JOINTMEETING NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Employee News	2
Fourth NACWA Gold Award	3
Employee fishing trip	3
Columbia University tour	4
Rosen leaves Board	6

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2
FALL 2007



New Laboratory on Schedule

Above is a view of the front door and entrance for the new laboratory and office building that is being built at the Joint Meeting site in Elizabeth, New Jersey. The new lab is located just inside the plant's main gate on the south side of the entrance road. Work is on schedule and the project should be completed by mid-2008. Jeral Construction Company is performing the work and CMX Engineering (formerly Schoor DePalma) is the engineering firm overseeing the project.

Upcoming Events

November 12-16, 2007. 92nd Annual League of Municipalities Conference in Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ with workshops for municipal officials.

November 29, 2007. NJWEA North Jersey Section 13th Annual Beefsteak Dinner and Exhibitors' Night at Union Local 464 Hall, Little Falls, NJ for NJWEA members and guests.

April 28-May 2, 2008. NJWEA 93rd Annual Conference and Exposition at Tropicana Casino and Resort, Atlantic City, NJ.

A newsletter of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties, a wastewater treatment plant serving eleven member municipalities:

East Orange
Hillside
Irvington
Maplewood
Millburn
Newark
Roselle Park
South Orange
Summit
Union
West Orange

Also serving:

Elizabeth
Livingston
New Providence
Orange

2007 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers
Lebby C. Jones
Chairperson, Irvington
Kathleen M. Leventhal
Vice Chair/Secretary, Maplewood
Anthony Terrezza
Treasurer, Union

Members
Dave A. Bomgaars, *Summit*
Thomas L. Brown, *East Orange*
Richard Giuditta, *West Orange*
Jerome Jewell, *Hillside*
Thomas C. McDermott, *Millburn*
Terriann Moore-Abrams, *South Orange*
Ronald C. Rice, *Newark*
Robert Rubilla, *Roselle Park*

Executive Director
Samuel T. McGhee

www.jmeuc.com

Employee News

Joint Meeting had a turnover of wastewater operators earlier in 2007. Three wastewater treatment operators have been hired since late May 2007. In addition, Joint Meeting has completed its hiring of individuals to fill the five operator trainee positions.

Charles Dombrowski was hired in late May as a wastewater operator. Charles resides in Bayonne and, although a young man, has had two years experience as a chemical operator in Lyndhurst . . . **William Anderson** came to Joint Meeting as a wastewater operator in July. He has a background as a chemical operator and worked for Lafarge Gypsum in Newark and lives in Elizabeth with his wife and son . . . Joint Meeting's last operator position was filled by **Joseph Osborn**, who was hired in September. Joe possesses an S-1 and C-1 license as well as the T-1 and W-1 water licenses. Joe and his wife live in Tinton Falls.

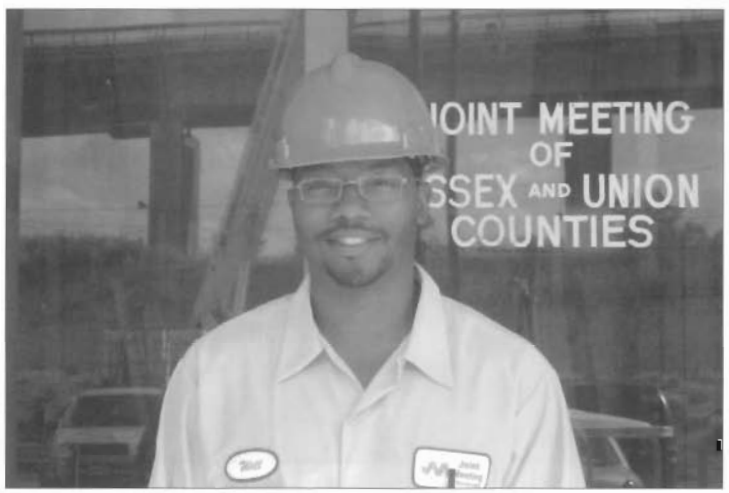
Under the Joint Meeting Operator Trainee Program, four individuals were hired since June to fill open trainee slots. The trainee program allows a person with no experience in the wastewater field to undertake extensive on-the-job training as well as an introductory one-year operator classroom-training course in order to qualify to bid for a wastewater operator position. **Jesse Ordner** and **Maurice Clark** came aboard on the same day, June 18th. Jesse lives in Lakehurst with his wife, and Maurice makes Elizabeth his home with his family . . . The two final operator trainee positions were filled by **Bill Harrison** and **Jason Abrams**. Bill and Jason began in September and like all operator trainees will be attending wastewater introductory classes two nights a week from September through June of 2008 in addition to their on-the-job training. Bill lives in Piscataway with his wife and children. Jason is single and hails from Irvington.

