



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY:

Wastewater operators to compete in unique, fast-paced skills competition

Who: The Sewer Rats, representing the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, will compete against 41 top regional teams from across the U.S. and Canada during the annual Operations Challenge wastewater skills competition next week at McCormick Place. Now in its 26th year, Operations Challenge is one of the many high profile events that will take place at WEFTEC® 2013, the Water Environment Federation's (WEF) 86th Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference.

What: The events are designed to test the diverse skills required for the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities, their collection systems and laboratories. Organized into two divisions, the four-member teams will be judged on the best combination of precision, speed and safety. Winners are determined by a weighted point system for five events including collection systems, laboratory, process control, maintenance and safety. This unique, fast-paced event is being held as part of WEFTEC 2013, the world's largest annual water quality conference and exhibition. As one of the largest conventions in the city this year, the five-day event is expected to host more than 18,000 water professionals and nearly 1,000 exhibiting water companies.

When: Tues., Oct. 8: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Where: South Hall, Booth 1685

Why: Unlike people in many parts of the world, Americans have reliable access to safe and clean water and wastewater services. U.S. water and wastewater treatment systems are world-class and work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year—often without major interruptions. Although mostly unseen, every community is literally built on top of this infrastructure and wouldn't be possible without it. This vast network of infrastructure and the water professionals that manage it, work tirelessly to provide clean and safe water to protect public health, the environment and our quality of life. The Operations Challenge competition is a unique way of showcasing the skills and dedication that is needed to keep our water clean, safe and flowing.

Note to editors: Complimentary registration is available for credentialed media representatives in Room 427D of McCormick Place. You may also contact Lori Harrison at 703-216-8565 or lharrison@wef.org.

About WEFTEC

As the largest annual water quality conference and exhibition in the world, WEFTEC 2013 will be held at the McCormick Place from October 5-9. The conference was last held in Chicago in 2008 and is scheduled to return to the city every other year through 2025. To learn more, visit www.weftec.org.

About WEF

Founded in 1928, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 36,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. WEF members, Member Associations and staff proudly work to achieve our mission to provide bold leadership, champion innovation, connect water professionals, and leverage knowledge to support clean and safe water worldwide. To learn more, visit www.wef.org.

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