



CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT

Dedicated to Quality Water & Service



First In The Nation ~ Excellence In Water Treatment, Partnership For Safe Water

Date: July 10, 2014

To: Press Outlets

From: Jim Fay, General Manager – Champlain Water District (CWD)

RE: Request for Public Outreach on CWD's "15 Year Excellence in Water Treatment Award"

Attached please find a package of information on CWD continuing to maintain the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Partnership for Safe Water Program's Excellence in Water Treatment Award status for fifteen (15) consecutive years. This recognition is a culmination of over 25 years of effort by CWD staff, and our publicly elected Board of Water Commissioners. Ensuring public health protection by improving the quality of the water delivered to our 70,000 customers has always been our mission as a drinking water supplier.

Please call me at (802)373-4142 if you have any questions, and thank you for assisting with this public outreach.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PETER L. JACOB WATER TREATMENT FACILITY HONORED FOR 15 YEARS OF
OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE**

**Champlain Water District Celebrates 15 Consecutive Years of Maintaining
Excellence in Water Treatment Award Status**

South Burlington, VT - July 2014 – Champlain Water District's Peter L. Jacob Water Treatment Facility has received the prestigious Phase IV "15-Year Excellence in Water Treatment" Award from the **Partnership for Safe Water**. Champlain Water District is the first and only utility in North America to date to achieve this highly significant longevity award, honoring superior water treatment process optimization and performance.

Phase IV represents the highest possible level of performance that can be achieved in the four-phase *Partnership* program, and signifies fully optimized facility performance that produces water quality well surpassing required federal standards. Champlain Water District has participated in the Partnership for Safe Water program since November, 1995, and was the first facility to receive the program's Excellence in Water Treatment Award in 1999.

"Receiving the Partnership's 15-Year Excellence in Water Treatment Award highlights our ongoing commitment to water quality by the entire utility staff and elected governing Board. It's a very meaningful achievement, and is an indicator of Champlain Water District's (CWD) dedication to optimize operations to protect public health. Ensuring public health protection by improving the quality of the water delivered to our 70,000 customers has always been our mission as a drinking water supplier," said Jim Fay, CWD General Manager.

The Partnership for Safe Water is a voluntary self-assessment and optimization program for water treatment facility and distribution system operations. Utility subscribers, collectively serving more than 100 million people across North America, are committed to the *Partnership's* goals of providing safe, high-quality drinking water through achieving operational excellence in water treatment. *Partnership* members participate in a rigorous four-phase self-assessment and peer review process, developed by water treatment experts, and are recognized for their commitment to delivering safe water to their communities.

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The Partnership for Safe Water is sponsored by the American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, United States Environmental Protection Agency, National Association of Water Companies, and the Water Research Foundation.

Partnership for Safe Water (PSW)

Program Summary

With the PSW treatment and distribution side programs, over 100 million people are receiving higher quality drinking water due to water supplier participation in the voluntary Partnership for Safe Water program.

The *Partnership for Safe Water* was started in 1995 when six organizations dedicated to safe drinking water came together to develop a program that reduced the risk of *Cryptosporidium* exposure from facilities treating surface water. The *Partnership* organizations are the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA), the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC), and the Water Research Foundation (WRF). The *Partnership* program seeks improved water quality by using flexible technical tools that allow each water supplier to customize performance improvements at their own pace with limited capital spending. Hundreds of water treatment plants and distribution systems are now benefiting from membership and participation. The primary benefits are:

- Reduced risk from microbiological contaminants
- Advanced preparation for new upcoming regulatory requirements
- Customized performance enhancement plans using technical tools that are upgraded for participants every year
- Comparison data from the program database
- Enhanced employee support for high quality water
- Awards and recognition for achievements gain customer confidence
- Documented achievements are recognized by State and Federal regulators

The *Partnership for Safe Water* membership as of June 2014 consisted of 453 water treatment facilities in the Treatment side program, and 152 water suppliers in the newly expanded Distribution side program. Collectively, the water supply utility partners serve a combined population of more than 100 million people. On the treatment side, a total 13 water treatment facilities in the United States have received the *Partnership's* highest recognition, the Phase IV "Excellence in Water Treatment Award."



Left to Right: AWWA Chief Executive Officer, David LaFrance; CWD Director of Water Quality & Production, Mike Barsotti; CWD General Manager, Jim Fay; AWWA President, Jim Chaffee