



NewsRelease

For Immediate Release:
May 23, 2013

Contact: Barbara Martin
Tel: 303-347-6220
Email: bmartin@awwa.org

Orange Water and Sewer Authority of Chapel Hill-Carrboro, NC recognized for outstanding water distribution system performance

OWASA Among Three Utilities Honored with Directors Award

(DENVER) - The Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) is among the first utilities in the nation to achieve the Directors Award in the [Partnership for Safe Water's](#) Distribution System Optimization Program.

OWASA serves 80,000 people in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community, the home of the University of North Carolina. OWASA's water distribution system includes 380 miles of pipes that daily deliver water to and support fire protection for residents, businesses, schools, health care facilities and other institutions.

OWASA received the award for successfully completing a comprehensive self-assessment of water distribution system operations, a significant achievement towards ensuring the delivery of safe, high-quality drinking water to the community. The self-assessment includes evaluating distribution system operations and performance, identifying performance limiting factors, and developing action plans to optimize the distribution system.

The assessment culminates in a final report reviewed by water resources professionals from across the US.

OWASA will be one of three utilities recognized at the annual conference of the American Water Works Association in June, 2013 for earning the Directors Award in the Partnership's Distribution System Optimization Program.

"As a charter member of the *Partnership's* Water Distribution Program, we are honored to be among the first to receive this award," said Alan Rimer, Chair of the OWASA Board of Directors. "Our goal is to continuously improve our system performance and water quality, and this award is a tangible representation of the fine work our folks do." OWASA has participated in the *Partnership* since 2002, and in 2011 OWASA's Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant received the Excellence in Water Treatment award, the highest level of recognition for treatment plant performance.

The [Partnership for Safe Water](#) is a voluntary self-assessment and optimization program for water treatment plant and distribution system operation. More than 220 utilities, serving more than 85 million people, are committed to the *Partnership's* goals of providing safe, high-quality drinking water through operational excellence in water treatment and distribution.

Partnership members participate in a rigorous four-phase self-assessment and peer review process developed by experts who are recognized nationally for their commitment to delivering safe water to their communities.

For additional information or comments from the Orange Water and Sewer Authority, please contact Ms. Mary Darr, P.E., Operations Engineer, at 919-537-4246 or mdarr@owasa.org or Mr. Thurman Green, Manager, Distribution and Collection Systems, at 919-537-4224 or tgreen@owasa.org.

###

The Partnership for Safe Water is sponsored by the American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, United States Environmental Protection Agency, National Association of Water Companies, and the Water Research Foundation.

This communication is the property of the American Water Works Association and may contain confidential or privileged information. Unauthorized use of this communication is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the communication and any attachments.

American Water Works Association
The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water (R)