

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.  
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor  
Nancy Wyman  
Lt. Governor

March 30, 2015

Mr. Christopher J. Kushwara  
Aquarion Water Company  
1731 Turner Road  
Thomaston, CT 06787

Dear Mr. Kushwara:

Congratulations! You have been chosen by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Section to receive the 2015 Certified Operator Public Health Drinking Water Merit Award. This award is given during National Drinking Water Week to a certified public water system operator who exemplifies exceptional work practices on the job and contributions to the health and safety of drinking water.

The DPH 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 system provides their customer with an adequate supply of safe potable drinking water. This award is for recognition of the performance of an individual in the area of water operations. Certified Operators, who are responsible for operation of these 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.

You are receiving this award in recognition of your work at the Aquarion Water Company. The CT DPH recognizes your contributions as the designated Chief Operator for five (5) public water systems, the assigned operator for four (4) additional public water systems, and your supporting role in newly acquired public water systems. In addition to the daily operations and maintenances of the water systems, you have taken on a number of critical issues to improve the system operation and to insure a safe and an adequate supply of potable water, including:

- Reconfiguration of system controls and relays and other system improvements at the following water systems:
  - Aquarion Water Co of CT- Ball Pond System after the system was taken over from the Ball Pond Water District in 2003.
  - Aquarion Water Co of CT – New Milford System and all satellite systems located in New Milford after the systems were acquired from the United Water Co in 2012.
  - Aquarion Water Co of CT – West Service Corp after the system was purchased from the Reja Acquisition Corporation in 2014.



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*Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer*

Mr. Christopher J. Kushwara

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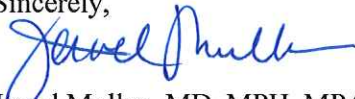
- The operation and maintenance of the Big Trail Extension standpipe after construction was completed in 2003 at the Aquarion Water Co of CT – Timber Trails system.
- Installation and operation of the aeration system at the Aquarion Water Co of CT – Dean Heights System for corrosion control.
- Installation of a VFD pump system to supply a higher pressure zone in the Aquarion Water Co of CT - Simsbury system during the 2012 cleaning and painting of the Top View standpipe.
- Assembled and ran a temporary water storage station for 3 months to supply safe potable water to the North Canaan customers during the 2012 cleaning and painting of the only storage tank, a 220,000-gallon standpipe, in the Aquarion Water Co of CT – North Canaan System.
- Training the other certified operators at the Aquarion Water Co's northern system operations.

Your dedication has resulted in improved system operation, water quality, water quantity, and protection of public health for the customers of Aquarion Water Company.

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

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

Sincerely,



Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA  
Commissioner

c: Mr. Charles V. Firlotte, President and Chief Executive Officer, Aquarion Water Co  
Mr. John Walsh, Vice President of Operations, Aquarion Water Co  
Mr. Jeff Ulrich, Director of Supply Operations, Aquarion Water Co  
Mr. Brian Munson, Manager, Northern System Operations, Aquarion Water Co  
Mr. Robert Rubbo, Director of Health, Torrington Area Health District  
Ms. Jennifer Kertanis, Director of Health, Farmington Valley Health District  
Mr. Timothy Simpkins, Director of Health, Sherman and New Fairfield Health  
Departments