

February 8, 2010

HECTOR RUIZ RECIEVES 2009 OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

MDC Employee Hector Ruiz was selected as a recipient of the 2009 New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) Operator of the Year for Connecticut. The awards ceremony took place during the 2010 NEWEA Annual Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, held on January 27, 2010.

The award is given annually to a person involved in the operations of wastewater treatment facilities in each of the six New England states. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual who has shown a high level of interest and performance in wastewater operations and who has made significant contributions to the wastewater field.



(From left to right: Jeff Bowers, HWPCF Superintendent, Hector Ruiz, HWPCF Dewatering Crew Leader and Bob Lugli, HWPCF Assistant Superintendent)

The award application packet submitted by Jeff Bowers (HWPCF Superintendent), highlighted solids processing improvements implemented by Hector Ruiz in the past two years. The improvements achieved, and in some instances exceeded, solids processing goals set by Supervision. His thoughtful direction and steady perseverance made it possible to optimize solids processing to achieve steady state performance in several key areas including gravity thickening, dewatering and incineration. Steady state operation also allowed the plant to gain greater insight on the operation of the entire facility, while achieving significant cost savings. Solids management is a key component in the successful operation of the Hartford WPCF plant. Hector's performance has put the Hartford WPCF on track for sustainable long-term operational success.

Hector Ruiz has been an Operator for the MDC's Hartford Water Pollution Control Facility for over 20 years.