JOINTMEETING NEWS

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New Laboratory Facility Set To Open

The newly constructed Laboratory and Office Building is set to open in May 2008. The present laboratory became outdated and could no longer reliably support the increased process control testing needs and new regulatory requirements. In addition, the Industrial Pretreatment Program required more adequate space for its expanding role of testing industries in the Joint Meeting service area. See the laboratory article on page 5 and an additional photograph of the new facility.

Upcoming Events

July 15-18, 2008. National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Summer Conference and 38th Annual Meeting in Anchorage, AK.

October 18-22, 2008. 81st Water Environment Federation (WEFTEC) Annual Conference and Technical Exhibition at McCormick Place, Chicago, IL.

November 18-21, 2008. 93rd Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference at Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ with workshops for municipal officials.

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

2008 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers
Anthony Terrezza
Chairperson, Union
Kathleen M. Leventhal
Vice Chair/Secretary, Maplewood
Jerome Jewell
Treasurer, Hillside

Members

Ricky Badillo, *Roselle Park*
Dave A. Bomgaars, *Summit*
Sharon Fields, *East Orange*
Richard Giuditta, *West Orange*
Lebby C. Jones, *Irvington*
Thomas C. McDermott, *Millburn*
Terriann Moore-Abrams, *South Orange*
Ronald C. Rice, *Newark*

Executive Director
Samuel T. McGhee

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Employee News

At the New Jersey Water Environment Association's Annual Conference in Atlantic City on May 1, 2008, Joint Meeting Superintendent **Joseph Bonaccorso** completed his two-year term as president of the statewide association. Joseph served the association well during his term by adding more than 400 new members to the NJWEA membership rolls and by inaugurating several active committees engaged in regulation development and review, regulatory limits, direct interaction with the Office of the NJDEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson and increasing involvement of Young Professionals . . .

The stork was busy bringing joy to two Joint Meeting families since the last newsletter in the fall of 2007. The first happy mother was Laboratory Technician **Millicent Walker** who delivered a girl, Alesia Alexandria, on February 15, 2008; she weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces. The proud father is **Mark Morris**, a Utility Wastewater Operator at Joint Meeting . . . In addition, Electrician **Aron Harris** and his wife Theresa had a baby girl, Natalie, on October 30, 2007 . . . Congratulations to both mothers and fathers and best wishes for healthy and happy babies . . .

Four Joint Meeting employees received recognition from the Water Environment Federation for membership in the Quarter Century Operators Club. **Marcelo Kofman**, Collection System Operator; **Vincent Corsentino**, Collection System Supervisor; and **Jim Paluch**, Assistant Superintendent for Collection System, all have attained 25 years of service rendering pioneering service in water pollution control. This includes 10 years of which the recipient must have been actively involved in the day-to-day collections, maintenance, operation, laboratory or management of the wastewater facility. Executive Director **Samuel T. McGhee** received the Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers Award. These four employees were presented with the awards at the NJWEA Annual Conference in Atlantic City on May 1, 2008 . . . **Jim Paluch** also was presented with the Isaac Welcome Award at the NJWEA Annual Conference in Atlantic City on May 1st. This award is presented to an individual for contributions to the advancement of the state of the art of wastewater collection . . .

With the retirement of Wastewater Operator Manny Pinho, employees submitted bids for the open position under collective bargaining agreement rules. **Ed Pochepka** was the successful bidder for Manny's slot on the second shift in the Primary Facility of the Operations Department. **Joe Mazza**, a Secondary Facility Operator qualified for the Primary Facility open position based upon his job bid. Congratulations to both employees on their successful bids . . .

Congratulations to **Pete Kaciupski**, Operations Supervisor, who bowled a 300 game on May 6th at Linden Lanes with a 781 series and 29 strikes in 36 frames.

Manny Pinho Retires After 21 Years Service

Manuel (Manny) Pinho, who has been employed by the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties as a Wastewater Treatment Operator since September 1986, retired on April 1, 2008. Manny worked in the Primary Facility of the Operations Department.

