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"Message from the Executive Director"

In the three months since Hurricane Sandy devastated the entire Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) facility, we have been completely dedicated to the process of rebuilding and returning to normal operations.

As a testament to the men and women who comprise the PVSC workforce, we immediately began the process of bringing operations back on-line shortly after the storm abated. Many of the staff returned the next day, eager to assist in our recovery efforts; as a result, our facility was back up and online within days (flows from the majority of the district were reintroduced after 3.75 days and the entire district after 4.5 days) of this unprecedented natural disaster.

PVSC's recovery was further bolstered by the arrival of local, county, state and federal assistance including the Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. In addition to round the clock efforts of PVSC employees, the aid and support of these partners were invaluable in bringing the plant back to primary treatment in less than a week.

I'm happy to report that due to these extraordinary efforts, the PVSC returned to operating within secondary treatment standards within three and a half weeks of the storm and has reached many milestones *well in advance of original estimates*. In fact, on January 8, we began accepting all municipal, industrial, and water sludge and our LWA operation is back to accepting all streams of waste.

While much work remains, the PVSC will commit the time, manpower, and resources needed to complete the restoration process. Rest assured, we continue to learn from this event, and are formulating plans to make the plant less susceptible to future storms.

As you can see, all of these combined efforts helped mitigate a catastrophic event whereby the PVSC's Newark Treatment Plant was inundated with over 200 million gallons of tidal surge. Our people - and their tireless efforts - are the reason why PVSC is among the leading wastewater treatment facilities in the country and will continue to be for years to come.

Thank you,
Mike DeFrancisci