



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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Darren Dearth
Weir River Water System
210 Central St
Hingham, MA 02043

April 10, 2023

meepmeep70@aol.com

Dear Mr. Dearth:

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) Drinking Water Program is pleased to extend its congratulations to you for your outstanding performance during 2022. You have been nominated by MassDEP's Southeast Regional Office to be recognized at the 2023 Public Water System Awards Program for your performance as a distinguished operator.

The Southeast region would like recognize Darren Dearth for the 2023 Certified Drinking Water Operator award. The Weir River Water System is the municipal entity providing drinking water for the Towns of Hingham, Hull, and a portion of Cohasset. Veolia is the contract operator of the system. Darren is the primary treatment operator of the Weir River water treatment plant. The system was formally owned by the Aquarian Water Company of Massachusetts and was taken over by Weir River at midnight on July 31, 2020.

Darren has done a tremendous job managing the transition and operations, including creating an outstanding management system including written SOP's, operation and maintenance manuals, and routine procedures.

Darren is also commended for his efforts managing the ongoing PFAS treatment at the treatment plant which was not originally designed to remove PFAS. Although the existing filters at the treatment plant contain granular activated carbon (GAC), the filters were not originally designed to remove PFAS from the drinking water. Darren

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successfully developed an operations and management plan to effectively reduce PFAS levels in the treated water to below the maximum contaminant level.

Darren is conscientious and has a deeply personal commitment to his profession. The Weir River Water System has made tremendous progress in its first three years of operation, and Darren's leadership has clearly played an outsized role in that progress.

MassDEP realizes that it is no easy task to keep up with the ever-evolving federal and state drinking water regulations. While most operators strive just to comply with the regulations, you have put forth an extra effort.

MassDEP encourages you to continue this level of excellence in carrying out your work of protecting and supplying safe and fit water to our citizens. I look forward to seeing you at the awards ceremony on May 11, 2023, at the Massachusetts State House. If you have any questions regarding the Awards Program, please contact Marie Tennant at Marie.Tennant@mass.gov. Please R.S.V.P. to New England Water Works by May 4, 2023.

Congratulations,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yvette DePeiza". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey circular watermark.

Yvette DePeiza, Program Director
Drinking Water Program

Attachments