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**METRO WASTEWATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT PRETREATMENT PROGRAM NAMED  
BEST IN THE NATION BY U.S. EPA**

DENVER, Sept. 2 — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has named the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District's industrial waste pretreatment program the best in the nation in its size category. The category is pretreatment programs that regulate 26-100 companies that could discharge significant amounts of toxic pollutants.

The EPA will present the award at a ceremony on Monday, Oct. 13, at the Water Environment Federation's annual WEFTEC conference in Los Angeles.

This is the Metro District's third first place award in seven years.

Industrial waste pretreatment programs regulate such companies to make sure they don't dump toxic or harmful chemicals into the sewer system. Such chemicals could harm sewer maintenance workers, the sewer system, or the sewage treatment process.

"The chemicals we regulate could degrade the treatment process and keep it from working as it should to treat the water," said Theresa Pfeifer, who heads the Metro District's 11-person pretreatment group.

"It's both more effective and less costly to ensure water quality by keeping undesirable substances out of the water than by letting them get into the water and having to remove them later. The result is a safe system, water that meets permit requirements when it's discharged to the South Platte River, and biosolids that can be used as soil amendments," she said.

The Metro District's pretreatment group regulates the discharges of about 55 companies that could discharge large amounts of toxic pollutants and thousands of others. Penalties for ignoring regulatory requirements include censure, fines, and even jail.

The Metro District's service area includes Denver plus Arvada, Aurora, Lakewood, Thornton, part of Westminster, and about 45 smaller municipalities, sanitation districts, and water and sanitation districts.

The Metro District treats about 140 million gallons of wastewater a day, serving 1.5 million people. It is the largest wastewater treatment organization in the Rocky Mountain West.

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