



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: July 24, 2015

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Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSDGC) Scores 1st DBIA Award *Expedited infrastructure construction helps support City's urban renewal efforts*

Cincinnati, OH – Opportunity knocked and the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSDGC) answered, culminating in the district's first National Award of Merit from the Design Build Institute of America (DBIA) for its Oakley Sewer Separation Project. The project is being recognized in the Water/Wastewater category for exemplary collaboration and integration in the design build project delivery method and is also a nominee for DBIA's National Award of Excellence.

The award-winning projects were evaluated by a distinguished panel of industry experts. "To win a National Design-Build Project/Team Award, projects must not only achieve budget and schedule goals, but also demonstrate advanced and innovative application of design-build best practices," said Lisa Washington, CAE, Executive Director/CEO of DBIA.

The Oakley Sewer Separation Project design team consisted of: Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati, Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC, IBI Group, Midwest Mole and Brown and Caldwell. The estimated \$12.2 million project, which included a half-mile of 60- and 72-inch trenchless storm and near-surface sewer pipes, not only came in ahead of schedule and under budget, but well ahead of the District's Consent Decree compliance deadline. Construction wrapped up just 15 months after the notice to proceed; the district saved more than \$3.3 million, or about 25 percent.

When the Ohio Construction Reform was enacted in 2011 by the State legislature, MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott was among the first to see the benefits it offered the community through a method of building in which both the design and construction are contracted and controlled from one source. "As stewards of ratepayer dollars, utilities face many challenges and competing objectives such as politics, increasing rates and declining consumption," said Parrott. "We must begin to shift our thinking from 'because we have always done it this way' to 'what can we do differently to overcome the challenges of today.' The District saw an opportunity to separate storm and sanitary flows within the drainage basin of a long-abandoned and polluted industrial area, which the City had started to revitalize.

To avoid holding up the City's urban renewal project, the District gained approval from policy makers for its first of a kind "design-build project", then engaged a project team including Brown and Caldwell Engineering Consultant (B&C) for technical and procurement support and Bricker and Eckler for legal support. "This prestigious award is high praise for the excellent collaboration of the project team," B&C Project Director Stephen Gates said. "The district is being recognized for its leadership in completing one of the first infrastructure projects in the State using Design-Build contracting under Ohio Construction Reform — significantly reducing project costs and helping to expedite completion of a critical economic development project."

Ulliman Schutte Construction (USC) was competitively selected as the design-builder for the Oakley project. USC's President Matthew Ulliman said, "The collaboration, dedication and professionalism among the project team's participants make us extremely proud of this national award and what it represents for MSDGC."

The team's weekly meetings, close coordination and flexibility allowed the project to be completed without impact to the City's critical economic development. The project not only succeeded, it surpassed all expectations in terms of solution optimization, collaboration, flexibility, risk allocation/sharing, quality, delivery time, cost savings, impact to stakeholders, partnering and teamwork. DBIA's Executive Director Lisa Washington said, "Your winning project showcased how the project team went above and beyond achieving cost, schedule and quality goals, demonstrating unique applications of Design-Build best practices to raise the industry's bar even higher."

“Community relations remained very strong throughout the project, resulting in extraordinarily positive feedback,” said Ali Bahar, MSDGC Principal Engineer. “The project was revolutionary for MSDGC, because it proved that the proper application of collaborative delivery systems can yield tremendous benefits. This project’s success, especially in a scenario where traditional low bid general contracting could not produce an effective solution in terms of schedule and overall costs, has proven the benefits of a Design-Build approach. Winning the highly competitive national award from DBIA is a great accomplishment for the District.” Lessons learned from the Oakley project will guide MSDGC’s future Design-Build projects.

The National Award of Excellence winners will be named at an awards ceremony during the Design Build Conference and Expo on November 3 in Denver, Colorado. In addition, four National Awards of Excellence will be given for Design (one for architecture and one for engineering), Process and Teaming and one project will be honored as Project of the Year.

MSD is renowned for leading innovation in wastewater industry and is regarded as a national leader in the development of sustainable storm water management solutions and asset management.

For more information about MSD visit www.msdcg.org and www.projectgroundwork.org.

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