JOINTMEETING NEWS

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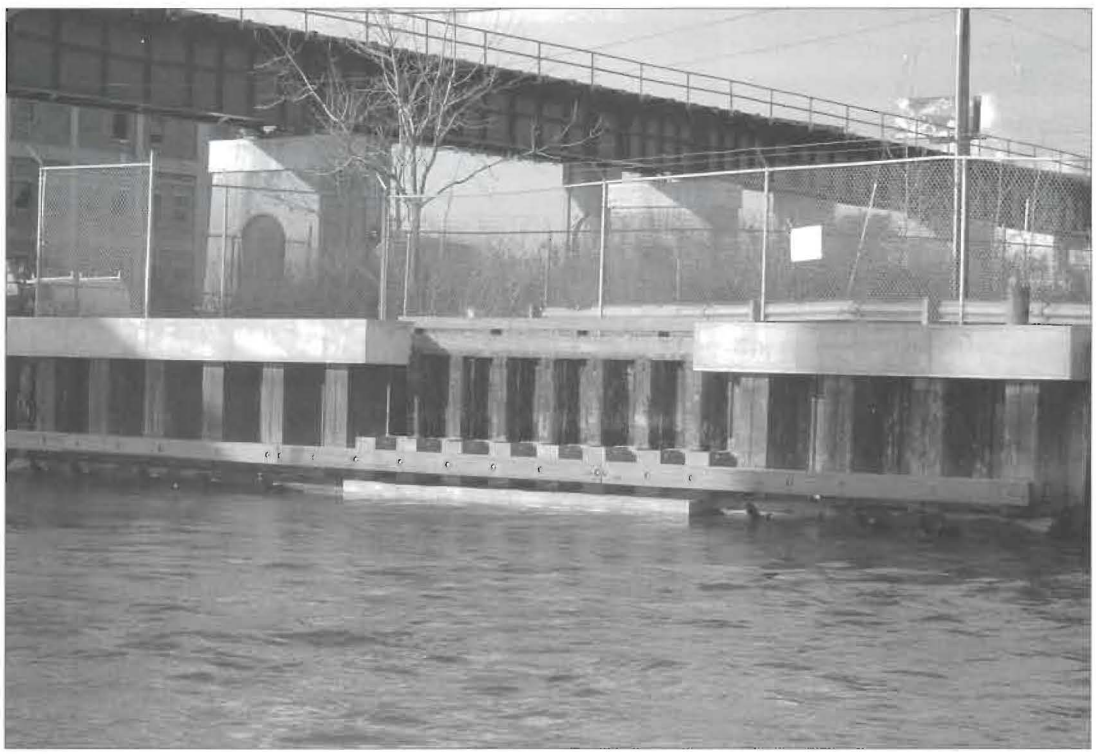

New Bulkhead Completed

Above is a view of the Joint Meeting bulkhead along the Arthur Kill waterway, which separates Staten Island and New Jersey. The bulkhead was rehabilitated for the first time since the 1930s. The bulkhead is important because it maintains the integrity of Joint Meeting's twin treated effluent pipelines that discharge into the Arthur Kill.

Upcoming Events

July 17-20, 2007. National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) 37th Annual Summer Conference in Cleveland, OH.

September 25-27, 2007. New Jersey Water Environment Association Technology Transfer Seminar, Holiday Inn, Tinton Falls, NJ, with courses for wastewater and boiler operators.

October 13-17, 2007. Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference, San Diego, CA.

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*
Allan J. Rosen, *Vice Chair/Secretary, South Orange*
Anthony Terrezza *Treasurer, Union*

Members
Dave A. Bomgaars, *Summit*
Thomas L. Brown, *East Orange*
Richard Giuditta, *West Orange*
Jerome Jewell, *Hillside*
Kathleen Leventhal, *Maplewood*
Thomas C. McDermott, *Millburn*
Ronald C. Rice, *Newark*
Robert Rubilla, *Roselle Park*

Executive Director
Samuel T. McGhee

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Employee News

Congratulations to **Roger Marques**, Team Supervisor in the Operations Department. He recently passed his S-3 examination. Roger began his employment with Joint Meeting in 1993 as a wastewater operator and became a supervisór in 2001. The S-3 license exam is administered by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The S licenses are based upon various factors including educational level, operating experience and supervisory experience . . . In addition, Roger Marques has passed the State of New Jersey test for a C-2 collection system license.

