



PALM BAY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Utilities Department Recognized for Outstanding Plant Operations

Palm Bay, Florida – The City of Palm Bay Utilities Department has been awarded a 2009 Plant Operations Excellence Award from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). This award is presented annually to qualifying water systems within the state in recognition of their outstanding treatment plant operation, maintenance, and compliance. Other determining factors that are considered during the selection process include innovative treatment; waste reduction and pollution prevention; recycling; and other special achievements.

On December 8, 2009, the City of Palm Bay Utilities Department, along with ten other water systems from across the state, was formally recognized with the 2009 Plant Operations Excellence Award at a ceremony in Tallahassee.

“Our plant operations division works diligently every day to ensure clean, safe, reliable drinking water is delivered to our customers. I am proud of our team’s dedication and commitment to quality, and we are excited and humbled to be recognized with this award,” stated Palm Bay Utilities Director, Jason Yarborough.

In 2008, the Palm Bay Utilities Department received international recognition as an ISO Standard 14001:2004 certified organization based on its implementation of an environmental management system (EMS) referred to as GreenWay. Since 2008, the Utility has recognized considerable cost savings from energy efficiency strategies that have been implemented at its three water treatment plants. Optimized and reduced energy consumption at the water plants has resulted in a real cost savings of 11.7 percent and an 18 percent reduction in energy use. The Department is currently working to implement a similar energy efficiency program for its wastewater plants. Palm Bay Utilities is committed to continually improving its operations and processes with a steadfast focus on energy use, production and handling of biosolids, and increased employee awareness of environment, health and safety issues.

The Palm Bay Utilities Department employs 119 trained and skilled employees that provide water and wastewater services to a city of over 106,000 residents. The City operates two utilities campuses with a total of three water treatment plants capable of providing up to 15.5 million gallons per day of potable water. The Palm Bay Utilities Department also operates a wastewater treatment plant and a water reclamation plant; the combined treatment capacity for these two facilities is 5.2 million gallons per day.

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Accepting the Award. (pictured from left to right): Janet Llewellyn, Director, FDEP Division of Water Resource Management; Tim VanDeventer, Superintendent, Palm Bay Utilities South Regional Water Treatment Plant; George Cook, Operations Manager, Palm Bay Utilities Department.