

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MSD Earns 1<sup>st</sup> National Design-Build Award**

CINCINNATI – Opportunity knocked, and the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) answered, culminating in a project that earned MSD's first national design-build award.

The 2015 National Award of Merit, from the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA), was recently presented to MSD for its CSO 551 and 553 Sewer Separation Project at the new Oakley Station mixed use development in Oakley. MSD was one of two winners in the Water/Wastewater category.

The award is given annually to projects/teams across the nation that demonstrate effective schedule and cost performance, as well as exemplify the principles of effective processes, interdisciplinary teamwork, problem-solving and excellence in design.

The Oakley project is also a nominee for DBIA's National Award of Excellence.

The \$12.2 million sewer separation, which included a half mile of 60- and 72-inch storm and sanitary sewers, significantly reduced combined sewer overflows from two outfalls into a tributary of the Little Miami River. The project not only came in ahead of schedule and under budget, but well ahead of MSD's Consent Decree compliance deadline. Construction wrapped up just 15 months after the notice to proceed; MSD saved more than \$3.3 million, or about 35 percent of overall project costs.

Design build is a project delivery method in which the design and construction services are contracted to a single entity.

In 2011, Ohio enacted new legislation — the first systemic change in public construction contracting in more than 134 years — allowing local governments and state agencies to use design build to complete public works projects.

“Economic development was underway to revitalize a long-abandoned and polluted industrial area in Oakley,” said MSD Director Gérald Checco. “MSD saw an opportunity to separate storm and sanitary flows within the drainage basin of this area to meet Consent Decree requirements. To avoid holding up the City's urban renewal project, MSD gained approval from policy makers for this first of a kind design-build project.”

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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.

"Community relations remained very strong throughout the project, resulting in extraordinarily positive feedback," said Ali Bahar, MSD's Project Manager. "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 MSD."

Lessons learned from the Oakley project will guide MSD's future design-build projects.

The design-build contractor for the project was [Ullmann Schutte Construction LLC \(USC\)](#). USC subcontractor [IBI Group](#) provided design services, and subcontractor [Midwest Mole](#) completed the trenchless work for the project. [Bricker & Eckler](#) was MSD's legal adviser. [Brown and Caldwell](#) provided technical and procurement support.

Visit the [DBIA website](#) for the full list of award winners.

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