2025 (CY 2024) PWS Awards Winners List – 54 TOTAL

Part 1: Compliance Awards Recipients

Community (COM) – 15

- Athol DPW Water Division
- Bourne Water District
- Dennis Water District
- Edgartown Water Department
- Hanson Water Department
- Lynn Water and Sewer Comm
- Needham Water Dept
- North Chelmsford Water District
- North Raynham Water District
- North Sagamore Water District
- Provincetown Water Department
- Seekonk Water District
- South Hadley Fire District #2 Water Dept
- Wenham Water Dept
- Westford Water Department

Consecutive Community – 8

- Acushnet Water Department
- Bedford VA Hospital (Rogers Mem. Hospital)
- Beverly Water Dept
- Brookline Water and Sewer Division
- Paxton Water Department
- Swampscott Water Dept. (MWRA)
- Tyngsborough Water District
- Weston Water Dept

Small Community – 7

- Benfield Farms (Carlisle)
- Dunstable Water Department
- Eaglebrook School (Deerfield)
- Garrison Place (Carlisle)
- Hampden Housing Authority
- Sunderland Water District
- West Newbury Water Department

Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) – 7

- Cape Cod Space Force Station (Bourne)
- Carlisle Public School
- Dover Water Dept
- Freetown Elementary School
- John Road Industrial Park (Sutton)
- The Home for Little Wanderers (Plymouth)
- Wee Forest Folk (Carlisle)

Part 2 – Nominated Awards Recipients

Consistent Performers (3 year in a row winners) - 1

- Waltham Water Department

Water Conservation Award - 5

- Billerica Water Department
- Easton Water Department
- Sturbridge Water Department
- West Groton Water District
- Wilmington Water & Sewer Department

Each system met the following:

- Water Management Act Program's Performance Standards of <65 Residential Gallons per capita day and 10% or less unaccounted-for water losses in 2024.
- All implemented nonessential water use restrictions limiting water use to 2 days or less per week.
- Provided conservation information on their websites.
- Did not exceed their WMA allocated volumes.
- Did not win the award the prior year.

Energy Conservation Award - 1

Burlington Water Department's Solar Array project at the Mill Pond Water Treatment Plant. The Town received a $176,090 Gap Energy Grant from our Clean Energy Results Program to install weatherization conservation measures and a 66.6 kilowatt solar array at their water treatment plant. This clean energy project will result in a 1- year payback for the town and generate over $276,000 of energy cost savings over the lifetime of the solar array.

Star L Award – Systems Taking Action to Reduce Lead - 1

STARL - Systems Taking Action to Reduce Lead

Gloucester Public Utility Division: Through the MassDEP Pilot Program for Public Water Systems, Gloucester Public Utility Division has completed testing of all 7 Public Schools and conducted outreach to offer drinking water testing for lead to all 23 licensed childcares in their service area. We thank them for their efforts in helping to keep Massachusetts children safe from the dangers of lead.

Day Care Lead Reduction Award - 1

School and Day Care Lead-Reduction Advocate:

Amy Izen of Healthy Chelsea is awarded special recognition for her work in helping advocate for the reduction of lead in schools and daycares drinking water. Her organizational services of important lead reduction documents and seminars to teach Massachusetts Schools and Daycares in Chelsea on how to reduce lead in their drinking water was enormously important. MassDEP thanks her immensely for her efforts in helping to keep Massachusetts children safe from the dangers of lead.

Regional Award Nominations

SERO Regional Recognition - 1

The North Raynham Water District (PWS ID 4245002) provides water to a population of 3902. The water system includes 6 active ground water sources, 3 treatment facilities and two water storage tanks with a total storage capacity of 1.75 million gallons. The distribution system contains 32 miles of water main, and they are preparing to replace about 2700ft of main to facilitate a new filtration plant with a project finish of 3 years to include a new DEP approved wellfield. The system has approximately 1440 service connections.

The system operators have been retained for many years including the primary operator/Superintendent Arthur Bendinelli who has 27 years with the system and knows the system well. They are knowledgeable and dedicated to providing safe drinking water within the regulations. The North Raynham Water District has been recognized for Outstanding Performance and Achievement for several years in a row and received a Governor's citation in 2024 for compliance in the drinking water regulations for 2023 and the previous five years.

The district's website provides transparency to their customers and is easy to use. The Consumer Confidence Report is always done before the July 1 deadline, and the past 20 years are available for viewing on the district's website.

SERO Distinguished Operator – 1:

Robert (Bob) Worthley started as superintendent and primary treatment operator of the Foxboro Water Department on April 24. 2012. His system is one of the best public water suppliers in SERO. Bob always submits required paperwork and monitoring results in a timely manner. The Foxboro Water Dept. has 10 active wells and 7 of those wells were installed during his tenure as superintendent. The Foxboro water Dept. has 4 active treatment plants and 3 of those plants also went on-line during his time in

Foxboro. Bob is a proactive superintendent. Chemist by training he monitors his system and installs chemical treatment that he thinks will improve the quality of the water he delivers to his customers. As soon as he learned about the cyber security assessment requirement, he hired Woodard and Curran to perform the assessment which was reviewed last year by the Boston Office.

