

working for clean rivers

CLARIFIER

MARCH
2014

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Message From The Director



March is here and the weather is more typical of late winter in Portland than the snow and ice storm we experienced last month. Snow began falling heavily on February 6 and freezing rain coated it with ice three days later. The city told non-essential employees to stay home, but many of our Wastewater Group employees are designated as essential employees and had to brave the snow and ice to come to work.

The Wastewater Group operates and maintains our sewer infrastructure 24-hours a day, 365-days a year. Their designation as essential employees requires them to be personally prepared to safely travel to work, even in snow and ice storms.

The Wastewater Group is ready for winter storms. Freeze protection procedures are in effect, backup generators are fueled up and ready for any power outages, and emergency response vehicles are outfitted with appropriate equipment for safe travel.

The snow and ice did force us to temporarily shut down sludge processing and stop hauling biosolids through the gorge to Madison Farms in eastern Oregon. There were a few problems with the CBWTP cogeneration system and a brief power disruption shut down the plant's aeration mixers.

But Wastewater employees worked through the storm to keep our 98 pump stations and two treatment plants working. Because of your dedication, we were able to provide uninterrupted sewer service to our customers and continue meeting our regulatory requirements. Thank you for your efforts and for your service to the Portland community.

Dean C. Martin



Value Award Time

You know Environmental Services employees who embrace and practice our bureau values. Make sure they get some well-deserved recognition. It's time to nominate a co-worker for a Value Award. All Environmental Services employees are eligible.

The nomination deadline is Friday, April 4, 2014. You can use the online nomination form, download a PDF form and get more information about the awards program at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/ValueAwards.

Winners will be announced at these three Value Award presentations:

Water Pollution Control Laboratory

Thursday, May 1
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Smith and Bybee Lakes Rooms

Downtown

Tuesday, April 29
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Portland Building, 2nd Floor Auditorium

Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant

Thursday, May 1
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Mt. Mazama Room, Columbia Building

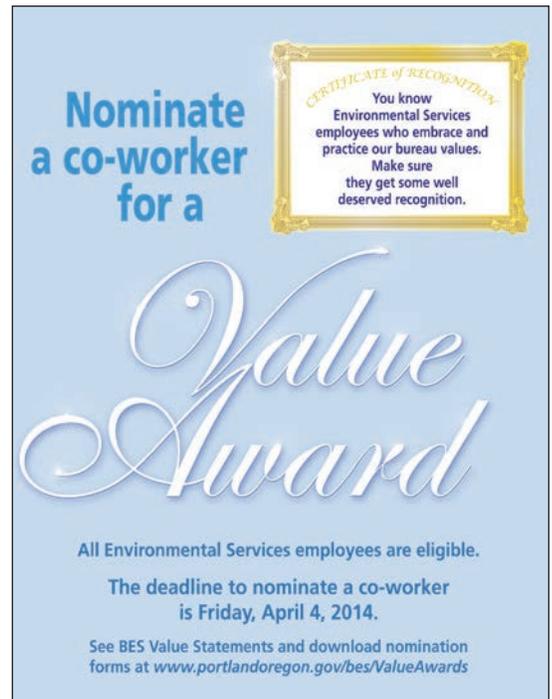


Heavy rain, no CSOs

More than three inches of rain fell on Portland over a five-day stretch in mid-February, but it wasn't enough to cause a combined sewer overflow. We used to have CSO events when just one-tenth of an inch of rain fell in 24 hours and there were about 50 CSO events every year.

Now, more than two years after Environmental Services completed the CSO control program, Portland's east side and west side big pipes collect combined sewage that once overflowed during rain storms. The tunnel system filled to about half-full on the weekend of February 15th and was 83% full the following Monday.

The CSO control program included expanding treatment capacity at the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant successfully treated those February high flows despite periods of wastewater entering the plant at a rate of 400 million gallons per day. Most of that time the plant was able to get about 150 million gallons of the flow through secondary treatment. The success of the CSO tunnel system was news. To get the word out to the community, the Communications Division issued a news release that was reported by two Portland radio stations.



Nominate a co-worker for a

Value Award

CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION
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Portland Harbor Progress

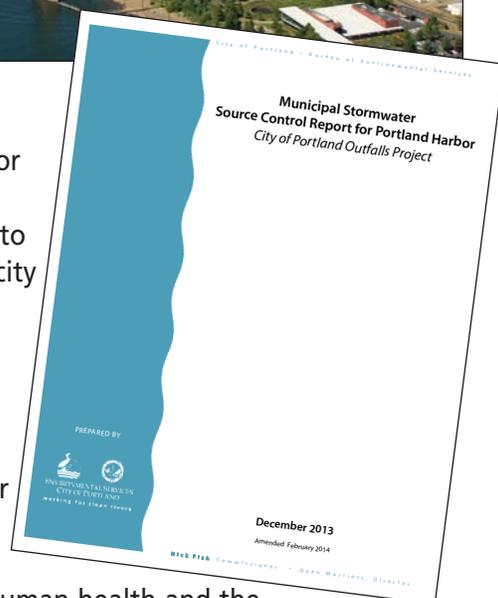


For 12 years, a portion of the Willamette River running through Portland has been known as the Portland Harbor Superfund site because of contaminated sediments. Because of the potential of the city stormwater system to carry contamination from the uplands to the river, the city may ultimately be liable for some of the cleanup and restoration of Portland Harbor.