Humbertt Mortola was hired in June as a Computer Services Technician. He has a B.A. degree from Rutgers University and seven years of computer experience. Humbertt resides in Roselle Park with his wife and two children.

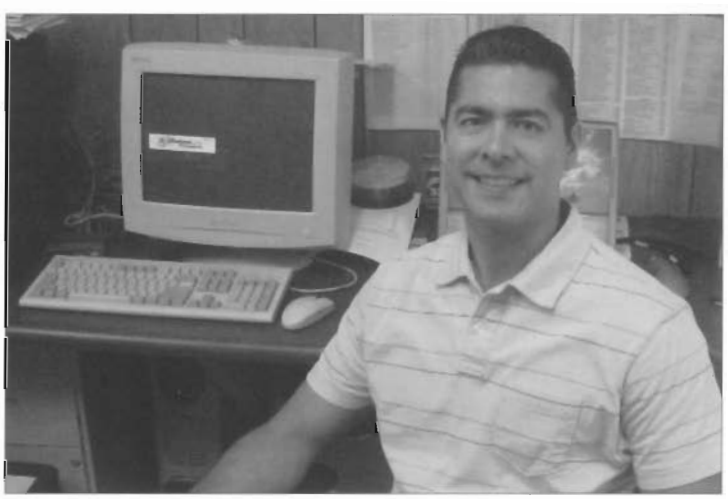
Congratulations to **Julio Cabrera**, Laboratory Technician, who recently passed the New Jersey State exam and obtained his S-2 Wastewater Treatment License . . . Best wishes for a speedy recovery and return to work from everyone at Joint Meeting to **Eugene Lawson**, Maintenance Clerk, who has been on a long-term absence. Everyone at Joint Meeting sends their best regards and looks forward to his return.



Above, from left to right, are new wastewater treatment operators **Charles Dombrowski** and **Joseph Osborn**.



New wastewater treatment operator **William Anderson** is seen above. William began with Joint Meeting in July 2007.



The Joint Meeting Information Technology Department brought aboard **Humbertt Mortola** as a Computer Specialist to assist with the IT department's growing responsibilities.



In the back row, from left to right, are new operator trainees **Jesse Ordner** and **Bill Harrison**. In the front row, from left are operator trainees **Maurice Clark** and **Jason Abrams**. All are working toward becoming fully trained wastewater operators.

Joint Meeting Wins Fourth NACWA Gold

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has awarded the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties its Gold Award for the calendar year 2006. This is the fourth time that Joint Meeting has won, having previously earned the honor in 2001, 2003 and 2004.

The Gold Award is given to sewerage agencies that have met one hundred percent total compliance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System requirements with no violations to their New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) permit.

NACWA has also recognized the Joint Meeting in the past with ten Silver Awards beginning in 1993. The Silver Award recognizes facilities that have had fewer than five NJDEP permit excursions in a calendar year.

Many thanks go to Joint Meeting's operational and maintenance employees who deserve the credit for their high degree of professionalism in their day-to-day tasks. Without their spirit of cooperation and their excellent work ethic, Joint Meeting would not have been able to achieve these very high honors year after year.

