

2018 PWOC Central Region O&M Award Winner Announcement

The Central Region of the NC Professional Wastewater Operators Committee has selected the City of High Point Westside Wastewater Treatment Plant for the 2018 Operations & Maintenance Excellence Award. This facility has demonstrated a consistent high level of professionalism and dedication to their customers and the environment. Congratulations to Kevin Wood and staff!

Innovative O & M Practices

The Westside WWTP is a Class IV wastewater treatment facility, currently permitted to treat 8.2 MGD, with a capacity of 10.0 MGD. Completion of the current upgrade brings on-line a newly designed Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) system for more efficient nitrogen & phosphorous removal from the treated waste stream, with an additional Final Clarifier. Plant operations are monitored using a SCADA system. The biosolids from storage tanks at Westside WWTP are centrifuged to achieve 23-26% Total Solids (TS) cake. The cake is transferred to the Eastside WWTP for blending and transport to a compost facility or to landfills for final disposal. Once the current incinerator upgrade is complete, all cake biosolids will be incinerated at the Eastside plant.

Involvement in the Profession (outside plant)

The Westside WWTP staff includes ten operators and one plant superintendent. A team of support staff includes the residuals, maintenance (mechanical, electrical and instrumentation), laboratory, and administration positions. Our Public Services Department encourages all its employees to attain the highest levels of certifications possible and additional supervisory training is offered to management. All operators are required to obtain Grade II Biological WW certification to maintain their positions; advancement requires higher certification. Public Services is actively promoting the Certified Maintenance Technologist program offered through NC AWWA/WEA. Several maintenance employees have recently achieved their Class I, Class II, or Class III Maintenance Technologist certifications. Staff are actively involved with the Yadkin/Pee Dee River Basin Association, the NC-Pretreatment Consortium, and the NC AWWA.

Public & Community Education and Involvement

Community education and outreach is important to the City of High Point. Activities include hosting/sponsoring the local Public Services Day and providing plant tours and presentations to the public. An apprentice program has been developed by the Public Services Department to provide applicants with experience and the opportunity to apply for full time positions when they become available within the various divisions of the Department. The Public Services Department provides education materials to the public on the F.O.G. (Fats, Oils, and Grease) program including proper grease disposal and guidance on how to prevent sewer back-ups in the sewer system.