

Catherine A. O'Connor

Catherine O'Connor is the Director of Engineering for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (District). The Engineering Department is responsible for planning, design and construction of projects prioritized in the Capital Improvement Program and projects in the Stormwater Management Program (together the programs are \$800 million). The department also administers the county-wide Watershed Management Ordinance and regulates the construction and maintenance of local sewers which are tributary to the District's intercepting sewers. Catherine is actively involved in the efforts to transform District operations from waste treatment to resource recovery operations, particularly with water reuse, the topic of Catherine's presentation today, phosphorus recovery, and methane utilization projects.

Early in her career, Catherine worked for Eastman Kodak Company in a number of engineering positions including electronics assembly, engineering support to motion picture laboratories and environmental support to large photofinishers.

Catherine is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Illinois and has earned a Doctoral degree in Environmental Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology. Her doctoral research focused on removal and recovery of silver from dilute solution to support water reuse in industry. Catherine attended U.S. Military Academy at West Point for two years and completed her Bachelors of Science in Engineering degree from SUNY Buffalo.