Keep up the great work, employees!

Employees and Friends Enjoy Fishing Trip

Twenty-eight people, made up of Joint Meeting employees, their family and friends boarded the Jackpot II Fishing Boat early on the morning of Saturday, August 11, 2007 for an eight-hour fluke fishing trip. The boat sailed from the Cliffside Marina located in the Sewaren section of Woodbridge.

The employees who were on board were: Marcelo Kofman, Aron Harris, Adris Hariprasad, Carlos Jimenez, Vinnie Makfinsky, Diane Burkowski, Nelson Fairchild, Jim Freedley, Glen Riscen, Glen Schoenig, Steve Dowhan and John McNamara. Everyone had a lot of fun at sea. Carlos Jimenez caught the biggest fluke and took the honors for the day.

This fishing trip has become very popular among employees and their friends. It was the third annual employee fishing trip.



From left to right above are Larry Makfinsky, Vinnie Makfinsky's brother; Steve Dowhan, Sr. Project Manager; and Aron Harris, Electrician, enjoying a beautiful August day at sea.



Carlos Jimenez, long-time Joint Meeting wastewater operator, admires his fluke, the best catch of the day.



In the above photo is Joint Meeting Superintendent Joseph Bonaccorso with the tour group of Columbia University students.

Columbia University Students Tour Joint Meeting Facility

In August 2007, twenty-two students in the Masters of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy program toured the Joint Meeting facility in Elizabeth, New Jersey, as part of their Hydrology Lab assignment. Leading the students on the tour was Dr. Kate McFadden, professor of Ecology and Biodiversity. The students were able to see how the operations of Joint Meeting contribute to water conservation via recycling.

Superintendent Joseph Bonaccorso gave the students a one-hour presentation on the treatment plant's history and water treatment methodology. Students learned about the facility's plans for future growth, the plant's responses to heavy rain events such as flooding, the various stages of the water sanitation process, and the evolution of the wastewater technology over the years toward a more efficient process.

Students were impressed that the treatment facility is planning to deploy a large-scale cogeneration system that will generate electricity by burning the methane produced during anaerobic digestion of the waste. They felt that the tour was useful in grasping the pressing nature of water management issues.

As future environmental professionals and policy makers, the MPA ESP class is learning the science behind environmental challenges through interactive labs such as the Edward P. Decher Secondary (Joint Meeting) Wastewater Treatment Facility tour.

Educational institutions that are interested in touring the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties facility in Elizabeth, New Jersey should contact Joseph Bonaccorso at 908-353-1313.

Reminder for Joint Meeting Employees

Keep Your Records Updated

Employees should report a change of address or telephone number to the human resources department at the time of the occurrence.

Report changes to marital status, beneficiary, the birth of a child, adoption or deletion of a dependent at the time of the occurrence but no later than 60 days after the event for health insurance and pension purposes.

Plant News

The new laboratory/office building construction is on schedule. Much of the building exterior and roof of the new laboratory/office building has been completed. The HVAC units have been placed on the new roof and will be connected to the building ductwork in the near future. Laboratory hood exhaust fans have been installed on the roof. Interior projects are proceeding on schedule, which include plumbing, HVAC ductwork, electrical work, and sheet rocking. Jeral Construction Company is the contractor for this project. See photograph on page one.

All of the major equipment items for the main sewage pumps have been delivered. Work has begun on installing the new impeller, motor and VFD (variable frequency drive) for main sewage pump #5. Also, the new pump PLC (programmable logic controller) control system has been installed. Main sewage pump #1 will be connected to the new control system in October.

Work on the new Co-Generation Building foundation and conduits is proceeding on schedule. The installation of the new overhead power poles will commence during October. The poles will route the power generated by the new facility on the northern side of the plant to the existing main substation on the southern side of the main treatment plant. The contractor for both the main sewage pumps and the Co-Generation Building is Remsco Northeast Construction.