Manny and his family will reside primarily in Florida with periods of time in his ancestral home of Portugal. Rick Stafford and Steve Feller, both Operations Supervisors, organized a great retirement party for Manny on March 7th at Big Stash's in Linden, New Jersey. More than 40 co-workers joined Manny in celebrating his retirement.

Manny was also presented with a hard hat signed by his co-workers and a plaque that recognized his 21 plus years of service to Joint Meeting.

Manny and his family are wished the very best of health and happiness in his retirement years.



Executive Director **Samuel T. McGhee**, at left, and Superintendent **Joseph Bonaccorso**, at right, present **Manny Pinho** with a plaque and a hard hat signed by Manny's co-workers in honor of his retirement from Joint Meeting.



Operations Team Supervisor **Rick Stafford**, at right, presents retiree **Manny Pinho** with a gift courtesy of Manny's co-workers at the party held in his honor.



Ralph Madera at left above, and **Carlos Jimenez**, are celebrating their 30th year with Joint Meeting. Ralph is assigned to the Primary Facility of the Operations Department and Carlos works in the Secondary Facility.



Maintenance Mechanic **Nelson Fairchild**, left, has been a faithful and loyal Joint Meeting employee for 36 years.

Employees Reach Service Milestones

Nelson Fairchild, a Maintenance Mechanic, is celebrating his 36th year with the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties this year. Nelson began as a maintenance man on July 17, 1972, became a mechanic and currently serves as a Lead Man in the Mechanical Maintenance Department. (See photo bottom left.)

The following employees should be congratulated on reaching service year plateaus in 2008:

30 YEARS
Carlos Jimenez, Wastewater Operator
Ralph Madera, Wastewater Operator

25 YEARS
Jim Freedley, Wastewater Operator

20 YEARS
Steve Feller, Operations Supervisor
Jack Howard, Wastewater Operator
Ralph LaMendola, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer
Gary Tate, Wastewater Operator

15 YEARS
Adewale Akinokun, Environmental Officer
Roger Marques, Operations Supervisor

10 YEARS
Jim Paluch, Asst. Superintendent for Collection System

5 YEARS
Phyllis Dues, Pretreatment Clerk
Arthur Gilmore, Wastewater Operator
Miriam Ledee, Receptionist/Secretary
Beatriz Rubio, Human Resources Assistant

Congratulations to all of the employees cited above. Thanks are extended to these employees for their years of dedicated service to Joint Meeting. Their skills are vital for the proper operation of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties.

Five Employees Achieve Perfect Attendance for 2007





From left to right, **Ralph Concepcion**, Site Services Worker; **Craig Halloran**, Operations Department Supervisor; **Stan Wojcik**, Wastewater Operator in the Sludge Handling Facility; and **Jim Paluch**, Assistant Superintendent for Collections; along with **George Garcia**, Dewatering Wastewater Operator, shown in photo at right, are the five employees who scored a perfect ten in attendance for the calendar year 2007. Stan Wojcik has an amazing eight consecutive years of perfect attendance and Ralph Concepcion is second with seven years in a row. Jim Paluch and Craig Halloran each have four consecutive years of perfect attendance.

Cogeneration Facility

The construction of the Cogeneration Facility began in February 2007. This facility will provide a consistent and reliable supply of electricity at all times to keep the Joint Meeting Wastewater Treatment Facility functioning during power outages. It will also ensure compliance with all regulatory agency (NJDEP and USEPA) rules, regulations and permits. It is expected to be operating in early 2009.

Construction took many months due to the location of the site on the plant grounds and the significant amount of electrical equipment that had to be installed within the foundation. Approximately 250 piles had to be driven into solid bedrock prior to construction of the foundation.



Above is a view of the four engine-generator sets, which will generate electricity for Joint Meeting.

As of April 2008 all of the major equipment (i.e. engines, switchgear, gas treatment system and radiators) has been delivered to the site. The new overhead power poles and cables have been installed along the perimeter of the plant. This connects the Cogeneration Facility with the existing plant main electrical substation.

The connection to the existing plant hot water supply and digester gas pipelines is underway at this time. The installation of the engine exhaust system piping and explosion protection components is expected to begin in May.

