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*“Protecting Public Health and the Environment”*

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## NEWS

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### **PVSC PREPARES FOR UPCOMING HURRICANE SEASON** *Deployment of “Muscle Wall” Technology Ensures Storm Preparedness at Newark Plant*



NEWARK, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) today announced it has successfully completed a comprehensive project to protect against flooding and tidal surges from extreme weather events. The deployment of a “Muscle Wall” or flood control barricade system is designed to protect key infrastructure at the plant, as the PVSC continues to recover and rebuild from Superstorm Sandy.

“As part of our Post-Sandy recovery efforts, and in order to ensure long-term sustainability, the PVSC is making preparations for the 2014 Hurricane Season,” said PVSC Executive Director Michael DeFrancisci. “As many meteorologists note, August and September are among the most dangerous months here on the East Coast for volatile hurricane activity. And, the recent heavy rain fall and severe thunderstorms continue to keep PVSC on alert for potential flooding problems. To that end, PVSC has implemented this new flood control barricade system to ensure we are prepared in the event that a storm like Sandy strikes again.”

Design and procurement of the flood mitigation measures at PVSC began last year. Installation of the flood barricade was completed on August 9, 2013. A total of 7,760 linear feet (just under 1.5 miles) of wall has been installed around key PVSC facilities such as the plant’s electrical substation, treatment process facilities and other vulnerable operations.

Muscle Wall – a patented technology - has an L-shape configuration that dramatically improves the wall’s resistance to tipping over from lateral flood water forces. Each six foot long segment is mechanically strapped to each other which improves over all structural performance. A water proof membrane covers the entire systems keeping flood waters from entering the protected areas. Key considerations in PVSC selecting this

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technology were its ease of construction and adaptability to existing facilities, without sacrificing safety or operations.

Flood control barricade systems are an alternate to sand bags. The base of 4 foot Muscle Wall is 2.5 feet wide; a US Army Corp Sandbag Base is 10 feet wide and would use 620,000 sand bags (more than 300 truckloads of sand) for the 1.5 miles of protection required at PVSC. The flood control barricade cost approximately \$700,000 and was purchased from funds appropriated in the 2013 PVSC Budget for flood control costs. The procurement of this essential technology to protect PVSC’s infrastructure will not impact rate-payers.

“Although our work with FEMA is still on-going regarding the construction of more permanent flood control measures, PVSC cannot afford the risk of not being ready while these other measures are developed,” said PVSC Commissioner Kenneth J. Lucianin. “We are well-prepared for any extreme weather situation and I am proud that PVSC has taken a leadership role in these overall flood mitigation efforts.”

Superstorm Sandy struck the East Coast on Monday, October 29, 2012, devastating the entire PVSC plant when PVSC's Newark Bay Treatment Plant was inundated with over 200 million gallons of tidal surge that flooded PVSC’s underground tunnels and galleries alone. PVSC employees were working that evening to ensure that treatment was uninterrupted and were also present to facilitate an emergency power shut down. As the storm approached the facility was taken off line, when power was lost. Shortly after the storm abated, PVSC immediately began the process of bringing operations back on-line.

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***In order to protect and preserve local streams and rivers from water pollution, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission operates one of the country's oldest and largest treatment plants for the wastewaters of northern New Jersey, serving over 1.4 million people in five counties.***