City of Homer Water/Waste Water Treatment Plants Featured in National Publications

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The City of Homer wastewater/water treatment plants and staff were recently highlighted in the industry publications, *Waters Systems Operator* and *Treatment Plant Operator*. The article “Never Satisfied” in *Water System Operator* explains the process through which the ultrafiltration membrane plant treats water from the Bridge Creek Reservoir. Treatment is closely monitored and fine-tuned by staff to ensure high quality drinking water is produced. City of Homer drinking water is low in turbidity and meets or exceeds EPA standards. The article opens with “Perfectionists. That’s the conclusion you draw after a conversation with the treatment crew at the 2MGD Bridge Creek Water Treatment Plan in Homer, Alaska.” The dedication and innovation of water treatment employees earned two operators, Joe Young and Jerry Lawver the Alaska Rural Water Association Operator of the Year award in 2011 and 2012.

“Treatment in Depth” in the magazine *Treatment Plant Operator* profiles the crew that runs the unique deep shaft activated sludge system, currently the only such plant in North America. Fluxuations in climate can wreak havoc on biological treatments systems. Homer avoids climate issues by treating the waste in 2 shafts that extend 500 feet below the surface where the temperatures are more stable. An added benefit is the low profile of the plant keeps it out of sight. In the last few years the wastewater treatment plant has instituted a number of energy saving measures, including solar powered aerators for the sewage lagoon, earning it statewide recognition in the Great Alaska Energy Challenge sponsored by Alaska Energy Authority.

The two articles read like case studies for a chemistry class and shed light on the dance between oxygen, organics and other chemicals water and wastewater treatment operators are constantly choreographing. The City of Homer is proud of the work these employees do and the quality product such attention to detail produces.

Link to the full articles here:

Force, Jim. “Never Satisfied. ” *Water Treatment Operator.* August 2013.

Force, Jim. “Treatment in Depth. ” Treatment Plant Operator. September 2013.

Supporting Documents

Solar powered aerators work their magic on the sewage lagoon.

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