



STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Board Members
THRU: Mark Foree, General Manager
FROM: Paul Miller, Manager Operations and Water Quality
DATE: August 15, 2013
SUBJECT: **Partnership for Safe Water – Phase III Director’s Award**

Summary

The Partnership for Safe Water (PSW) is a voluntary, water-utility program focused on improving the quality and safety of treated water by fostering the optimization of treatment and distribution operations. TMWA’s Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant has recently been presented the Directors Award of Recognition from the PSW. I would like to recognize members of the Operations Team and all of TMWA for a job well done in achieving this award. Our staff enthusiastically embraced the Partnership Filter Effluent Turbidity Goal of 0.10 NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) and worked diligently to continuously maintain this high level of quality. These team members – both individually and as a group – have contributed to an organizational culture that is unwavering in its commitment to produce excellent, safe drinking water for our community.

Purpose/Background

The Partnership for Safe Water is a unique, cooperative effort between EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, National Association of Water Companies and Association of State Drinking Water Administrators. The PSW encourages and assists utilities like TMWA to voluntarily enhance their water systems performance for greater control of microbial contaminants.

The objective of the PSW is to encourage water suppliers to minimize the risk to their consumers of exposure to pathogenic microorganisms in drinking water through continuous improvement in surface water treatment plant performance. The PSW has developed tools to facilitate improved performance, including the core of the program – a self-assessment procedure. This procedure is based on a proven technique developed by EPA, which results in the systematic analysis, identification and correction of factors which could limit the performance of the treatment system. The self-assessment process requires that the utility honestly and openly examine its water treatment plant operations – including the physical plant and operations and administration practices – to identify areas for potential performance improvement. The water system then establishes an action plan and begins to work on improvements identified by the self-assessment.

The results of the self-assessment are reported to the PSW and a team of utility peers evaluates the report to determine if the water plant is progressing toward treatment optimization sufficiently to warrant the granting of the Director's Award.

Utilities must work through an arduous and difficult self-assessment process – identifying factors which may have been limiting the performance of their treatment plant and taking steps to address those factors. By aggressively pursuing the objectives of the Partnership, the utility demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement in the performance of their treatment facilities to help protect the health of their customers.

The Partnership currently includes more than 220 water utilities across the nation. Each has committed to the enhancement of drinking water quality and operational excellence in water treatment.

This award recognizes that not only does TMWA have an excellent treatment facility at Chalk Bluff – one that is well designed and capable of meeting enhanced treatment goals – but is also operated and maintained by a team of people who are highly capable and dedicated to achieving these high standards, and who continuously look for additional ways to improve.

TMWA joined the PSW several years ago and has been submitting data since 2005. Since that time we have been producing water with less than 0.10 NTU 100% of the time, and less than 0.06 NTU greater than 95% of the time.

Attached is the letter of award from AWWA. We are very pleased and proud of this accomplishment.

AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN WATER AGENCIES

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATER COMPANIES

ASSOCIATION OF STATE DRINKING WATER ADMINISTRATORS

WATER RESEARCH FOUNDATION



Working together to protect America's drinking water

Paul Miller, P.E.
 Manager, Operations and Water Quality
 Truckee Meadows Water Authority
 1355 Capital Blvd., PO Box 30013
 Reno, NV 89520-3013

Dear Paul,

The Partnership for Safe Water has reviewed The Truckee Meadows Water Authority's Phase III submittal for the Partnership Treatment Optimization Program Phase III Directors Award. **On behalf of the Partnership for Safe Water program, I am very pleased to notify you that The Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant has been granted the Phase III Directors Award. Congratulations on this accomplishment!**

The Partnership for Safe Water is a voluntary utility program focused on improving the quality and safety of water produced by water treatment plants by optimizing operations. The Phase III process involves using self-assessment methods to move forward on optimization of the treatment plant.

The report that you submitted was evaluated by a Program Effectiveness Assessment Committee (PEAC) team consisting of utility peers based upon an established Partnership protocol.

The PEAC review team was particularly impressed with the following areas:

- The overall level of effort to provide an informative and complete report.
- The explanation of dealing with significant challenges related to winter runoff, various source water differences, and the contingencies contemplated and utilized to meet these challenges.
- The performance data showing consistently excellent water quality.
- The Chalk Bluff WTP's settled water goal of 0.5 NTU.
- The recognition and repair of filter IMS plate failures to mitigate short-circuiting.
- The Apprenticeship Program.

The PEAC review team encourages utility staff to review and consider the benefits of further actions in the following areas in their continued optimization efforts:

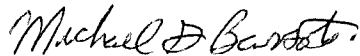
- Fully embracing the Partnership Combined Filter effluent goal of 0.10 NTU rather than 0.1 NTU. Adopting this goal with this additional significant figure will be important as the plant progresses to meet Phase IV optimization criteria.
- Describing and documenting filter-to-waste criteria/procedures.
- Assigning project champions and documenting their specific contributions.

- Describing and documenting manual procedures used to determine coagulant dose (jar testing, etc.), as well as manual operation procedures for when automation is interrupted on short or long-term occasions.
- Prioritizing, describing and documenting action plans and completion dates.
- Refocusing on improvements completed through the self-assessment process to remind staff how far they have progressed to obtain their current level of tenacity in resolving issues.

Truckee Meadows Water Authority is commended on the effort and dedication shown in researching, preparing, and submitting this Phase III self-assessment report. A tangible result of the Phase III self-assessment process is the development of action plans that allow a utility to move forward and further their optimization efforts. The Phase III award recognizes a good faith commitment to tenaciously pursue optimization via ongoing data review and future completion of the action plans established in the Phase III report. As your utility continues to work towards optimization, the next step is to continue implementing the action plans that resulted from the self-assessment process.

Specific questions regarding the Phase III report review and feedback can be directed to me at 802-864-7454(102). Thank you for your commitment to water quality and public health protection.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Barsotti
PEAC Chair

cc: Barb Martin, Partnership for Safe Water Manager
Dave Miller, PEAC Vice chair

Report Review Summary

Areas of Strength

- Meet optimization goals
- Demonstrated improvement
- Documentation/Demonstration of addressing complacency
- Attempt to provide and informative/complete package

Demonstrated Good Faith Effort

- Understand/explain performance deviations
- Acceptance of optimization goals
- Involvement of all parties in the partnership process
- Commitment to Resources (Staffing, Funding)
- Documented Application of Process Control Skills
- Priority setting capability
- Training/communications capability
- System modifications based upon performance needs
- Development of action plans to improve performance
- Convincing/Understandable description of changes/progress

Areas for Improvement

- No areas for continued improvement were identified in this review.