



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

Date of Issuance: November 2, 2020

Contact: Jaimye Bartak, Communications Manager
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission
jaimye.bartak@waterandsewer.org
(413) 452-1302

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Three Industry Awards Recognize
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission**

Commission Receives Awards from Prominent State and National Water Industry Organizations

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is proud to announce that it is the recipient of three awards from national and state water industry associations, recognizing its efforts to deliver safe drinking water to its customers, return clean water back into the environment, and build the water workforce of the future.

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), a national association representing public wastewater agencies, awarded the Commission a Gold Peak Performance Award in recognition of its excellence in operational performance and permit compliance within the 2019 calendar year. The Commission owns the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (SRWTF), a regional wastewater treatment plant that cleans and returns approximately 40 million gallons of wastewater per day to the Connecticut River. The SRWTF serves Springfield and six other surrounding communities and is operated by SUEZ Environmental. The Commission was honored for its achievement at NACWA's virtual 50th Anniversary Celebration on October 28.

"These utilities represent the top performers in the whole country and go above and beyond in their mission to protect public health and the environment," said Adam Krantz, Chief Executive Officer of NACWA, "I extend my congratulations and gratitude to all this year's award winners and I thank them for their service and their incredible compliance with increasingly stringent Clean Water Act standards."



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

The Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA), a state organization representing Massachusetts drinking water suppliers, awarded the Commission with two awards. The Special Achievement Award was awarded to the Commission in recognition of its promotion of workforce development through its partnership with MWWA and Springfield Technical Community College to create the state's first online drinking water treatment operator course, which is required in order to obtain drinking water treatment licenses in the state. The course is open to any interested person for a low fee, and offered free to all enrolled community college students in Massachusetts.

Commission staff member Michael Popko also received a 2020 MWWA Water Works Pride Award, recognizing his extra effort to make a positive impact in the water profession. Mr. Popko is the Superintendent of Water Facilities stationed at the Commission's West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant in Westfield. Mr. Popko has worked at the Commission for 14 years and is a key component of the West Parish Filters operations team, which must be ready to respond to plant operational issues at all hours. Mr. Popko holds Grade 3 Operator-in-Training Drinking Water Treatment and Grade 2 Drinking Water Distribution licenses with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. West Parish Filters produces approximately 35 million gallons of treated drinking water to approximately 250,000 customers in the lower Pioneer Valley.

The Commission and Mr. Popko will be recognized at MWWA's virtual Annual Awards banquet on November 6.

"The Commission is honored to receive recognition of the dedication and hard work that Commission staff put in to delivering safe drinking water to customers, returning clean water back to the environment, and building a new water workforce for the future," said Commission Executive Director Josh Schimmel. "To us, this is just what we do every day to provide essential services to our customers, but we definitely take pride when our efforts are recognized by leading organizations in the water industry."

About the Commission

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is an independent, regional public utility that provides drinking water and wastewater service to approximately 250,000 people in the lower Pioneer Valley. The Commission provides retail drinking water service to Springfield and Ludlow, and wholesale drinking water to Agawam, Longmeadow, and East Longmeadow, as well as emergency/peak service to several other communities. The Commission provides retail wastewater service to Springfield and wholesale



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

wastewater service to West Springfield, Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, and Ludlow.

END