



New York Water Environment Association, Inc.

The Water Quality Management Professionals

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New York Water Environment Association Recognizes Joseph Russo of NYCDEP with Outstanding Operator of the Year Award

Syracuse, NY – New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) recognized Joseph Russo of New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) 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.

Russo is a senior sewage treatment worker, who is a valued team member at the Owl's Head Water Resource Recovery Facility. His many qualifications include on job training in burning, cutting, and welding of different types of metals; LOTO and confined space training; supervision and supervisory training; trained and versed in computerized maintenance management system; training on chemical bulk storage and handling; certificate of fitness for storage, handling, and usage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG); fire guard; and handling of motor fuel and storage of non-flammable compressed gases, issued by the NYC Fire Department.

Over the last two decades with NYCDEP, Russo's performance has been extraordinary. His hard work, diligence, team spirit, and leadership has been able to deliver positive results beyond expectations and provided inspiration to his colleagues. Some of his assignments have included repairing and rebuilding critical machinery and equipment; troubleshooting and repairing odor control machinery and equipment; mitigating odor concerns including air monitoring; supervising, training, and leading his team in the field; and ensuring a constant supply of chemicals, log sheets, and lab materials. Russo is always prompt and dedicated with his work and is an inspiring individual with good conduct. He is the elected representative/shop steward for DC 37 local 1320, the largest workforce in the NYCDEP Bureau of Wastewater Treatment. He constantly works with management on various issues such as coordinating staff coverage for weather and other emergencies, mitigating disagreements, and representing his constituents at his facility and other plants on labor matters.

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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