

2023 Public Water System Awards for calendar year 2022

Total of Compliance Awards and Nominated Awards is 61 systems and/or operators.

Compliance Awards - 40

Non-transient Non-community Systems - 2

Carlisle Public School
Martha's Vineyard Airport

Small Community Systems - 5

Benfield Farms (Carlisle)
Bishops Landing Condominiums (Stoughton)
Essex Water Department
Sawyer Hill Ecovillage (Berlin)
West Newbury Water Department

Consecutive Systems - 15

Bedford VA Hospital
Belmont Water Department (MWRA)
Beverly Water Department
Chelsea Water Department (MWRA)
Framingham Water Department (MWRA)
Freetown Water Commission
Glen Ridge Residents Trust (Dover)
Holmes Park Water District (Westminster)
Marblehead Water Department (MWRA)
Meadowbrook Water Trust (Dover)
Mendon Water Department
Newton Water Department (MWRA)
Quincy Water Department (MWRA)
Swampscott Water Department (MWRA)
Waltham Water Department

Medium and Large Community Systems - 18

Ashburnham/Winchendon Joint Water Authority
Athol DPW Water Division
Avon Water Department
Bourne Water District
Brewster Water Department
Buzzards Bay Water District
Dennis Water District

Edgartown Water Department
Hanson Water Department
Middleborough Water Supply
North Andover Water Department
North Raynham Water District
North Sagamore Water District
Orleans Water Department
Provincetown Water Department
Seekonk Water District
Weir River Water System (Hingham)
Winchester Water Department

Nominated Awards - 21

Consistent Performer - 7

Systems who have received awards for three consecutive years and are on hiatus this year.

Acushnet Water Department
Brookline Water and Sewer Division
Harwich Water Department
Lynn Water and Sewer Comm
Lynnfield Water District (MWRA)
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)
Whitman Water System

Water Conservation - 5

Systems subject to the WMA who have met 65 RGPCD and 10% UAW standard, implemented at a minimum mandatory water use restrictions, have websites showing conservation related information, conducted an M36 Water Audit, and have not won in the past three years.

Acton Water Supply District
Medway Water Department
Scituate Water Division
Westford Water Department
Wilkinsonville Water District

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Systems taking action to reduce lead within school systems.

Lynn Water and Sewer Commission

Regional Recognition - 4

Systems who were chosen by the regions for completing a difficult undertaking.

CERO – Ayer DPW Water Division

Ayer first began evaluating PFAS treatment options in 2018, worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to install temporary treatment at one source in 2019, and brought permanent PFAS6 treatment online at the Grove Pond Treatment Plant in 2020. With the completion of the Spectacle Pond Treatment Plant upgrades in 2022, Ayer now treats all its water for the removal of PFAS6.

NERO –Andover Water Department

Andover voluntarily entered into an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) establish a manageable number of lead service line (LSL) removals and unknown service line investigations each year. While Andover's ACO requires the removal of 25 LSL and investigation of 400 service lines annually, Andover went well above and beyond the investigation requirements for their LSL inventory by investigating 1003 services during 2022! This enormous effort to investigate service lines and remove LSLs is a monumental accomplishment in the interest of public health.

SERO - Sharon Water Division

Sharon began sampling for PFAS in April 2021 as required by the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations. The town's highest producing well returned a PFAS6 result of 88.8 ng/l, exceeding the maximum contaminant level of 20 ng/l. The town immediately removed the well from service. Despite the pandemic shut downs, the town successfully procured, permitted, and installed a year-round, portable PFAS treatment system for the well returning it to service in June, 2021. Other sources in the town have been impacted by PFAS and the town has managed its sources, including removing sources from service, to remain in compliance with the MCL. The town is progressing with a permanent treatment. In acknowledgement of the dedication of the Town of Sharon Water Division to meeting the PFAS challenge while maintaining compliance with all their other regulatory requirements, the MassDEP-SERO grants the PWS Regional Recognition.

