



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I & I ASSOCIATED WITH THIS RAINY WEATHER

John O'Connell, III | NYRWA President

Now that summer has passed and as I write this article, I feel happy to see the summer rainy season gone. The rain this summer broke all records across the United States. It has caused major problems with most wastewater treatment plants and has caused damage throughout the entire country. I for one, have kept the plant that I operate in compliance, however, this plant is fairly new and is a SBR plant with a pretty good infiltration and inflow program. I have had the opportunity to visit some other plants this summer, and regrettably some are not as fortunate. Hats off to all that have run their plants to the full capability of their design limits. I'm sure the NYSDEC has some understanding that many of the facilities are doing the best they can under these circumstances, considering the weather this summer is above and beyond normal conditions and our dedicated professional operators are working to stay on top of the situation.

This year it certainly makes you think how important infiltration and inflow is to our operating conditions. I would

hope that engineers would start to look at the total needs of the wastewater treatment plant including the overall infiltration and inflow problems that all facilities face throughout our State. I fully understand that all infiltration and inflow problems may not be economically feasible to repair, however, there are many problems that are fairly simple to rectify, and can make a huge impact on the wastewater treatment plant operating performance and their yearly operational cost. I could go on and on and I'm sure that all operators are on board with these same thoughts.

In closing, I hope that if any of the wastewater treatment plant professional operators need assistance in making their boards more aware of these conditions and the cost associated in dealing with these issues, that they will reach out to NEW YORK RURAL WATER to help confirm the importance of addressing the problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the NYRWA. 