

Cle Elum Wastewater Treatment Plant Named National Operational Excellence Award Winner

Award recognizes environmental and safety excellence at Cle Elum Wastewater Treatment Facility, despite difficult weather conditions

Out of more than 300 water and wastewater projects, the Cle Elum Wastewater Treatment Facility has been recognized with an Operational Excellence (OpEx) Award by Veolia Water North America, the nation's leading provider of comprehensive water and wastewater partnership services to municipal and industrial customers.

Each year, Veolia Water North America's OpEx awards recognize municipal and industrial Veolia Water facilities that demonstrate overall excellence in key areas including employee safety, environmental compliance, operations, human resources, community involvement and client relations.

The Cle Elum Wastewater Treatment Facility was selected for a number of factors, not the least of which was its successful operations during very inclement conditions. In 2009, the wastewater facility remained 100% in environmental and safety compliance, despite a challenging year in which a significant snow storm blasted six and a half feet of snow into the area, followed by severe rainstorms and flash flooding. For maintaining a perfect environmental and safety record despite difficult conditions for a wastewater system, it was chosen the winner of the "Small Project or System" category.

"This award is a testament to the partnership between the city of Cle Elum and Veolia Water," said Tom Hastings, plant manager at the Cle Elum facility. "By working together, we've been able to operate a safe workplace that is 100 percent in environmental compliance, literally despite rain or snow."

Now in place for the past 10 years, the OpEx Awards program emphasizes environmental compliance and employee and public safety – approximately 40 percent of the grading scale is based on safety and compliance. In total, three municipal and three industrial projects were selected for the award. The 2009 OpEx selection committee was comprised of company leaders and project managers from previous year's winners.

Also chosen in the Pacific Northwest was the Vancouver Water Reclamation Facilities in Vancouver, Wash.

"The teams at these projects exemplify a commitment to excellence, the environment and their client communities by the way they manage day-to-day operations and provide services to our clients and client communities," said Laurent Auguste, president and CEO, Veolia Water Americas.

Based in Chicago, Veolia Water North America is the leading provider of comprehensive water and wastewater partnership services to municipal and industrial customers, providing services to more than 14 million people in approximately 650 North American communities. The company is part of the Veolia Environnement companies in North America, with 30,000 North American employees providing sustainable environmental solutions in water management, waste services, energy management, and passenger transportation.

Veolia Water, the water division of Veolia Environnement, is the world leader in water and wastewater services and technological solutions. Its parent company, Veolia Environnement (NYSE: VE and Paris Euronext: VIE), is the worldwide reference in environmental services. With more than 336,000 employees, Veolia Environnement recorded annual revenues of \$50 billion in 2008. Veolia Environnement is in the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index (DJSI World) and Dow Jones STOXX Sustainability Index (DJSI STOXX). Visit the company's Web sites at www.veolianorthamerica.com and www.veoliawaterna.com.