



Big changes coming for wastewater plant

Welcome

Welcome to the new format of **Water Power**, the DWSD newsletter for employees. Employees are encouraged to submit story ideas on interesting employee hobbies, activities, sports, recreation, community involvement, etc., by emailing those ideas (with contact name and phone number/email address) to waterpower@dwsd.org. DWSD Public Affairs plans to publish **Water Power** in a digital format six times per year.

The Water Power Team

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Since the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) went operational in 1940, incineration has been a major component of sewage disposal there. Over time, the original “Complex I” incinerators were augmented by additional incinerators to handle more capacity. However, the WWTP, with an eye to long-term cost-savings, intends to upgrade its technology and get “greener” by building a new Biosolids Dryer Facility to replace the antiquated Complex I incinerators.

The goal: dispose of solids more efficiently while enabling the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) to more easily meet increasingly-stringent Environmental Protection Agency standards.

A proposed design-build-maintain contract for the new facility, numbered PC-792, went out for bid early this year and was awarded to the New England Fertilizer Company (NEFCO) at a cost of \$683 million. Of that amount, \$143 million covers construction; it’s expected that the facility will be finished in three years. Up to \$540 million is earmarked for operation and maintenance for a 20-year period.

The method of biosolid drying was selected for DWSD’s next phase of biosolids management based on information presented at a 2012 industry symposium. “Drying is a

well-established, reliable, economical, and environmentally beneficial method of managing biosolids,” said Sam Smalley, Assistant Director of Wastewater Operations. “Construction of the new Biosolids Drying Facility is necessary to replace the six incinerators in Complex I that are 60 to 70 years old. They’re scheduled to be removed from service when new federal air quality regulations go into effect in March 2016.”

The contract with NEFCO allows DWSD to cancel or defer several other planned/potential projects at the wastewater plant, such as extensive rehab work on the Complex I incinerators and a centrifuge replacement. The self-contained Biosolids Dryer Facility will include eight centrifuges and four rotary dryers.

The biosolid-drying method is expected to be “substantially more reliable” and will produce much less odor than incineration. Also, the new facility will reduce truck traffic and accompanying noise through the nearby Delray neighborhood.

“It will provide significant operational cost savings compared to the current dewatering and incineration processes,” said Smalley. It’s estimated that annual operations and maintenance savings due to the upgrade will total \$16.8 million per year.

DWSD walking team tops fundraising goal for Cancer Society



Walkers raised money by asking for pledge amounts to support their efforts. The top three fundraisers for the team were:

- Michelle Walker, Detroit Law Department, \$1,047
- Nicolette Bateson, DWSD (Water Board Building), \$635
- Crystal Stokes, DWSD (Wastewater Treatment Plant), \$384

Receiving Honorable Mention status were those walkers who raised \$100 or more:

- Tashia Kelly, Team Captain, DWSD (Water Board Building), \$310
- Leslie King, DWSD (Water Board Building), \$300
- Alma Harris, DWSD (Central Services Facility), \$122
- Marsha Sawyer, DWSD (Water Board Building), \$100

Other DWSD team walkers included:

- Sharon Jordan, DWSD (Water Board Building)
- Darlene King, DWSD (Central Services Facility)

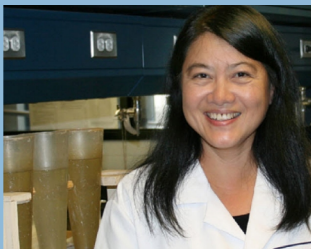
- Deborah Knight, DWSD (Water Board Building)
- Anjanette Myers, DWSD (Westside Customer Service Center)
- Mini Panicker, DWSD (Waste water Treatment Plant)
- Lori Smith, DWSD (Wastewater Treatment Plant)
- Barbara Turner, DWSD (Water Board Building)
- Xiaowei Zhang, DWSD (Waste water Treatment Plant)
- Layla Armstrong, Detroit Police Department
- Lourie Prybys, DWSD (Waste water Treatment Plant), retiree
- Lori Harrison
- Yvette Nealy
- Melissa Nolan
- Sue Sims
- Mary Theison
- Falsy Williams
- Danielle Wooten

DWSD Water Power Walkers covered a lot of ground in downtown Detroit on Oct. 12 for the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. On a 5-kilometer route along city streets, more than 20 walkers raised \$2,820 for the American Cancer Society. It was the first year ever that the department team surpassed its fundraising goal of \$2,000 for the benefit event.

The DWSD team was not only comprised of walkers from the department; it also included members from the City of Detroit Law Department and Police Department. Friends of City employees also participated on the team.

On The Job

Xiaowei Zhang



Xiaowei Zhang, Senior Water Systems Chemist – Xiaowei Zhang was part of a team that evaluated retention treatment basin (RTB) treatment methods to develop additional guidance factors for operators to use during wet-weather events to optimize treatment. As part of a team of Senior Chemists, she supervises

crews who perform testing at the Operations Laboratory at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to monitor the plant's treatment processes. The crews also analyze the fecal coliform samples collected at RTBs and at screening and disinfection facilities (SDFs) during rain events.

In each issue of Water Power, **On the Job** will spotlight DWSD employees who are doing good work to help our organization continue to exceed customer expectations.

