the help of a work group that included representatives from state agencies, technical

assistance organizations, EPA regional offices, and small wastewater and drinking water utilities. With this collaborative approach, EPA was able to develop a comprehensive application that provides all the tools required to implement an asset management program and develop effective asset management plans.

What is CUP\$\$?

CUP\$\$ is available via a free download from www.epa.gov/cupss/software.html or you can request a copy of the application on CD. This software does not require an Internet connection to function. Plus, EPA has developed a full suite of support documentation (www.epa.gov/cupss/resources.html) including the following:

- Getting Started with CUP\$\$ workbook
- CUP\$\$ User's Guide
- Training material
- Promotional material

In addition, the CUP\$\$ application includes a comprehensive help guide (modeled after the ones found in Microsoft Office products) to walk you through its setup and to help you work through each module.

Benefits of CUP\$\$

CUP\$\$ is designed to help small water and wastewater utilities support budget discussions with solid facts and

numbers, boost the efficiency of the utility, save staff time, and improve customer service by ensuring continual service at competitive prices. The program is designed to assist users in evaluating the current state of the assets in their utility, the level of service they are aiming to uphold, identify assets that are critically important, and identify minimum life-cycle cost and long-term funding strategy. The CUP\$\$ program will also assist in preparing work orders and an asset management plan.

For more information on CUP\$\$, visit EPA's website at: www.epa.gov/cupss/.

Belt Press for Sale

The Village of Old Forge is selling a half meter belt press. The press was installed in 1982 and taken out of service in 1993. Included in the sale are two polymer feed pumps, a control panel and a bucket elevator. Contact Ted Riehle at (315) 369-6280 for more information.

1 – KS Kompress Belt Filter Press
Model: GMD – 0.5/1
Dimensions: 15'6"L x 4'7"W x 8'7"H

Wt: 8500 lbs

1 – KS Kompress Control Panel
3 Phase 480V Nema Type 4
Dimensions: 72"H x 37"W x 18"D

WT: 1500 lbs

2 – BIF Series 1700 Diaphragm Metering Pumps

1 – Set of New Belts for Press

1 – New Belt for Elevator

Buyer is to arrange removal of all equipment.

Final Notification of Upcoming Changes – Join Email Group Now

Starting in August 2009, the primary method of sending out all DEC operator training notices, What's Going On and Operator Facts will be by email, rather than U.S. mail. We currently only have 430 certified operators signed up for email notification (there are over 3,000 active certified operators in the state). We want everyone to be aware of the training opportunities in their area. To sign up for email notification, go the website:

<http://lists.dec.state.ny.us/mailman/listinfo/wwtpcertifiedoperators>

If you don't have access to email, we will send a paper copy **only** if you return the slip below. If we do not receive the slip, we will assume that you have signed up for email notification or are no longer interested in receiving training and certification information. In either case, you will continue to get your new blue card by regular mail, so be sure to keep your mailing address current. If you responded to our previous mailing either by joining the email group or by returning the slip below, please disregard this notice.

I do *not* have email and want to continue to receive paper notification. 

Name: _____

Wastewater Certification Number: _____

Return to: NYSDEC
Facility Operations Assistance Section
625 Broadway, 4th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-3506

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8464.html

Visit FOAS' Website:

Albany, New York 12233-3506

Facility Operations Assistance Section
625 Broadway - 4th Floor

New York State DEC

