



PRESS RELEASE

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Cincinnati Water Utilities to Host International Water Conference in 2015

Conference to be Held in North America for First Time

Cincinnati, OH – The International Water Association (IWA), in partnership with Greater Cincinnati Water Works and the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati, will host water experts from around the globe in April 2015 during a joint specialty water conference.

World water leaders will meet, for the first time in North America, to discuss critical water and wastewater industry issues including new approaches related to benchmarking and performance assessment, water efficiency and technology and regulatory compliance. The U.S. EPA is partnering to assist in the development of the conference technical program.

“The International Water Association (IWA) is pleased that Cincinnati has been selected as the first United States venue to hold the Water Efficiency and Performance Indicators/Benchmarking conference,” said Dr. Enrique Cabrera, member of the Board of Directors for IWA and Chair of Benchmarking and Performance Assessment Specialist Group. “IWA was attracted to the reputation and core capabilities of both Cincinnati utilities in the subject matter areas the conference will focus on as well as the cultural offerings within the City of Cincinnati.”

The conference has previously been held in Paris, France and Medellin, Columbia. More than 1700 global and domestic partners are expected to attend.

“The innovative work and holistic sustainable watershed evaluation process underway in Cincinnati is setting an example for national and international water sector professionals,” said Interim Cincinnati City Manager Scott Stiles. “We are honored to host water experts from around the world. This is a tribute to the great work our water and sewer leaders are spearheading and a tribute to the wonderful amenities our city has to offer.”

“It is an honor to serve as a partner and host. This conference will allow us to feature, to an international audience, the new innovations, benchmarking and water efficiency initiatives that we are undertaking locally,” said Tony Parrott, Executive Director of GCWW and MSD. “Cincinnati utilities are leading the way in implementing effective business practices to become more efficient and leading the industry towards a new path in benchmarking with meaningful metrics that will allow us to bring value to the community we serve.”

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The U.S. EPA's National Risk Management Research Laboratory, located in Cincinnati, will be a non-financial partner for this event. The EPA facility in Cincinnati is the number one water treatment research facility in the country.

U.S. EPA's partnership with IWA, the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati Water Works on this conference will be a continuation of their collaborative work to meet mutual goals of providing safe and sustainable water and wastewater services.

The International Water Association is represented in 130 different countries through its 10,000 individual and 500 corporate members, including scientists from across many disciplines, economists, accountants, social scientists, and managers and leaders among those professions.

IWA develops programs to respond to global challenges and support progressive agendas for the water and sanitation sector. Members are from North America, Africa & Middle East, South Asia, East Asia & the Pacific, Eastern Europe & Central Asia, Western Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean.

GCWW and MSD are renowned for leading innovation in the water and wastewater industry. Water Works has pioneered advances in water treatment for the past 100 years including rapid-sand filtration, the use of chlorine and granular activated carbon. The utility is the largest water utility in North America to use ultraviolet (UV) disinfection following sand-filtration and GAC during its treatment process.

MSD is regarded as a national leader in the development of sustainable stormwater management solutions and asset management. The Wet Weather Strategy that MSD is implementing in the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is viewed as a model for other urban communities across the U.S. that are under Federal mandates to reduce combined sewer overflows.

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