

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

March 28, 2019

Mr. Ronald Gaudet  
Dir. Of Utilities, Groton Utilities  
295 Meridian Street  
Groton, CT 06340

RE: 2019 Certified Operator Public Health Drinking Water Merit Award

Dear Mr. Gaudet:

Congratulations! Your certified water treatment plant operations staff have been chosen by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) to receive the 2019 Certified Operator Public Health Drinking Water Merit Award. This award is given during National Drinking Water Week to CT DPH certified public water system operators who exemplify exceptional work practices on the job and contributions to the public health and safety of drinking water.

The CTDPH Drinking Water Section (DWS) helps protect public health by assuring the quality and adequacy of the state's more than 2,500 public water systems (PWSs) through administration of state and federal drinking water regulations. It is critical that public water systems provide their customers with an adequate supply of safe potable drinking water. This award is for recognition of the performance of an operators or group of operators in the area of water operations. Certified Operators, who are responsible for operation of these public water systems, are critical to CT DPH's mission, as they represent the front line in protecting public health through maximizing the performance of their treatment and distribution systems, assuring safety of system operations, and improving compliance with regulations.

Your certified water treatment plant operations staff is receiving this award in recognition of their work as certified water system operators of the Groton Utilities Poquonnock Treatment Plant. The CT DPH recognizes their contributions and proficiency in water system operations and controls. Special recognition is given to the leadership of Rick Stevens, who has created a culture of teamwork, excellence and redundancy within the operations staff. In addition to the daily operations and maintenances of the water system, your team of treatment plant operators have exemplified exceptional work practices with the preparation for the large scale water treatment plant upgrade project. Mr. Stevens has involved his certified operators at every step so that the project is truly a team effort.



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Groton Utilities worked with DPH to pilot a CEU program for operators to receive training contact hours for their work spent building and running an on-site manganese contact adsorber pilot plant as part of the preparation for the plant upgrade. Continuous training for staff is encouraged and construction work is kept in-house so that the operators have a stake in how new unit processes operate, such as the sodium hypochlorite conversion project at the treatment plant where the design was implemented by operations staff.

Groton Utilities encourages visitors and school groups to the plant and reservoirs to learn about drinking water as is evidenced by their relationship with local schools such as Ella Grasso Technical School towards building future water system operators. Staff at all levels are engaged, knowledgeable and continue to strive for excellence beyond the regulatory requirements. It is recognized that Groton Utilities staff is a family that takes care of each other and their customers, taking pride in providing the highest quality product to their consumers and neighboring communities while thinking about the future to create a sustainable utility. Your certified water treatment plant operations staff's commitment to public health is an attribute we appreciate, and one that is well deserving of this award.

We look forward to presenting you with your award at a ceremony. Should you have any questions, please contact Rich Iozzo of the DPH Drinking Water Section at (860) 509-7333 or via email at [richard.iozzo@ct.gov](mailto:richard.iozzo@ct.gov).

Thank you for all that you do to ensure the public health and safety of drinking water in Connecticut.

Sincerely,



Raul Pino, MD, PhD  
Commissioner

Cc: Stephen Mansfield, Director of Health, Ledge Light Health District  
Honorable Keith Hedrick, Mayor, City of Groton  
Honorable Joe de la Cruz, House District 41  
Honorable Christine Conley House District 40  
Honorable Heather Somers Senate District 18