February 13, 2020

New York Water Environment Association Presents Collection System Operation & Maintenance Award to Erie County Division of Sewerage Management

Syracuse – The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA), a statewide organization of water quality management professionals, has awarded Erie County Division of Sewerage Management its annual Collection System Operation & Maintenance Award. During NYWEA’s 92nd Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, February 5, NYWEA President Robert Wither presented the award to Joseph Fiegl and Angela Horton who accepted on behalf of the County. The Collection System Operation & Maintenance Award recognizes an outstanding Operation & Maintenance program at a wastewater utility in New York State.

The Erie County Division of Sewerage Management (ECDSM) maintains overall responsibility for the seven (7) Erie County Sewer Districts (ECSDs), including approximately 1,100 miles of sanitary sewers, almost 100 pumping stations, and associated collection system appurtenances. The ECDSM has recognized the importance, and appropriately prioritized funding and resources, toward collection system operation and maintenance (O&M) and infiltration/inflow (I/I) elimination. The ECDSM has implemented a multi-pronged approach to manage the collection systems assets of the ECSDs. While traditional O&M techniques are employed, the following programs were specifically developed by the ECSDs:

- Private Property Inspection Program to address private property I/I. This is one of the most robust ongoing private property inspection programs in New York State (NYS) and was featured in the Fall 2019 edition of Clear Waters magazine.
- Developer I/I Rehabilitation Program: The first of its kind in NYS, for new residential subdivisions, private developers are required to remove four (4) times their proposed peak flows through I/I mitigation.
- Annual Collection System Investments dedicated to sewer rehabilitation have grown to $4.35 million in the 2020 budget.

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• Overflow eliminations for assets inherited from other municipalities, including the Rush Creek Interceptor project—NYS American Public Works Association’s 2017 “Environmental Project of the Year”.

• Centralized staffing and safety (recipient of the 2013 NYWEA Collection Systems Safety Award) are integral to ECDSM’s success.

About NYWEA: Founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a nonprofit educational organization, NYWEA has 2,700 members statewide and hosts several technical conferences each year for environmental engineers, scientists, public officials and others who work in water and wastewater quality management. In addition, NYWEA sponsors a scholarship program, publishes Clear Waters, a quarterly educational magazine, and administers the wastewater operator certification program. NYWEA also supports humanitarian clean water projects. Headquartered in Syracuse, NYWEA has seven regional chapters, 14 college student chapters and is a Member Association of the international Water Environment Federation. For more information, visit www.nywea.org.

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