WERO - Monson Water and Sewer

This PWS has been consistently well managed and well operated with an effective staff of operators and support staff for several years. Monson proactively developed a Capital Improvement Plan and later added an Asset Management Plan and hydraulic study allowed it to identify priority projects and systematically work to maintain and improve its water system. WERO wants to acknowledge this steady performance, which can be overlooked when something more dramatic occurs at another public water system, drawing the attention. Monson has Adequate Capacity and operates with an enterprise fund.

Distinguished Operators - 4

Operators chosen by the region who went beyond the call of duty.

CERO - Chris P. McClure (T2-12151, D2-11163)

Chris serves as the contract operator for several small public water systems in Central Massachusetts. He has been consistent over many years with accurate and timely reporting, communicating, while also being responsive to the needs of the water suppliers. He does not shy away from challenges and is diligent about resolving issues for his clients with a practical approach. His engineering background gives additional credence to the way he operates water systems.

Chris accepted the responsibility of operating the water system for a mobile home park that lacked financial capacity, faced multiple compliance issues, had an antiquated distribution system, and minimal storage capacity. He worked with the owner to address each of these issues including a new groundwater source, treatment processes, relocation of the treatment train, increased water storage, added bulk water delivery, emergency disinfection capabilities, and installation of a new distribution system. Consent Orders, public notifications, and education to customers were constantly needed. Despite delays due to the pandemic and supply chain issues, he continued to help the PWS complete these projects that were so desperately needed.

NERO - Julie Greenwood-Torelli (T4 29712)

Julie serves as the Director of Water Operations for the Cambridge Water Department (CWD). In the summer of 2022, CWD recognized that the granular activated carbon (GAC) would need to be exchanged at the facility due to increasing levels of PFAS breakthrough. As CWD prepared for this media exchange, severe supply-chain issues resulted in the significant delay of filter media delivery despite the system's best efforts to plan months in advance. To avoid serving water that approached the 20 ppt MCL to CWD's customers, CWD began proactive steps to implement a temporary operational change at the CWD Facility that allowed continuous minimal facility operation, which maintained plant integrity while isolating water purchased from the MWRA to serve its customers. Julie was instrumental in coordinating all communications between CWD and MassDEP including the supply chain updates, and ultimately the phased media exchange, comprehensive public outreach and bringing the facility back online. Julie's conscientious approach to proactively communicate with MassDEP's Drinking Water Program led to a collaborative effort by all parties to ensure that nearly 120,000 consumers received drinking water below the PFAS standard.

SERO - Darren G. Dearth (D2 24157, T4 12081)

The Weir River Water System provides drinking water for the Towns of Hingham, Hull, and a portion of Cohasset. Veolia is the contract operator of the system and Darren is the primary treatment operator of the plant. The system was formally owned by the Aquarian Water Company and was taken over by Weir River July 31, 2020. Darren has done a tremendous job managing the transition and operations, including creating an outstanding management system including written SOP's, operation and maintenance manuals, and routine procedures. Darren is also commended for his efforts managing the ongoing PFAS treatment at the Treatment Plant which was not originally designed to remove PFAS. Although the existing filters at the treatment plant contain granular activated carbon (GAC), the filters were not originally designed to remove PFAS from the drinking water. Darren successfully developed an

operations and management plan to effectively reduce PFAS levels in the treated water to below the maximum contaminant level. Darren is conscientious and has a deeply personal commitment to his profession. The Weir River Water System has made tremendous progress in its first three years of operation, and Darren's leadership has clearly played an outsized role in that progress.

WERO - Jeffrey R. Auer (D4 11871, T3 11429)

Jeff oversees operations in West Springfield, which has challenges common to many cities, such as staffing and organizational issues. Jeff has helped move projects forward to address different pressure zones, to sever the surface water source, address storage and other distribution improvements and to beef up the operations and controls at the remaining groundwater sources. These well sources are subject to multiple contaminants, including PFAS6. Most recently Jeff prepared and instituted the SOP to minimize use of the source with the highest PFAS, both to prevent breakthrough, and to extend the life of the GAC treatment facility. In addition, Jeff communicates well with his constituents and with MassDEP regarding complaints, significant changes, and other issues.