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## **Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission Honored with Another Association of Environmental Authorities WAVE Award**

Newark, NJ – At their recent annual awards luncheon in Atlantic City, the Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey (“AEANJ”) announced the 2024 recipients of their annual WAVE Awards. These awards are a recognition of excellence in the public water, wastewater, recycling and solid waste sector in New Jersey.

The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (“PVSC”) received the prestigious ***“Forward Thinking” WAVE Award*** for the development and implementation of its ***PFAS Source Identification and Minimization Plan***.

AEANJ First Vice President Brian Brach (left) and Executive Director Peggy Gallos (right) presented the award to PVSC’s Chief Operating Officer Tom Laustsen (center) at the luncheon.

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”) are used in a number of applications, from clothing to cookware to heavy industry. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, PFAS are “widely used, long lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, many PFAS compounds are found in the blood of people and animals all over the world and are present at low levels in a variety of food products and in the environment.”

By developing and implementing its ***PFAS Source Identification and Minimization Plan***, PVSC has taken a proactive approach to obtaining a strong understanding of the presence of these emerging contaminants in the industrial discharges that are delivered to the agency for treatment every day. The objective of the plan is to reduce the amount of PFAS discharged into the municipal wastewater system, whether directly or through partnering localities’ sewer systems. The plan involves sophisticated and thorough field wastewater sampling practices and certified wastewater analytical methods.

“Wastewater treatment facilities such as PVSC do not create PFAS and do not use PFAS in their treatment processes,” said PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci, Jr. “PVSC does, however, continuously and proactively evaluate PFAS in our collection system in an effort to support our PFAS minimization goals. We are deeply honored that these efforts are being recognized by the AEANJ, a highly-respected and prominent environmental-advocacy association.”



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