Future work will include installing the electrical conduits, cables and wiring between the engine-generator sets, controls and the electrical switchgear. Once completed, the facility will be capable of generating approximately 3.2 megawatts of electricity. This quantity of electricity is sufficient to power the entire plant except the Biosolids Facility, which is powered by PSE&G.

Joint Meeting Laboratory Facility Update

Construction began on the new Laboratory Facility in the fall of 2006, and it is set to open in May of 2008. The old laboratory was built in the 1970s, but became outdated due to new legal requirements. The analytical detection level requirements have become more stringent, requiring detection of pollutants at the parts per billion level. Also, major additions to the sludge testing requirements have been imposed in the last 30 years. Finally, the frequency of testing has been increased and additional parameters have been added for sewage and discharge.

New USEPA and NJDEP regulations have put more stringent requirements on industries, which have put further demands on both our laboratory facility and our Industrial Pretreatment Department, thus creating the need for a more modern lab and office space for the expanding IPP Department.

The first phase will consist of the relocation of the IPP staff into the new second floor offices. The second phase will involve relocation of the laboratory equipment and personnel into the new first floor laboratory facility.

The new building has three levels. The basement houses all of the laboratory support equipment and utilities such as air compressors, vacuum system and laboratory pure water treatment system. The first floor level has the lab and offices. Unlike the existing lab, the new lab layout provides for separate testing labs to increase productivity and to meet the more stringent regulatory requirements.

For example, there are now separate labs for microbiology (bacteria) testing, heavy metals (i.e., arsenic, cadmium, mercury, copper, zinc, etc.) testing and solids analyses. In addition, there is more square footage to support additional process control testing.

There is space for sample bottle and chemical reagent storage, compressed gas cylinder storage and plant sample receiving. The IPP crew can deliver and log discharge samples, automatic sampler storage and maintenance. The second floor will house IPP offices, file retention room and a conference room. It is expected that all personnel will be in the new building and equipment will be up and running by the end of May.



Shown above is a partial view of the new wet chemistry laboratory where nutrient testing will be performed.

Terrezza Named Chairperson

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Hon. Anthony Terrezza of the Township of Union was selected for the chairmanship of Joint Meeting by its members at the annual re-organizational meeting in January 2008. Mr. Terrezza served as chairperson of the Board in 2004 and 2005.

At the January meeting, the Board voted to have **Hon. Kathleen M. Leventhal** of Maplewood continue as the Board's Vice Chairperson and Secretary. Ms. Leventhal also chairs the Personnel and Procurement Committee and is a member of the Finance and Budget Committee. In addition, **Hon. Jerome Jewell** from the Township of Hillside was selected as the new Treasurer. Mr. Jewell chairs the Board's Operations Committee and sits on the Personnel and Procurement Committee.

Hon. Ricky Badillo from Roselle Park was chosen by his municipality to serve on the Joint Meeting Board. He replaced Hon. Robert Rubilla. **Hon. Sharon Fields** replaced the retired Hon. Thomas L. Brown and is now East Orange's representative on the Joint Meeting Board of Directors.

REMINDERS FOR 2008

The State of New Jersey has increased the employee pension contribution rate from 5 percent to 5.5 percent effective with the first pay period of July 2008.

Open enrollment for employees who wish to change health plans or add dependents is during the month of October 2008 with changes effective January 1, 2009.

Scholarship Named for Bonaccorso

The NJWEA named a scholarship for Superintendent **Joseph Bonaccorso** at its annual conference in May 2008 held in Atlantic City. The scholarship was established to recognize individuals who are preparing to become teachers of science or engineering. The value of the annual scholarship is $2,500. Congratulations to Joe on this honor that was bestowed upon him.

Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties

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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 2008

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 1st half of 2008 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: Jerome Jewell
Ricky Badillo
Richard Giuditta
Ronald C. Rice

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Terriann Moore-Abrams
Ricky Badillo
Dave A. Bomgaars
Sharon Fields

Finance & Budget Committee

Chair: Ronald C. Rice
Dave A. Bomgaars
Lebby C. Jones
Kathleen M. Leventhal

Personnel & Procurement Committee

Chair: Kathleen M. Leventhal
Jerome Jewell
Lebby C. Jones
Ronald C. Rice