City of Richmond, VA Department of Public Utilities Celebrates NBP EMS Certification

The City of Richmond, VA Department of Public Utilities treats approximately 45 million gallons of wastewater a day and discharges the treated water into the James River. The city's treatment plant recycles its biosolids to 43 farms in nine surrounding counties. In December 2010, the Biosolids Management Program of the Richmond, Va., Department of Public Utilities successfully satisfied a National Biosolids Audit conducted by NSF-International Strategic Registrations. The purpose of the audit was to compare the city's environmental management performance with the standards established by the National Biosolids Partnership. In May 2011, the plant hosted a luncheon to celebrate the award,

followed that same evening with a recognition ceremony from Richmond's City Council. City and state officials and vendors who work with the program were invited to offer their congratulations and enjoy homemade food prepared by the treatment plant staff and served at the plant.

The final audit report on December 27, 2010 recommended the city receive verification status. In January, the Department of Public Utilities was the 32nd organization in the country and second in the state of Virginia to achieve the National Biosolids Partnership certification. In a letter of congratulations, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies wrote, "The verification of your biosolids EMS through a third-party audit is a major accomplishment, and makes you part of an elite group of publicly owned wastewater treatment agencies in the country that have achieved this status."

Photo: Jim Cox (center) presents the award to Richmond's Biosolid Team Barrymore Beckley, Barbara Jackson, Kimberlee Stubbs, Ed Edmonson, Percy Wyatt, Wanda Brown, (kneeling) Troi McKenzie and Moureddine Ezzine Elamghari.

On May 9, 2011, the plant hosted a luncheon to celebrate the award, followed that same evening with a recognition ceremony from Richmond's City Council. City and state officials and vendors who work with the program were invited to offer their congratulations and enjoy homemade food prepared by the treatment plant staff and served at the plant. The featured speaker was Jim Cox, director of the Biosolids Program from the Water Environment Federation. Clair Watson, superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Willie Horton, deputy director for Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater, Chris Beschler, deputy chief administrative officer for Operations, and Robert Steidel, director of the Department of Public Utilities, also offered congratulations

It's noteworthy that the biosolids staff consists of only eight people led by long-time city employee Barbara Jackson. They are Barrymore Beckley, Kimberlee Stubbs, Percy Wyatt, Troi McKenzie, Ed Edmondson, Noureddine Ezzine Elamghari, and Wanda Brown.