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The Water Environment Federation and New York Water Environment Association Recognize Dale Grudier of Suffolk County DPW with the William D. Hatfield Award

Syracuse, NY – The Water Environment Federation and the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) honored Dale Grudier with the 2022 William D. Hatfield Award at the awards ceremony during NYWEA's 95th Annual Meeting. The award is given annually to recognize operators of water pollution control plants who are doing an outstanding job in performance of their duties, as well as operators demonstrating distinguished professionalism.

Grudier is the director of operations and maintenance at the Bergen Point Wastewater Treatment Plant, and has been with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works for over 37 years. He is a graduate of Rocky Point High School, and holds an A.S. degree in Fluid Mechanics from Suffolk County Community College. Grudier joined Suffolk County DPW in 1985 as a wastewater treatment plant helper working in the scavenger waste facility at the age of 19. Since that time, he has worked his way up to the position of director of operations and maintenance for the Southwest Sewer District. He oversees a staff of over 100 people. Grudier has his 4A wastewater certification from New York State, as well as completing the National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO) certification training. He is currently in the process of obtaining his collection system certification.

For 10 years, Grudier was a member of the Long Island Brown Tide Operations Challenge Team. The Operations Challenge is the water sector’s premier professional skills competition with state, regional, and national competitions held each year. Being a part of the operations challenge gave Grudier the opportunity to reach out and educate the community about the importance of wastewater treatment. His team appeared on a local TV station in Buffalo after the Operations Challenge was held there. He has been interviewed for Water Environment & Technology magazine, as well as the local paper. As the director of operations and maintenance, Grudier has hosted members of the community, government, and press for tours of this facility. He also encourages members of this staff to be active members of NYWEA, and to attend conferences to educate themselves on the latest technologies.

Though Grudier is no longer a member of an operations challenge team, he continues to give back, serving as a judge at the New Jersey Water Environment Association competition, the NYWEA competition, and at the Water Environment Federations’s WEFTEC competition. Grudier served on NYWEA’s Long Island Chapter Board of Directors, Utility Operations & Maintenance Committee, Operations Challenge Committee, the Wastewater Certification Governance Council, and as the operator representative to the NYWEA Board. During his tenure with the governance council, Grudier was involved with educating the members of the New York State Department of Civil Service about the viability of professional operator certification.
At the Awards Ceremony, Grudier also received a NYWEA Board of Directors Service Award to recognize his three years of service as the Operator Representative to the board.

About NYWEA: Founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a nonprofit educational organization, NYWEA has 2,500 members statewide and hosts several technical conferences each year for environmental engineers, scientists, water resource recovery operators, 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, administers wastewater operator training and certification, and supports humanitarian clean water projects. Headquartered in Syracuse, NYWEA has seven regional chapters, 15 college student chapters and is a Member Association of the international Water Environment Federation. For more information, please visit [www.nywea.org](http://www.nywea.org).