For his dedicated professionalism, and high levels of regulatory compliance, Bob Worthley earns the MassDEP Southeast Region's Operator Choice Award.

NERO Regional Recognition Award – 1:

The Westford Water Department (PWS ID 3330000) has been consistently reporting PFAS data to MassDEP since at least April 2021 as required by the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations. While their finished water sample results are yet to exceed the quarterly 20 ppt threshold, they have already wrapped up the piloting process for exploring different treatment options. Moreover, they recently received approval for constructing permanent PFAS removal systems at each of their two WTPs with SRF financing in hand. (It is also worth noting that this PWS was one of the "field trip" locations featured in a 2024 EPA Sanitary Survey training!) To recognize the dedication and commitment of the Westford Water Department to meeting the PFAS challenge (among others) in collaboration with the Department and while striving to comply with other regulatory requirements, NERO grants the PWS this regional distinction.

NERO Distinguished Operator – 1:

Joe Ciccotelli: The Ipswich Water Department serves 13,800 people from two surface water sources and five active groundwater sources located in the Parker River and Ipswich Watersheds. Throughout the years Joe has been a stalwart presence ensuring compliance in an ever evolving regulatory environment. Joe has responded to the many existing challenges facing public water suppliers including drought management, as well as new requirements, such as PFAS contamination, by doing what it takes to get the job done while maintaining a record of exemplary compliance. As a dedicated public servant who has made public health a priority, Joe's experience and expertise is leading

the current treatment plant upgrades to ensure excellent water quality and sufficient water demand is met for years to come.

CERO Regional Recognition – 1:

The **Townsend Water Department (PWS ID# 2299000)** has been working on system improvements since PFAS6 was detected at the Harbor Trace Well in 2021. In the span of three years, Townsend has piloted and installed PFAS treatment for three of its groundwater sources, a raw water transmission main, and finished water main upgrades to support the new entry point to the distribution system. The new WTP was also designed with new administrative offices to support the needs of the Water Department and training facilities to support regional operator training courses. Townsend is completing work on a new source and permanent disinfection treatment at two other WTPs. The hard work and foresight of David Vigeant, the Townsend Water Superintendent, has brought the Public Water System to a well-prepared and capable position to provide safe water to their customers and serve the needs of the region's waterworks community. CERO is proud to recognize the Townsend Water Department for their work.

CERO Distinguished Operator – 1:

Howard Asnes: The Central Regional Office is pleased to recognize **Howard Asnes**, as an outstanding operator in CERO. Howard, known to all as "Howie", always has a smile on his face and is incredibly dedicated to maintaining the operation of his water system serving a population of 2,200 persons per day. He is very responsive to issues brought by MassDEP and users. Howie maintains a Greensand filtration water treatment plant treating the water for iron and manganese from 3 sources before sending finished the water to 3 storages tanks and miles of water mains and multiple buildings at PWS# 2208001. Finally, Howie proudly shows water from the raw and finished sample taps to show how well his treatment system is working. This is why the Central Regional Office would like to recognize Howard Asnes as an outstanding drinking water operator in Massachusetts.

WERO Regional Recognition – 1:

West Springfield DPW Water Division (PWS ID#1325000)

In July 2024, **West Springfield DPW Water Division** experienced a backflow incident when an oily sheen was identified in public drinking water, potentially indicating unsafe drinking water conditions. West Springfield immediately took action by informing MassDEP (who issued a Do-Not-Use order), isolating the affected area, performing water quality samples, and flushing lines to prevent any possible contaminants from reaching customers, all within hours of first noticing the potential contamination. West Springfield investigated the area and identified an unprotected cross connection that was the likely cause of the oily sheen. A backflow device was installed at the newly identified cross connection, and just over 48 hours from first identifying the issue, the Do-Not-Use order was lifted. West Springfield later met with MassDEP to review its Cross Connection Control Program Plan and identified a discrepancy that could potentially have caused locations to miss an important Cross Connection survey. West Springfield immediately updated its Cross Connection Control Plan and policies to ensure that all high-risk locations are surveyed on a regular basis. MassDEP commends West Springfield DPW Water Division for its swift action in resolving the Cross Connection issue, and its proactive approach to preventing future issues.

WERO Distinguished Operator – 1:

Operator: **Anthony Lastowski (Williamsburg Water Department)**

Mr. Lastowski has been the Primary Treatment Operator of the Hatfield Water Department for the past 18 tears and for the past 4 years has also been the Primary Distribution Operator for the Williamsburg Water Department. Tony is a dedicated leader and has been very proactive in keeping both systems in compliance with Massachusetts drinking water regulations. Above and beyond his normal duties for Hatfield and Williamsburg, Tony has also given his time and effort to other Public Water Systems and has worked closely with MassDEP, lending his expertise to assist struggling Surface Water treatment plants with their operating procedures. Tony is also

a retired Lieutenant Firefighter and EMT, demonstrating his dedication to helping people in his community and surrounding communities.