



NEWS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steve Frank, 303-286-3465
Cell: 303-263-5039

METRO WASTEWATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFIED

DENVER, August 31 — The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District (Metro) today received certification for its Environmental Management System (EMS) for Biosolids by the National Biosolids Partnership in ceremonies at Metro's facilities north of Denver.

Metro is only the eighth agency in the nation to earn this certification.

National Biosolids Partnership officials praised Metro's employees for earning this certification, which included a third-party audit of Metro's EMS by NSF International, an independent auditing firm.

Tim Williams, representing the National Biosolids Partnership for the Water Environment Federation, said, "Sadly, as we have seen events unfold on the Gulf Coast in the news, we are reminded of what wastewater treatment agencies like Metro do for public health. The people of metro Denver should be proud of what the Metro District has accomplished on their behalf."

Ken Kirk, executive director of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), praised Metro's employees for winning their second consecutive NACWA Platinum Award in May, marking 10 years without a discharge permit numerical violation. Only five other wastewater treatment agencies in the country have achieved such a record, and Metro is the largest, he said.

Kirk said, "This (Platinum) Award represents the Metro District's second five-year period without a single numerical violation of its discharge permit. This is a truly remarkable achievement."

Implementing the EMS was entirely voluntary.

"The Metro District has put a lot of work into developing and implementing its EMS for Biosolids, and it's great to get this external validation and confirmation of our efforts. I'm extremely proud of our people," said District Manager Robert Hite.

Metro serves 1.5 million people in most of metro Denver, including Denver, Arvada, Aurora, Lakewood, Thornton, Wheat Ridge, part of Westminster, and more than 40 metro area sanitation and water and sanitation districts. The largest wastewater treatment authority in the Rocky Mountain West, it treats about 140 million gallons of wastewater a day.

"We believe the EMS will help us improve how we manage our biosolids, meet or exceed all regulatory requirements, and reduce public health and environmental risks to the lowest possible levels," said Mitch Costanzo, Metro's director of Resource Recovery and Reuse.

Biosolids are the treated, nutrient-rich solid materials that result from wastewater treatment that meet stringent state and federal regulatory requirements for land application as a soil amendment. The Metro District produces about 75 dry tons of biosolids each day. Biosolids typically contain nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, a host of micronutrients, and organic matter for the soil.

The National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) is an alliance of the Water Environment Federation and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), with advisory support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

###