



**Forest Park Water**



**A PARTNERSHIP**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Forest Park Water Treatment Plant Receives Two Prestigious Awards**

**Chalfont, Pa.—September 4, 2018**—North Penn and North Wales Water Authorities congratulate their staff at Forest Park Water Treatment Plant (FPWTP), a state-of-the-art water treatment facility jointly owned and operated by North Penn and North Wales Water Authorities, for receiving two prestigious awards highlighting the treatment plant's excellent water quality. The American Water Works Association's Partnership for Safe Water Program awarded FPWTP with the "President's Award" for the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year and the Water Works Operators' Association's will present FPWTP with the prestigious Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) Award for the 10<sup>th</sup> straight year in September.

Forest Park Water Treatment Plant is one of only six facilities in the U.S. to achieve the "President's Award" of recognition from the American Water Works Association's Partnership for Safe Water six years in a row. The program is a volunteer initiative developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, American Water Works Association (AWWA) and other water organizations representing water suppliers striving to provide their communities with high quality drinking water that surpasses the required regulatory standards, through treatment plant and distribution system optimization. The President's Award recognizes achieving very stringent individual filter performance turbidity goals, signifying the outstanding operations and maintenance practices at this high-performing water treatment plant. The Forest Park Water Treatment Plant has been involved in the Partnership for Safe Water since 1995 and is a Directors Award recipient since 2002.

For the 10<sup>th</sup> straight year, FPWTP received the prestigious Area-Wide Optimization Award (AWOP) presented by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The award recognizes outstanding efforts toward optimizing water treatment performance. AWOP is a national optimization effort among 22 states, the EPA, and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators. The Award will be presented to FPWTP at the Water Works Operators' Association of Pennsylvania (WWOAP) Annual Conference in September.

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“As a Water Utility, our number one job is providing safe, reliable and affordable water to our customers,” said Tony Bellitto Jr. PE, executive director, North Penn Water Authority. “We are proud of the work that our experienced operators do at Forest Park Water. These honors are a testament to the hard work that goes into producing award-winning water.”

“Forest Park Water provides water to more than 100,000 people in our region, making excellent water quality a paramount goal,” said Bob Bender, executive director of North Wales Water Authority. “Year after year, we strive to improve our treatment process to ensure we are providing the safest, most reliable water possible.”

Forest Park Water Treatment Plant is a state of the art water treatment facility that combines conventional treatment processes with advanced techniques, which include ozone disinfection and membrane filtration. Membrane filtration is a leading-edge technology capable of consistently producing very high quality water and ensures the plant can safely meet the more stringent federal and state water quality regulations that will be required in the near future. This combination of traditional and innovative water treatment allows FPWTP to produce the safest, highest quality water possible.

The *Partnership for Safe Water* is a voluntary self-assessment and optimization program for water treatment plant and distribution system operation. More than 250 utility subscribers, collectively serving more than 100 million people, 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 industry experts, and are recognized for their commitment to delivering safe water to their communities.

*AWOP* is a national filter plant optimization effort among numerous states, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA). For the eleventh consecutive year in Pennsylvania, *AWOP* will recognize outstanding efforts toward optimizing filter plant turbidity performance with a prestigious *AWOP* Award. The top performing filter plants that submitted their 2017 WebOAS turbidity data will receive an *AWOP* Award this year. In 2018, 23 large filter plants (serving >10,000 people) will be presented with *AWOP* Awards at the WWOAP conference.

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