Our laboratory welcomed **Jane Martynova** in January as its new laboratory technician. Jane has a master's degree from St. Petersburg State Institute of Technology and she worked in Garden State Labs for seven years. She resides with her husband and daughter in Cranford . . . Operator Trainee **Ryan Gerhard** and his wife Erin welcomed Taylor Rae Gerhard into the world on December 28, 2006. She weighed six pounds, eight ounces and was nineteen and one-half inches in length . . . **Wale Akinokun**, Environmental Officer in the Industrial Pretreatment Department, is a father again. His wife, Nkechi, gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Folakemi Olivia, on November 27, 2006. She weighed eight pounds and six ounces.

Miguel Foster, who interned last year in our Site Services Department, joined Joint Meeting full time as a wastewater treatment operator trainee. Miguel, who resides in Union, graduated from Union High School and attended Lackawanna College in Pennsylvania. He is the fourth individual to join the operator trainee program.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to **Eugene Lawson**, who has been hospitalized and is facing a long recovery. Gene works as a Clerk in our Maintenance Department offices.

David Friedland, Dewatering Facility operator, died on May 1, 2007. David was a great guy, a Navy veteran and a skilled operator. Condolences are offered to his wife Bonnie, his children and family. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Congratulations to **Julio Cabrera**, Laboratory Technician, for passing his C-2 Collection License test; good job — well done . . . Kudos to **Don Heminghaus**, Site Services Worker. Don is celebrating 20 years of service with the U.S. Air Force Reserves this year. Don is a master sergeant with the 514th AES/CC, headquartered at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. He has served in the Iraq War and participated in the rescue mission for Jessica Lynch. Our praise and gratitude are extended to you from everyone for your bravery and service to our nation in these difficult times.



Jane Martynova is the newest member of the laboratory and came aboard in January 2007.



Miguel Foster is the 4th wastewater operator trainee hired since the inception of this program last September.

2006 Perfect Attendance Winners

During calendar year 2006, four Joint Meeting employees attained a perfect attendance record. They were: Wastewater Operator **Stan Wojcik**, Site Services Worker **Ralph Concepcion**, Assistant Superintendent for Collections **Jim Paluch** and Operations Supervisor **Craig Halloran**. Congratulations are extended to these employees for a job well done.

This year Joint Meeting has modified its perfect attendance policy to further reward those employees who have three or more consecutive years of perfect attendance. In addition to receiving a certificate of perfect attendance and the choice of a free gift, those employees with three or more consecutive years of perfect attendance will receive an extra personal day.

Employees are able to select gifts at varying price ranges depending upon the number of consecutive years with perfect attendance. Some gifts selected by the winners this year were a wet/dry vacuum, a small microwave and DVD player.

The first three recipients of an extra personal day, which will be granted in 2007, are Stan Wojcik (seven consecutive years), Ralph Concepcion (six consecutive years) and Jim Paluch (three consecutive years). This is a fantastic accomplishment for these employees. Will they repeat their performance this year?



From left to right, **Ralph Concepcion**, **Craig Halloran**, **Stan Wojcik** and **Jim Paluch** – winners of the 2006 annual perfect attendance awards.

Employees Can Access Online Benefits Accounts

The State of New Jersey has instituted a new program that permits employees the ability to access their own accounts online for pension and group health insurance purposes. Registration is free but online instructions must be followed carefully since it requires several steps to enroll successfully.

An employee must enter his/her pension loan identification number, which can be obtained from the annual pension statement or by contacting Joint Meeting's pension or health benefits person.

An employee can, for example, obtain a pension loan estimate and file the loan application online. Those using the online service will be able to obtain their loan money in a matter of days rather than by filing by paper which usually takes up to two or three weeks to receive the money.