Health Plan and Pension Changes for 2008

The State of New Jersey is considering changes to the group health insurance plans for next year in an effort to control costs. They are currently obtaining bids for new PPO plans and HMO plans. No changes will be made during the first quarter of 2008. Current plans and coverages will remain in effect until the end of the first quarter. However, when changes are approved, the State will announce a special open enrollment period in 2008 for employees who wish to change their health plans.

In addition, pension loans which are available to employees after three years of credited pension service, will now have an added administrative fee to be determined at a later date. And the current interest rate on pension loans of 4 percent will change to 5.5 percent effective July 1, 2008. Employees should avail themselves of requesting pension loans online through MBOS, Member Benefits Online System, since they can obtain their loan request money much faster than by submitting mailed paper applications. You may enroll with MBOS on the State of New Jersey Pension page at **www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions**

Finally, the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) has announced that employee contributions will be increased from the current 5 percent to 5.5 percent effective July 2008.



Pictured above is a bird's eye view of the progress being made in the construction of the Co-Generation Facility located north of the Thickeners in the northwest section of the Elizabeth facility.

Board News

Hon. Allan J. Rosen, the representative from South Orange for many years, attended his last meeting in May 2007. Mr. Rosen was most recently the Vice Chairperson/Secretary of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties. He was also the Chairperson of the Finance and Budget Committee, overseeing the agency's budget each year, and he was an active member of the Personnel and Procurement Committee. Thanks go to him from the Joint Meeting Board and staff for his years of dedication to and concern for Joint Meeting.

Hon. Kathleen M. Leventhal, the representative from Maplewood, was appointed Vice Chairperson/Secretary by the Board of Directors at the June meeting, replacing Mr. Rosen. Ms. Leventhal was also appointed to serve as the Chairperson of the Finance and Budget Committee.

In other Board news, **Hon. Terriann Moore-Abrams** was appointed by the Village of South Orange to serve as the replacement for Mr. Rosen, and she was also appointed to sit on the Public Relations Committee. **Hon. Robert Rubilla** of Roselle Park was appointed the Chairperson of the Public Relations Committee. **Hon. Jerome Jewell** of Hillside was appointed to serve on the Personnel and Procurement Committee.

Finally, prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery go to **Hon. Anthony Terrezza** of Union, a long-time board member, who has been hospitalized. Mr. Terrezza is the Treasurer for the Board, chairs the Personnel and Procurement Committee and serves on the Finance and Budget Committee.



The major components of main sewage pump #5 have been installed. Upon completion of the electrical hook-ups, start-up should take place by November 2007.

www.jmeuc.com

Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties

Wastewater Treatment Plant
& Administrative Offices
500 South First Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
(908) 353-1313
FAX (908) 353-7925

Joint Meeting Administrative Staff

Executive Director
Samuel T. McGhee

Deputy Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Ralph LaMendola, P.E.

Superintendent
Joseph Bonaccorso

Director of Admin. and Finance
Gary Restivo

Director of Human Resources
Richard Cirlincione

Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator
Cathy Martinson

Sr. Project Manager
Stephen Dowhan

Purchasing Officer
Robert Sforza

Asst. Board Secr./Financial Asst.
Patricia Rufolo

Asst. Superintendent Operations/Maintenance
Jack Kennedy

Asst. Superintendent Collection System
Jim Paluch

Operations Manager
Alex Durand

Safety Officer
Terry Cole-Kelly

Board Committees 2007

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the second half of 2007 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: Ronald C. Rice
Richard Giuditta
Jerome Jewell
Robert Rubilla

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Robert Rubilla
Dave A. Bomgaars
Thomas L. Brown
Terriann Moore-Abrams

Finance & Budget Committee

Chair: Kathleen M. Leventhal
Dave A. Bomgaars
Thomas L. Brown
Anthony Terrezza

Personnel & Procurement Committee

Chair: Anthony Terrezza
Jerome Jewell
Kathleen M. Leventhal
Ronald C. Rice