

2022 PRETREATMENT RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS

Each spring, WSSC Water recognizes the regulated community as a critical partner in environmental stewardship. The Pretreatment Recognition Awards recognize three tiers (gold, silver and bronze) of consistent compliance achieved by our SIUs. Additionally, SIUs who may not yet have reached compliance but have displayed remarkable efforts or innovations toward achieving compliance are recognized with the “Spotlight Award.”

On March 23, 2023, WSSC Water held its 15th Annual Pretreatment Recognition Awards Ceremony. The event was hosted by the Industrial Discharge Control Section, led by Section Manager Philip Rindge.

Regulatory Services Division Manager I-Hsin McConnell and Chief Engineer Mike Harmer shared their gratitude to the SIUs, emphasizing how critical the relationships between the regulated community and WSSC Water are. Chief of Staff Crystal Knight-Lee, who delivered the keynote speech on behalf of WSSC Water GM/CEO Kishia L. Powell, also recognized the significance of these collective achievements

and how continued teamwork is critical to our One Water Future.

Twenty-five SIUs received recognition for their efforts to maintain compliance with pretreatment regulations in 2022. There were ten gold recipients, six silver and nine bronze recipients. In addition, there were two investigator-nominated industries who received spotlight awards. KMC Thermo was highlighted for its expediency in correcting the course on a 2021 Molybdenum violation. Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Inc. displayed resourceful leveraging to correct chronic, persistent Fats, Oil, and Grease violations, specifically through a human resources-based teamwork approach.

WSSC Water appreciates the efforts our regulated community puts into ensuring regulatory compliance. We hope to have more SIUs recognized at next year’s Pretreatment Recognition Award ceremony. The 2022 honorees are as follows:

GOLD AWARD

(Five or more consecutive years of consistent compliance)



- Adelphi Laboratory Center,
- Capital Electro-Circuits, Inc.,
- De Perini Metal Fabricators, Inc.,
- Mid-Atlantic Finishing, Inc.,
- National Institutes of Health-5625 Fishers Lane,
- Thales Defense & Security, Inc.,
- Tricon Chemical Corporation,
- United Therapeutics Corporation,
- WMATA (Greenbelt), and
- WSSC Water Potomac Water Filtration Plant

SILVER AWARD

(Three consecutive years of consistent compliance and five years without being in significant non-compliance)



- Bethesda Art Metal Works,
- Human Genome Sciences, Inc. (SSM),
- Metal Raps,
- NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center,
- Parkway Generation Keys Energy Center LLC, and
- WSSC Water Patuxent Water Filtration Plant

BRONZE AWARD

(demonstrating compliance for at least the full 2022 calendar year)



- ATK Space Systems, Inc.
- Bottling Group, LLC,
- Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill,
- Coca-Cola Consolidated, Inc. Silver Spring,
- Human Genome Sciences, Inc. (LSM),
- KMC Thermo, LLC,
- Oaks Sanitary Landfill,
- U.S. Army Fort Detrick – Forest Glen Annex, and the
- United States Food and Drug Administration

INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGE CONTROL PROGRAM STAFF UPDATES

Over the past year, the Industrial Discharge Control (IDC) Program has experienced staffing and working environment changes. We implemented new norms for routine day-to-day activities and operations.

IDC program staff are in the office at 14501 Sweitzer Lane Monday through Friday, notwithstanding holidays. The office personnel staffing varies daily due to inspection and sampling activities and hybrid teleworking schedules. IDC staff can also be readily reached by phone or e-mail, provided they are not on leave.

In April 2022, Industrial Investigations Supervisor John Matthews retired after over 40 years with WSSC Water! Before IDC, John worked at WSSC Water's Piscataway Water Resource Recovery Facility. We greatly miss John's pretreatment, laboratory and historical knowledge and leadership. IDC staff and others wish John the best in all his future endeavors and a big THANK YOU for his service to WSSC Water.

Daniel Bower, new to IDC in 2021, also left WSSC Water and returned to consulting work closer to home.

Alex DeWire is IDC's newest Industrial Investigations Supervisor. Promoted in May 2022, Alex previously served as an Industrial Investigator within the IDC Program since joining WSSC Water in 2017. One of his first tasks was assisting in selecting two new Industrial Investigators. Alex continued to work with his previously assigned industries until new staff could be selected and onboarded. When not at WSSC Water, Alex enjoys hiking, camping and raising his fearless daughter. Congratulations to Alex.

WELCOME THE TWO NEWEST MEMBERS TO THE IDC TEAM



Jessica Macer comes to WSSC Water from Maryland Environmental Service and brings her experience in environmental compliance and field sampling. In her free time, Jessica enjoys kayaking, camping, traveling, dining and experiencing the Baltimore food scene. She is also a volunteer leader for Outdoor Afros.