Service anniversaries

35 Years

February 2013

Frederick B. Smith
General Auto Mechanic
Central Services Facility

July 2013

Martin P. Craig
Superintendent of Plants,
Buildings, and
Mechanical Maintenance
Central Services Facility

Mark Smoot

Engineering Support Specialist II
Wastewater Treatment Plant

30 Years

October 2013

Antonino Reaves
Head Sewage Plant Operator
Wastewater Treatment Plant

Richard V. Harvin

Head Sewage Plant Operator
Wastewater Treatment Plant

25 Years

May 2013

Rodney J. Williams
Water Systems Foreman
Central Services Facility

July 2013

Brenda Jamison-King
Principal Construction Inspector
Field Services Building

Sherman Carter

Water Systems Mechanic
Central Services Facility

Alvin McCollins

Water Systems Mechanic
Central Services Facility

Francis O'Grady

Plant Maintenance Sub-Foreman
Central Services Facility

Jerome Russell

General Auto Mechanic
Wastewater Treatment Plant

August 2013

Xavier Arteaga
Sewage Plant Operator
Wastewater Treatment Plant

Pawan Kapila

Water Treatment Plant Manager
Southwest Water Treatment Plant

Emery J. Kish

Finish Painter
Central Services Facility

Frank Benedict

Head Governmental Analyst
Central Services Facility

Janice Dowdell

Senior Sewage Plant Operator
Wastewater Treatment Plant

Renee Culver

Senior Construction Inspector
Field Services Building

Bryant Martin

Plant Maintenance Mechanic
Springwells Water Treatment Plant

Jerome Tarver

Sewage Plant Operator
Wastewater Treatment Plant

Keith Lindsay

General Auto Mechanic
Central Services Facility

September 2013

Andrea Martin
Service Guard - Public Utility
Westside Customer Service Center

Melvin Murphy

Sewage Plant Supervisor
Wastewater Treatment Plant

Denise Donelson-Williams

Water Meter Foreman
Central Services Facility

Michael Coles

Sewage Plant Operator
Wastewater Treatment Plant

Eugene Ellis

Senior Water Systems Mechanic
Central Services Facility

Ida E. Fulks

Engineering Support Specialist II
Livernois Center

Ronald Harris

Senior Water Systems Mechanic
Western Yard Services Facility

October 2013

John Miller
Maintenance Millwright
Wastewater Treatment Plant

Ashok R. Patel

Construction Inspector
Field Services Building

Steven Borella

Sewage Plant Operator
Wastewater Treatment Plant

Employee's dancing inspired by the Thriller

Great entertainers always inspire imitators, and often, the impersonators become experts in their chosen artist's style. In the case of DWSD employee Gerald Moore, it was the immortal Michael Jackson's dancing that thrilled him.

Moore, 44, a Principal Governmental Analyst in Contracts and Grants, has been duplicating the moves of Jackson for 21 years now, much to his audiences' delight. "I grew up a Michael Jackson fan," said Moore. "I had listened to his music – my favorite song was 'PYT (Pretty Young Thing)' – and I practiced some of his moves. I also liked watching dancers like Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire in old movies, so they inspired me too."

Moore said he was in college at the University of Detroit, "fooling around" with Jackson's style of dancing, when a fellow student saw him and urged him to enter a talent show. He did, and his skit was a success. "That was in 1992, and I



started practicing more of Michael's moves and working up a routine," Moore said.

Moore started performing at birthday and Christmas parties, executing MJ-trademark circular, sideways, and moonwalk steps. He donned the iconic black shirt, silver socks, and glove to achieve at least part of the Jackson look.

Meanwhile, he began working for the City of Detroit with the Housing department in 1994 and joined DWSD four years later. Soon, his reputation spread among DWSD and he was performing at various functions connected to the department.

Now, after a hiatus of a couple of years, Moore is ready to get back into action. He's tuned up his steps and has a DVD recording available of some of his dancing that was made on the steps of Hitsville USA, the old Motown studio on West Grand Boulevard. He's planning to perform at some upcoming parties too. "It makes me feel good to entertain people," he said.

Why is the appeal of Michael Jackson's music and dancing so universal? "What he did was so unique," said Moore. "Michael reached across age groups and race barriers. His performing touched people's hearts. I hope I can do a little of that, too."

KUDOS

Wilma Yarber-Laster, Telecommunication Center Supervisor, and **Bonita Flowers**, Service Information Clerk – both in Asset Maintenance – were acknowledged by their supervisor, Donovan Walton, for superior customer service. Walton received an anonymous voicemail in September from a customer lauding both employees' professionalism.

Michaela Cleckley-Williams, Customer Service Representative III, and **Kannita Calloway**, both of Commercial Operations, were commended by a customer in September. They demonstrated

professionalism and attentiveness while resolving a long-standing customer account issue.

Nicolette Bateson, Chief Financial Officer, **Mildred Morris**, Head Clerk in Accounting, and the entire Finance team ensured that DWSD's vendors were paid in a timely manner during the hectic weeks following the filing of the City of Detroit's bankruptcy petition.

Andrea Blakely-Ukpabi, Senior Accountant, Financial Services, and **Tammy Parker**, Customer Service Representative II in Commercial

Operations, were singled out by a customer on Oct. 11, who referenced the "great job" by both employees. The customer said that they were pleasant, professional and knowledgeable.

Mihai Faceanu, Commercial Operations Specialist II in Commercial Operations, was praised by a representative from a Detroit business on Oct. 4. The customer said that the DWSD employee was "very helpful" in explaining invoices and in settling various account issues.