



The New York Water Environment Association, Inc.
The Water Quality Management Professionals

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Niagara Falls Water Board to Receive NYWEA's 2011 Municipal Achievement Award

Syracuse, NY -- The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA), a statewide nonprofit organization of water quality management professionals based in Syracuse, has awarded the **Niagara Falls Water Board** with the 2011 NYWEA Municipal Achievement Award. The award will be presented at NYWEA's 84th Annual Meeting on February 8, 2012 in New York City. The award was created to recognize those municipalities or public facilities that have implemented significant improvements to their environmental management and/or operations to protect and enhance environmental conditions, particularly of the water environment.

The Niagara Falls Water Board (NFWB) is a not-for-profit, public benefit corporation created by the New York State legislature which, in 2003, assumed ownership and operation of the water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure of the City of Niagara Falls. This infrastructure, many components of which are over 100 years old, recently underwent massive repairs and improvements to its wastewater collection system. An \$18 million, multi-phase project cleaned and repaired the North Gorge Interceptor tunnel, achieving completion in 2011. The Gorge Pumping Station recently had major equipment rehabilitated and new equipment installed. A \$7 million project to

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remove major groundwater infiltration from the Falls Street Tunnel, comprising 20 percent of treatment plant flow, is currently in construction. Two long-term overflow reduction programs, one in LaSalle and one along the Gorge, are also being undertaken to reduce or abate wet weather impacts on local water ways.

The NFWB maintains a 35 million gallon per day (mgd) drinking water treatment facility, one elevated water storage tank, a 48 mgd physical-chemical activated carbon wastewater treatment facility, a 20 mgd wastewater pumping station, nine smaller sewage lift stations, 250 miles of water distribution piping and 260 miles of a sewer collection system comprised of eight-inch wide to 32-foot wide sanitary sewer tunnels. Operated by 87 employees, the NFWB has an operating budget of approximately \$26 million (2011).

About NYWEA: Founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a nonprofit educational organization, NYWEA has 2,500 members statewide who historically have helped lead the way for state and national clean water programs. The Association hosts several technical conferences each year for environmental engineers, scientists, public officials and others who work in water and wastewater quality management. In addition, NYWEA sponsors a major scholarship program to encourage careers in science and engineering, publishes *Clear Waters*, a quarterly educational trade magazine, and supports humanitarian clean water projects. Headquartered in Syracuse, NY, NYWEA has seven regional chapters, 13 college student chapters and is a Member Association of the international Water Environment Federation (WEF). For more information, visit www.nywea.org.

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