Joseph T. Miller most recently worked at the Maryland Department of the Environment. Joseph brings his background in State permit compliance work and laboratory research to WSSC Water. In his free time, he coaches grappling and enjoys photography.

MAINTAINING AN OIL/WATER SEPARATOR

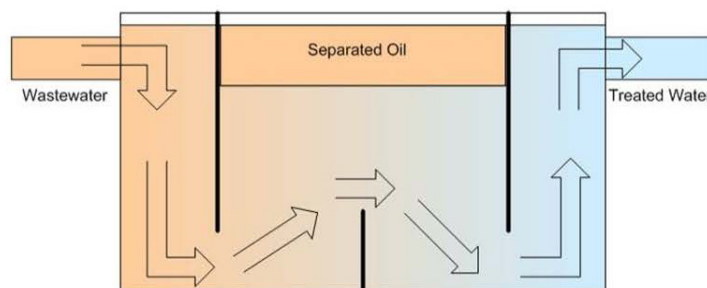
Oil/water separators can be an effective and economical way to treat wastewater. An oil/water separator (OWS) traps sediments and retains floating oils. OWSs must be managed appropriately to avoid pollution to surface and groundwater and avoid costly violations.

A typical OWS has an inlet that conveys wastewater flow into the separator. Inside the separator, the flow of wastewater slows in the first compartment. This allows lighter-than-water grease and oil to float to the top and heavier-than-water sludge and solids to settle to the bottom.

The treated wastewater then moves to the second compartment and repeats the process of the first compartment. OWSs vary in size depending on the need. With the proper retention time, heavier sludge and sediment will settle to the bottom of the OWS. In contrast, lighter oils will float to the top with treated wastewater flowing through the outlet. An undersized separator can wash out solids and oils, resulting in improper treatment.

The key to maintaining an efficient OWS is regularly scheduled inspections and cleanings. To inspect an OWS:

1. Take a long stick and dip it in the tank.
2. Push it to the bottom of the tank. If there is resistance, it indicates a sludge build-up.
3. Measure any oil floating on top of the water. If there is a significant amount of sludge on the bottom of the tank or the floating oil on top of the tank is two inches or greater, the tank needs to be cleaned.
4. Always use a licensed waste hauler for servicing your OWS.





LinkoExchange™

The WSSC Water Industrial Discharge Control (IDC) Program has exciting updates regarding the future use of the Linko Exchange (LE) Industry Portal. LE is a web-portal interface that allows Industrial Pretreatment Control Authorities (like IDC) to accept electronic reports from regulated entities. This will enable Significant Industrial Users (SIUs) to submit reports electronically to WSSC Water.

The IDC program has used Linko Compliance Tracking System to manage all the complex pretreatment data since 2011. With an update to the latest cloud version of Linko CTS, IDC plans on progressively introducing the LE module of Linko CTS to SIUs throughout the 2023 calendar year. IDC investigators will meet with and train SIU representatives on LE usage, data entry, and reporting to meet self-monitoring requirements outlined in WSSC Water Discharge Authorization Permits.

LE is also new to IDC investigators, so the interface will take initial practice and collaboration among all parties to become proficient. IDC will work with industry representatives to troubleshoot any initial issues or bugs with the system. If any problems arise, IDC has a good working relationship with

Linko software developers and regularly provides suggestive input, which will help create a greater user-friendly finished product.

During the transitional training period, SIUs must submit signed paper self-monitoring reports to WSSC Water. The IDC Program must first receive Cross-Media Electronic Reporting Rule (CROMERR) certification for the LE electronic reporting system and become authorized by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to receive electronic reports from regulated entities legally. This MDE review process and CROMERR certification will be achievable as LE is a reputable platform used among other approved Pretreatment Control Authorities nationwide. WSSC Water is working with MDE to gain this authorization.

IDC's goal is to make this transition to electronic reporting as seamless as possible to ensure simpler, more effective and reliable reporting for the future. SIUs should stay tuned for communications and updates from IDC regarding the details of this exciting transition.

Sources

- [Frequently Asked Questions | US EPA](#)
- [LinkoExchange Industry Portal on Vimeo](#)
- [Linko Pretreatment & FOG Management | Aquatic Informatics](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Established in 1918, WSSC Water is currently among the largest water and wastewater utilities in the nation, with a network of nearly 6,000 miles of drinking water pipeline and over 5,600 miles of sewer pipeline. Our service area spans nearly 1,000 square miles in Prince George's and Montgomery counties, and we serve 1.9 million residents through approximately 475,000 customer accounts. WSSC Water drinking water has always met or exceeded federal standards.

