



*The ARAMARK Tower  
1101 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2994*

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Philadelphia Takes Top Honors for High Standards in Wastewater  
Treatment City's Rivers are Reaping the Benefits**

The Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies recently awarded the employees at Philadelphia's three water pollution control plants with top honors for environmental excellence for the 2002 calendar year, building on more than a decade of award-winning performance for wastewater treatment.

The Northeast and Southeast Plants each received Gold awards and the Southwest Plant received a Silver award. Gold awards recognize treatment plant employees that have achieved perfect environmental regulatory compliance for wastewater treatment for an entire calendar year. Silver Awards are given to treatment plants that have achieved near perfect environmental compliance. Wastewater treatment standards are established by the federal Clean Water Act.

Water Commissioner Kumar Kishinchand accepted the awards on behalf of the employees at a special ceremony during the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies' 2003 National Environmental Policy Forum and 33rd Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. "I am very proud of the hard work and dedication that the employees of the Philadelphia Water Department demonstrate on a daily basis to keep our rivers clean. Their efforts show a wonderful commitment to preserve and protect the Delaware River Watershed from pollution," noted Commissioner Kishinchand.

These three plants treat approximately 489 million gallons of wastewater and storm water a day from Philadelphia and three surrounding counties, serving more than 2.2 million people. Thanks to the efforts of the city's wastewater treatment plant employees, the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers are healthier than they have been in the past 30 years, and more than 42 species of fish have returned to the rivers. In fact, the water that is returned to the river is cleaner than the river water.

In addition, new economic and recreational activities have sprung to life along the city's riverfronts. The developments along Penn's Landing and the Manayunk Canal are all possible because of the health and vitality of the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers.

The Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies is a nationally recognized leader in environmental policy and is involved in all facets of water quality protection. Member agencies serve the majority of the sewered population in the United States. Collectively, they treat and reclaim more than 18 billion gallons of wastewater each day. More than 300 public wastewater agencies are Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies members.

# # #

