



HOLLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

## **EPA Region 5 recognizes Holland BPW for outstanding achievements in wastewater treatment**

HOLLAND, MI., Nov. 5, 2008 – The Holland Board of Public Works (HBPW) was one of three Michigan wastewater treatment plants recently recognized for outstanding and innovative water quality achievements through operations and maintenance, biosolids management, pretreatment activities, storm water management, and combined sewer overflow controls. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 5, who oversees wastewater treatment for six states, issued the Operation and Maintenance Excellence Award, First Place in the Pretreatment.

The Holland Area Wastewater Treatment Plant serves the city of Holland, townships of Holland, Park, Laketown, Fillmore and Zeeland, and Ottawa and Allegan counties. The plant has over 50 significant industrial users who participate in its Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP). Embracing modern technological knowledge and efficiently operating the plant, Holland's industrial pretreatment program protects the area's wastewater collection and treatment systems, as well as the environment, by preventing toxic and dangerous substances from being discharged into the sanitary sewer system. The facility has effective programs in place that encourage user waste reduction, minimizes sources of mercury coming into the plant, and performs on-site inspections that immediately notify facilities of any Industrial Pretreatment violations.

The Pretreatment Program is designed to reduce the level of potentially toxic pollutants discharged by industry and other non-domestic wastewater sources into municipal sewer systems. The U.S. EPA has delegated the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality the authority to approve pretreatment programs at the local level and oversee state-wide pretreatment activities. Communities approved to implement the pretreatment program have the legal authority to issue industrial user permits, conduct inspections of industrial and commercial sources, sample industrial discharges and enforce regulations.

Grandville and Ionia wastewater facilities were the other Michigan plants to receive Regional Operations & Maintenance Awards.

For further information, contact Andrée Keneau, communications specialist at 616/355.1576.



PHOTO:

EPA Region V staff presents the Award of Excellence to HBPW staff. From left to right: EPA Region V Industrial Pre-Treatment Program Team Leader Ash Sajjad; HBPW Utility Services Director John Van Uffelen; HBPW Pollution Control Supervisor Gary Bunschoten; HBPW Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Dave Ver Hoef; and EPA Region V National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Review Team Member Jodie Opie.