In addition, an employee will be able to access his/her own account as well as additional resources. Some of these items are:

- Change of beneficiary
- Retirement estimate calculator
- Retirement application status
- State health benefits account information
- Supplemental annuity information
- Application for withdrawal

In the future, an employee will be able to purchase prior service credit if he/she worked in government or the military prior to coming to Joint Meeting. In addition, an individual will be able to file a retirement application online.

In order to register for this online resource, the MBOS system, go to:

www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.htm

You must register with both MBOS and the MyNewJersey Website.

The registration process takes several steps. You can call the MBOS Help Desk at 609-777-0534 if you encounter any difficulty while trying to register or in using the online service.

McNamara and Skiper Reach 30 Service Years

During 2007, two long-time Joint Meeting employees will reach their 30 year milestones: John McNamara and Dennis Skiper. John began with Joint Meeting in 1977 as a Wastewater Operator. He quickly moved to an Operations Shift Supervisor position and in 2004 became a Project Coordinator, working for Senior Project Manager Steve Dowhan.

In March 1977 Dennis Skiper started with Joint Meeting as a sewer maintenance worker. Today his function comes under the Industrial Pretreatment Department. Dennis works as a team with co-worker Don Jantas and they report to Cathy Martinson, Pretreatment Coordinator.

The following employees are reaching important service years in 2007:

30 YEARS
John McNamara, Project Coordinator
Dennis Skiper, Sewer Maintenance Worker

25 YEARS
Mike Richardson, Team Supervisor

20 YEARS
Craig Halloran, Team Supervisor
Ray Jones, Boiler Operator

15 YEARS
Ed Patterson, Electrical Supervisor

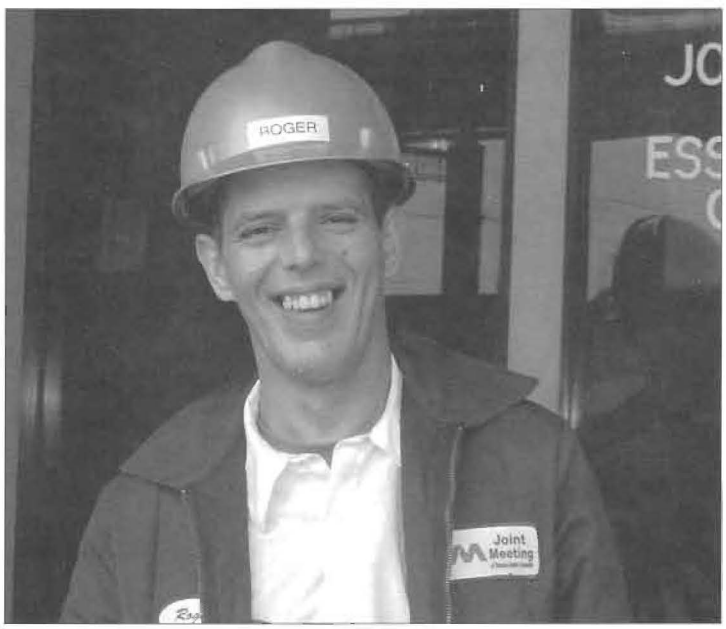
10 YEARS
Clyde Lauderdale, Boiler Operator

5 YEARS
David Foushee, Wastewater Operator
Wayne Kidd, Wastewater Operator
Keith Kilgore, Boiler Operator
Barry Michaels, Wastewater Operator
Rick Stafford, Team Supervisor

Our congratulations go to the above listed twelve employees who have served Joint Meeting in their various job functions for these years. Best wishes are extended to each of them for their continued service in the future. Their skills are invaluable to the proper running of the Joint Meeting facility and they are to be commended for their dedication and service.



Dennis Skiper, left, and **John McNamara** are both celebrating their 30th anniversary working for Joint Meeting.



Roger Marques, Operations Supervisor, recently passed his S-3 wastewater operator license test and his C-2 Collection test.

Why Is Stormwater Runoff a Problem?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants before entering a local storm sewer system.

