

**For Immediate Release  
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## **Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant and Project Design Team Honored for Civil Engineering Achievement Award**

(Columbus) The City of Columbus' new \$106 million Headworks facility at its Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant has earned a national award for its ability to save ratepayers' money and reduce sewer overflows. The American Society of Civil Engineers today presented its 2008 Ohio Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA) Award to the Department of Public Utilities. The new Headworks, opened in December 2007, is a keystone of the city's 40-year, \$2.5 billion Wet Weather Management Plan (WWMP).

**"I want to thank the ASCE for recognizing this significant achievement," Mayor Coleman said. "Our investment in the Headworks Project will boost capacity of the plant, reduce sewer overflows and basement backups and improve our rivers."**

The Headworks is the gateway to the Southerly, the area's largest wastewater treatment plant – all flow for this 250 million gallons-per-day facility must first pass through this area of the plant. Reasons cited for the Southerly Headworks Project being chosen for the statewide award included:

- The engineering and construction challenges that were met in the successful completion
- Benefits to the community by eliminating sewer overflows
- Providing for future capacity
- Design approaches that reduce operational and overall life cycle costs.

**"This Headworks facility is a great example of how we are working hard to wisely invest ratepayers' dollars in projects that will help keep our rates as low as possible while being environmentally responsible," said Department of Public Utilities Director Tanya Arsh.**

The project is the first major piece of the Department of Public Utilities' WWMP that began in 2005 to reduce sewer overflows into waterways and basement backups in homes and businesses. The new Headworks was designed by Malcolm Pirnie Inc.