



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## Lt. Gov. Sanguinetti visits world's largest nutrient recovery facility at the MWRD's Stickney plant



*Illinois Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti holds phosphorus removed from the water treatment process at the MWRD's Stickney Water Reclamation Plant.*

Illinois Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti recently toured the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant and had the chance to see how the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is preventing phosphorus pollution from entering waterways.

Lt. Gov. Sanguinetti embarked on a robust tour of the world's largest water reclamation plant and surveyed the world's largest nutrient recovery facility. This unique facility recovers phosphorus and nitrogen to create a high value, environmentally friendly fertilizer that is marketed as Crystal Green. By removing phosphorus from the water and returning it to farmers and other agricultural producers, this facility represents a significant transformation from simply water reclamation to broader goals of resource recovery.



*Stickney Water Reclamation Plant Manager Brett Garelli gives Illinois Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti a primer on how the MWRD removes phosphorus during treatment processes.*

While excess phosphorus discharged to waterways can contribute to water quality problems downstream as far as the Gulf of Mexico, it is also a nonrenewable resource which is essential for life, and reserves are dwindling across the world. Most phosphorus is sourced from rock mines and must be transported considerable distances. Crystal Green is a slow release and non-water soluble fertilizer; as such, it will not become a source of runoff in our water streams. As part of the commercial sale of Crystal Green, the MWRD will receive revenue for every ton of fertilizer it produces.

"We thank Lt. Gov. Sanguinetti and our state leaders in Springfield for their unwavering support of our innovative endeavors to recover resources and protect our region's water," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos.

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### Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

*Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org)) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.*