The Joint Meeting treats an average of about 65 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater and has a design capacity of 85 MGD. During wet weather events (rain or other precipitation), the flow can be as high as 185 MGD. The problem is due to the excess amount of additional stormwater (inflow) that enters the sanitary sewer system, putting undue stress on Joint Meeting's collection system and treatment plant.

Six major causes of this problem are:
- Improperly installed sump pumps
- Improperly installed roof drain connections or roof leaders
- Building foundations or basement drains
- Damaged manhole covers
- Connected catch basins and storm sewers
- Deteriorating sewers

During heavy rains, it is possible that untreated sewage could flow from sanitary sewer manholes onto local streets and eventually enter a storm sewer. This contaminated water would then be discharged into neighboring bodies of water.

Two things everyone can do to alleviate this problem are:
- Redirect your household sump pump that may be connected to your washbasin to the outside
- Redirect your roof drain or downspout to the outside

Other causes of the problem, such as damaged or perforated manhole covers, are being replaced with the cooperation of Joint Meeting member municipalities. Also, uncapped cleanouts as well as broken or cracked pipe and manholes within the sanitary sewer systems are being corrected.

The Joint Meeting Board of Directors will be looking closely at this problem in the coming months and will be considering steps that must be taken in order to remove the sources of storm water inflow thereby controlling long-term operational costs and protecting the environment.

Plant News

Work has begun on the upgrading of Main Sewage Pumps #2, 4 and 5. The drive and rotating assembly have been removed from Pump #5. New variable speed drives will be installed to provide a more efficient and reliable means of controlling the pump operation. The project is proceeding slowly due to the length of time required to manufacture the new motor and drives.

The Video Camera Project is underway. Conduits and cable are being installed at both main plant and biosolids locations in preparation for the future installation of cameras scheduled to begin in the fall of this year. The cameras are intended to monitor the plant perimeter for security purposes and for specified treatment process areas.

The last phase of the Port Authority's Staten Island Railroad Project is taking place now. Landscaping of the berm along the relocated Bayway Avenue should be completed by the end of June.

Site preparation and pile driving has been going on at the future site of the Cogeneration Facility. This project will provide electrical power for the main plant.



The new Co-Generation Facility will be constructed north of the Sludge Thickener Facility. Construction has begun, and work is expected to be completed in September 2008.

Three New Members Join Board in 2007

The Joint Meeting Board of Directors welcomed three new members to its ranks at their January 2007 board meeting held in Maplewood Town Hall on January 18, 2007.

Hon. Thomas L. Brown of East Orange was seated replacing Hon. Jacqueline E. Johnson. Mr. Brown had previously represented East Orange for one term on the board. **Hon. Thomas C. McDermott** became the new representative from Millburn. He took over from Hon. Ellen Steinberg. And **Hon. Robert Rubilla** is the new board member appointed by Roselle Park; he replaces Hon. Richard Matarante.

Changes were made by the board to the committee assignments for 2007. Hon. Thomas L. Brown will serve as a member of the Public Relations Committee and the Finance and Budget Committee. Hon. Robert Rubilla was selected to serve on the Operations Committee and the Public Relations Committee.

In addition, **Hon. Kathleen M. Leventhal** of Maplewood was picked to chair the Public Relations Committee. **Hon. Dave A. Bomgaars** of Summit will sit on the Finance and Budget Committee. **Hon. Ronald C. Rice** of Newark was appointed to serve on the Personnel and Procurement Committee.



Construction has begun on the new laboratory facility as shown in the photo above in April 2007.

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Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties

Wastewater Treatment Plant
& Administrative Offices
500 South First Street
Elizabeth, N.J. 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 1st half of 2007 are:

Operations Committee

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

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Kathleen M. Leventhal
Dave A. Bomgaars
Thomas L. Brown
Robert Rubilla

Finance & Budget Committee

Chair: Allen J. Rosen
Dave A. Bomgaars
Thomas L. Brown
Anthony Terrezza

Personnel & Procurement Committee

Chair: Anthony Terrezza
Kathleen M. Leventhal
Ronald C. Rice
Allan J. Rosen