



New York Water Environment Association, Inc.

The Water Quality Management Professionals

525 Plum Street, Suite 102 • Syracuse, New York 13204

(315) 422-7811 • Fax: 422-3851 • www.nywea.org

Contact: Patricia Cerro-Reehil, NYWEA Executive Director, 315-422-7811

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New York Water Environment Association Recognizes Ron Kenny of Westchester County DEF with Outstanding Operator of the Year Award

Syracuse, NY – New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) recognized Ron Kenny of Westchester County with an Outstanding Operator of the Year Award. The award is offered annually to honor a water resource recovery operator in each of NYWEA's regional chapters across the state. The award commemorates extraordinary dedication in the day to day operation of a water resource recovery utility, and/or successful solution to a problem, and/or contributions to the wastewater field. The award gives recognition to operations personnel who are essential in mitigating operational challenges beyond the staff's control.

Ron Kenny was born and grew up in County Galway, Ireland and immigrated to the United States in 1996. He was a carpenter by trade until he was hired by Westchester County in 2008 as an operator trainee. In 2009 Kenny was promoted to operator and went about the task of learning the facility and the job. In 2014, Kenny was promoted to supervising operator.

Kenny has been a supervising operator for more than 7 years at the Yonkers Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant is a 120 million gallon per day (MGD) water resource recovery facility with a collection system that has combined sewers and multiple combined sewer overflow (CSO) facilities, one of which is the responsibility of facility staff. Kenny has led the operations staff through numerous wet weather events with flows up to 300 MGD and CSO activation. In his over 7 years as a supervisor, he has kept the facility from having any major upsets or permit violations during these wet weather events. His knowledge of the facility and his calm steady demeanor sets the example for other employees to follow.

Kenny has great problem solving skills and is not afraid to dive in and get his hands dirty when needed. He is also the person who trains most new employees in facility operations at Yonkers including the new supervisors. Kenny was and is instrumental in assisting with various shutdowns and operational adjustments required to complete the numerous capital projects which the facility has undergone in the last ten years. Kenny has also been extremely proactive in learning how to operate the new equipment installed under the capital projects and passing that knowledge on to others.

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.



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