

COMMUNITY NEWS - Hanover

Hanover County public utilities superintendent recognized

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Mike Whitley, utility superintendent for the Hanover County Department of Public Utilities, has received a major regional award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

On August 27, Whitley was presented with the Professional Operation Excellence Regional Award by EPA Region III regional administrator Donald S. Welsh. Also attending the ceremony at Hanover Courthouse was Dr. Karen Remley, state health commissioner, Virginia Department of Health.

Whitley is the Designated Operator in Responsible Charge of 15 water systems in Hanover County. A Class I licensed operator, he is responsible for the County's main distribution system in its Suburban Services Area, which blends surface water, purchased surface water and well water to serve about 50,000 people. These 15 systems have had no permit violations in this decade, and Whitley has been instrumental in numerous improvements which have ensured that water quality exceeds all required standards.

Whitley is also the main decision-maker for 14 groundwater systems, including seven systems that are not owned by the Department of Public Utilities.

The EPA Award is presented annually in recognition of outstanding performance and practices by a certified water-system operator. Region 3 includes Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware. It is the first time that a certified operator of a large drinking-water system in Virginia has won the regional award.

"Your performance as a professional certified operator and subject matter expert in the water community, as well as your contributions in the Hanover community, have proven to be exceptional and demonstrate your commitment to compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and your dedication to protecting public health," EPA regional administrator Welch told Whitley.

Whitley was nominated for the award by the Virginia Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water.

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