



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Peter Thayer Named Distinguished Water Operator of the Year**

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is proud to announce that Mr. Peter Thayer, a Water Operator based at the Commission's West Parish Filters Water Treatment Facility in Westfield, was named Distinguished Water Operator of the Year by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) earlier this month.

The award was presented as part of DEP's 2018 Public Water Systems Award Program held on May 8 at the Massachusetts Statehouse. Water operators are responsible for the safe and efficient operation of drinking water treatment facilities such as West Parish Filters, which provides filtration and disinfection of the drinking water delivered to Commission customers. Mr. Thayer was commended for his innovative approach to problem-solving, his excellence in meeting state and federal drinking water regulations, as well as his seasoned insight into project design and review at the treatment facility, which produces approximately 30 million gallons/day of high-quality drinking water for 250,000 customers in the lower Pioneer Valley.

"MassDEP realizes that it is no easy task to keep up with the ever-evolving federal and state drinking water regulations. While most operators strive just to comply with the regulations, Mr. Thayer has put forth the extra effort," said Yvette DePeiza, Drinking Water Program Director at DEP.

"Mr. Thayer's commitment to his profession is commensurate with the essential services he provides to Commission customers each and every day. Operating facilities that supply safe, high-quality drinking water requires constant vigilance, recalibration, and strategizing as well as maintaining up-to-date knowledge and understanding of the latest regulatory standards and technologies. We are proud and fortunate to have Mr. Thayer on our team, and DEP's



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recognition of his work also demonstrates the level of excellence the Commission strives for in serving its customers,” said Josh Schimmel, Executive Director of the Commission. Mr. Thayer has worked with the Commission as an operator since 2014.

The Public Water Systems Award Program event held on May 8 was hosted by Rep. Anne Gobi and Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, and speakers included EPA Region 1 Administrator Alexandra Dunn and MassDEP Commissioner Marty Suuberg.

**END**



Peter Thayer (center) receives the Distinguished Water Operator of the Year Award at the Massachusetts Statehouse on May 8, 2018. MassDEP Drinking Water Program Director Yvette DePeiza is shown at left, and MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg is shown at right. (Photo by the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission.)