



The Ocean County Utilities Authority

Helping to Preserve the Water Resources of Ocean and Southern Monmouth Counties in the State of New Jersey

Certificate of Environmental Stewardship Received



Executive Director, Richard M. Warren (left) and Director, Southern Division Bradford Hazley present the NJDEP's Certificate of Environment Stewardship

April 5, 2011 – Recently the Southern Water Pollution Control Facility (SWPCF) was recognized by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) under its *Environmental Stewardship Initiative* for taking proactive measures towards improving the environment.

In January 2008 the NJDEP initiated a recognition program to highlight Environmental Stewardship as part of its compliance assurance efforts. The *Environmental Stewardship Initiative* is a voluntary program available to members of the regulated community who have implemented regulatory requirements that result in increased benefits to the environment.

The SWPCF received its *Certificate of Environmental Stewardship* for making energy saving plant improvements. Specifically, a piping modification was completed that now allows the plant's final effluent to flow by gravity through the ocean outfall pipe to its final discharge point in the Atlantic Ocean. Prior to this modification the effluent had to be pumped through the ocean outfall pipe. In addition, fine bubble diffusers and energy efficient blowers were installed on the facility's aeration tanks increasing efficiency and reducing electricity usage. The most recent financial data available indicates that there has been approximately a 30% reduction in the plant's total electricity use as the ocean outfall pump usage went from 100% to approximately 5%.

Thanks to the efforts of the Engineering and Construction Department and the many staff involved with these facility improvements, the Authority projects savings at the current cost of electricity of \$231,000 annually.