The city is a member of the Lower Willamette Group (LWG). Under a consent order with the Environmental Protection Agency, the LWG has conducted and paid for a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (also known as an RI/FS). This study determines the nature and extent of the contamination, assesses the risks to human health and the environment, and develops and evaluates cleanup scenarios. The LWG is currently working with EPA to finalize the RI/FS. Over the next several years, the EPA will develop a Proposed Plan that describes a preferred cleanup option, collect public comment on the Plan, and then issue a Record of Decision (ROD) that describes its decision regarding how the site should be cleaned up.

Cleaning up Portland Harbor is not just about in-water sediments, but also identifying and controlling all the sources of contamination to river sediments. Not controlling sediment contamination sources would mean that river sediments could be recontaminated after cleanup.

BES efforts at the Portland Harbor Superfund Site reached a milestone earlier this year with the delivery of a final report to the DEQ for the City of Portland Outfalls Project. BES and the DEQ Cleanup Program have worked together for more than ten years to identify all significant contaminant sources to the municipal stormwater conveyance systems in the harbor and refer them to the appropriate city, state, or federal program for control.



The Municipal Stormwater Source Control Report for Portland Harbor describes:

- Programs the city is implementing both citywide and in the harbor that improve stormwater quality
- Findings from evaluating the potential for the city's 39 outfalls in the harbor study area (from roughly the southern end of Sauvie Island to the Fremont Bridge) to convey contaminants from upland drainage areas to harbor sediments
- The city's conclusion that future discharges from city outfalls are unlikely to recontaminate in-river sediments after implementing source controls

BES could not have accomplished this work without help from the bureau's Industrial Stormwater, Field Operations, Water Pollution Control Lab, Investigations & Monitoring, Maintenance Engineering, Spill Protection & Citizen Response, MS4, and Mapping, Data and Application Services sections. As a result of this effort, more than a dozen new sites joined the DEQ voluntary cleanup program, and along with approximately 40 other sites, are investigating and controlling contaminant discharges to the city stormwater system.

The DEQ Cleanup Program will use information in the Municipal Stormwater Source Control Report for Portland Harbor to demonstrate to EPA and other stakeholders how upland source control will be achieved in Portland Harbor, which is critical to the success of the harbor-wide sediment cleanup. The report and other information about the BES Portland Harbor Program are available at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/PortlandHarbor.

★ New Stars



The Environmental Services Recognition Committee circulates Shining Star Awards throughout the bureau. Employees give them to co-workers to recognize outstanding achievement and notable performance on the job. Recipients display the Shining Star on their desk for two months, then pass it on.

The Shining Star acknowledges achievements and good work that might otherwise go unnoticed in a bureau as large as BES. When it's time to pass on your Shining Star, consider employees in all groups, as well as your own work team or group.

Here is a list of new Shining Stars.

Tonia Mathieu	Shining Star # 1	to Veronica Ferguson
Emily Grey	Shining Star # 2	to Sergey Dezhnyuk
Eldora Tran	Shining Star # 3	to Cynthia Butler
Michael Johnson	Shining Star # 4	to Rick Washington
Linda Scheffler	Shining Star # 5	to Laura Johnson
Victoria Rodriguez	Shining Star # 6	to Yvette Gayomali
MacKenzie Zirk, Rona Klueh and		
Nick Jenness	Shining Star # 7	to Cara Jung
Jim Wood	Shining Starr # 8	to Ed Day

Read more about this awards program at www.portlandonline.com/bes/stars.

? Learn more about your coworkers on the BES intranet at TEAM BES.

Read about your teammates and review past profiles on the BES intranet at www.portlandonline.com/bes/teambes.



Contact your PEERs

PEERs are specially trained Environmental Services staff volunteers who are available to offer bureau employees support, guidance and referral. Click here to learn more or to contact a PEER volunteer.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers



Our Mission

Environmental Services serves the Portland community by protecting public health, water quality and the environment.

We provide sewage and stormwater collection and treatment services to accommodate Portland's current and future needs.

We protect the quality of surface and ground waters and conduct activities that plan and promote healthy ecosystems in our watersheds.

Our Vision

To be recognized as a trusted service provider and innovative environmental leader through a demonstrated commitment to clean rivers, healthy watersheds and our community.

Environmental Services: www.portlandoregon.gov/bes
Nick Fish, Commissioner Dean Marriott, Director

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