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“Protecting Public Health and the Environment”

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For Immediate Release:
February 20, 2018

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New Jersey Alliance For Action Honors PVSC For Resiliency Program



Vice Chairman Ken Lucianin, Manager of Engineering John Bolcar, Chief Engineer John Rotolo and Jerry Keenan, New Jersey Alliance For Action Executive Vice President at last week's award ceremony.

Newark, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) has been recognized by the *New Jersey Alliance For Action* for the development and implementation of a robust Resiliency Program that will help the agency battle large-scale weather-related events.

The need for a resiliency plan became obvious a little more than five years ago when Superstorm Sandy slammed into New Jersey, inflicting catastrophic and unparalleled damage, which in turn necessitated billions of dollars in damages. PVSC's 140-acre plant, situated near the confluence of the Passaic River and Newark Bay, was entirely engulfed by flood waters during the course of the storm. This resulted in the inundation of PVSC's 5,000-foot underground utility tunnels, with more than 200 million gallons of combined bay, rain and wastewater, which destroyed much of PVSC's critical process equipment. Since then, PVSC has become the model of recovery and resiliency, as the agency continues to rebuild and modernize, while remaining extremely responsive to its contributing municipalities and ratepayers.

Last week, the *New Jersey Alliance For Action* honored PVSC for those efforts at their 2018 annual awards breakfast in Monroe Township. At the breakfast, organizations and businesses around the state were honored for their innovative, pioneering and landmark construction initiatives that greatly impact the state's economy. PVSC received a "*New Jersey's Leading Infrastructure Projects Award*." The Alliance is a unique coalition of some 2,500 business, labor and public organizations. Projects honored at the breakfast included utility upgrades, transportation improvements, and corporate development.

"The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission Resiliency Program is a great example of what can be done when organizations work as a team to develop a fantastic infrastructure project," said Philip K. Beachem, *New Jersey Alliance For Action* President. "Today's winners are key to the state's economy and quality of life."

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“Through hard work, unwavering determination, and collaborative vision, PVSC has come back stronger and more unified than ever before,” said PVSC Board Chairman Thomas Tucci, Jr. “This is a tribute to PVSC’s outstanding employees and our Board of Commissioners, who have met significant challenges head-on and persevered.”

The FEMA-funded (90% funded by FEMA) resiliency/plant hardening project that was approved in 2015 includes:

- Construction of two permanent flood walls to protect the east and west sides of the plant
- Construction of a 34-megawatt on-site standby power plant
- Plant-wide replacement and relocation of switchgear and motor control centers
- Plant-wide replacement of electrical cables and utility tunnel bulkheads
- Construction of storm water pumping stations
- Storm water collection system improvements
- Construction of east/west electrical substations

“Preparing for extreme weather events required a lot more than a simple, quick fix,” Chairman Tucci said. “We really had to take a strategic look at the plant and its many assets, and then come up with a comprehensive approach with innovative concepts, to strengthen and defend our entire facility. We are honored to accept this award and are justifiably proud that our efforts were recognized by such a prestigious organization.”



(Plant-wide flood walls are part of the PVSC’s Resiliency Plan)

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 nearly 1.5 million people in parts of five counties.

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