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News Release

For Immediate Release

Southwest Treatment Plant, Staff Win Honors

The City of Springfield's wastewater treatment plants and Springfield Clean Water Services Division staff received recognition at the Missouri Water Environment Association (MWEA) Conference at Lake of the Ozarks during award ceremonies held Monday, March 28. The MWEA is a non-profit industry organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of water quality and water resources, and the relationship of these resources to the environment.

The Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant (SWTP) received the top honor —2010 Plant of the Year for plants treating more than 5 million gallons per day. The plant was given this honor based on outstanding operations and maintenance, and a track record of consistent compliance. Ed Malter, Superintendent of Clean Water Services for the City of Springfield, accepted the award.

The SWTP is designed to treat 43 million gallons per day with peaks of up to 150 million gallons during heavy rain events. It is staffed 24 hours a day by 43 total employees. The SWTP meets or exceeds all regulatory parameters and has a strong track record of being proactive in taking measures to protect the water quality of the region. The "outfall" of water from the SWTP is the primary source of water in Wilson's Creek, the water body to which it releases. The plant also includes a fully functioning laboratory that performs monitoring and testing for plant compliance.

During the presentation, MWEA judge Al Callier said of the judging team's visit to the plant, "The pride for the plant is shown from the plant management level down to every worker. The enthusiasm of a well-managed, operated and maintained facility was experienced as soon as we arrived at the plant."

In other awards, Randy Lyman was given the 2011 Golden Manhole Award, an honor recognizing his 39 years of exceptional professional service. Previous City of Springfield recipients are Wayne Latimar and Kevin Swearengin. The award recognizes exceptional performance and service to municipalities and public utilities. Selection is based on contributions individuals have made to the operation, maintenance or design of collection systems, with an emphasis on pride, safety, teamwork, education, professionalism and leadership.

"I want to congratulate the Southwest Treatment Plant and Randy Lyman on these awards and on their outstanding track record," said Springfield Mayor Jim O'Neal. "Our water treatment system is second-to-none in Springfield. I hope our citizens will keep this in mind as we move ahead with updates mandated by the state and federal governments. We are doing a great job — but the bar is rising every day."

For more information go to: www.springfieldmo.gov/sanitary.

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