

Evan Klotzer

Town of Stafford WPCF

September 11, 2018

Dear Board Members of the CWPAA and NWPCA:

I was the lucky operator chosen to travel to Rhode Island and tour several of the states water pollution control facilities over a three day period, then finish out the week with the NWPCA annual trade show and clam bake.

Wednesday morning I departed Connecticut and arrived at my hotel in Warwick where I was met with a warm welcome by Peter Eldridge the superintendent of the Town of Narragansett WPCF. Our first stop of the day was the South Kingstown Facility where I got to meet Kathy Perez, Superintendent. As we started the tour at the headworks and made our way to primary treatment I saw the first of many pieces of equipment that I had never seen before in person, rectangular clarifiers. They had two of them drained down at the time and it was a good chance to visualize how they worked with everything that would usually be under water now exposed. While in South Kingstown I also got my first chance to see a chlorine contact chamber because the Town of Stafford uses UV for disinfection. We finished the tour in the building that houses their solids handling operation where I got to check out their belt thickener which I thought was a very interesting machine. Overall I thought that it was a very nice facility.

Next it was time to head to the Narragansett Facility, upon arriving I realized that everything I was told about the view from their location was true, it is beautiful. Narragansett has oxidation ditching which is another new process that I had only read about of before. I received a full explanation on the systems components and on how the flow works. I also was able to see some of their equipment like their CCTV trailer for pipeline inspections and their vac-trailer, which were very nice.

The last facility that we toured that day was in Westerly. The Westerly facility was undergoing many renovations in different areas which all seemed to be going smoothly. For instance the solids handling building was practically full of brand new beautiful equipment. It was also nice to be able to see some of the older equipment that was still in place to see how much technology has advanced over the years. This was the last facility that we toured for the day, now all that was left was dinner. We had dinner at Twin Oaks restaurant, a very nice place with delicious food. I also got introduced to more board members over dinner.

Thursday morning I met with Scott Goodinson, he was going to be my tour guide for my second day in Rhode Island. We started off the day at the Warwick facility where I also had te opportunity to meet Janine Burke-Wells. I was told about how the plant was flooded in 2010 and most of the equipment there had to be replaced. We started the tour like many others in the headworks building where I had a chance to see a Lakeside screen for the first time. We toured the plant and ended in their new phosphorus

removal building where Scott explained to me how the system works, it was very interesting because Stafford has no processes like that one. After we toured the plant Scott brought me around to a few of their pump stations. At one of these they were repairing a sewer line that was made of concrete that had collapsed; this was my first time seeing a sewer repair. It was especially interesting due to the depth of the line and the size which was at least 36 inches in diameter.

The next facility for us to tour was Cranston which is run by Veolia water, our tour guide was David Robbins. The tour started like all the others in the headworks building which I found to be surprisingly area large compared to most that I have seen. We made our way through the plant and the extensive network of tunnels unground that house what seems to be a complicated network of pipes and pumps of all sizes, as we exited the tunnels we came up next to the incinerator. David was nice enough to open one of the doors of the incinerator for me so I could take a look at the inside, at the time it was down for maintenance but the heat wave that came out was still very hot!

After Cranston we headed to lunch where we met with Mike Bedard, he was going to be my tour guide of the West Warwick facility. One of two things that peaked my interest at West Warwick was the grit vortex for grit removal, I had never heard of this process before. The second was the massive composting building which now appears to be used as storage and could potentially serve as a place for the plant to expand if needed. This was the last tour of the day before dinner. That night the food was just as fantastic as the night before and I enjoyed talking with everyone for a few hours.

Friday morning finally came and so did the final tour of my trip. I made my way to the Field's Point facility in Providence where I met Mike Spring. The size of the facility is astounding and slightly hard to comprehend but Mike did a great job at explaining everything. We started the tour in the massive maintenance building where they have all of the tools necessary to fix almost any piece of equipment in house. He also explained to me how the three new wind turbines supply power to the plant to reduce their carbon footprint. We ended the tour with an elevator ride roughly 300 feet down to the tunnel under one of their pump stations. Overall this entire facility is amazing. From Field's Point I drove to the annual clam bake and trade show where I met with many vendors and was introduced to a few more people. The day was finished out with a great lunch and large raffle.

I would like to thank every member of the NWPCA and CWPCAA for this program, I believe that it is beneficial for a new operator like myself to get out and see all these different facilities that use different processes than ones that we are accustomed to. I would definitely encourage any operator new or not to participate in this program if you are offered the opportunity. Once again, thank you to everyone that showed me around, you all made the trip one that I will never forget.

Sincerely,  
Evan Klotzer