



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

Mr. Corky Overmyer  
Director  
Environmental Services Department  
City of Grand Rapids  
1300 Market Avenue, S.W.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

JAN 29 2007

OFFICE OF  
WATER

Dear Mr. Overmyer:

On behalf of the Office of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I would like to congratulate you and the staff from the city of Grand Rapids for successfully completing an independent third party audit for your environmental management system (EMS) for biosolids operations under the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP). This is an important accomplishment which will pave the way for even greater adoption of EMSs by water and wastewater utilities.

Since 1997, EPA has worked with the NBP and other industry partners to promote the adoption for biosolids and other wastewater operations. Our experience with EMSs in biosolids management as well as enterprise-wide management has been very encouraging. We applaud your organization for the leadership demonstrated in moving forward with your EMS and successfully completing the third party audit. We also encourage you to expand the scope of your EMS over time to cover all utility operations.

Sustainable water infrastructure is critical to the economic future of our Nation. We believe that sound management of that infrastructure, which can be enhanced through the use of state-of-the-art tools like EMS and asset management, is important to long-term sustainability and protection of human health and the environment.

Once again, thank you for your leadership and for achieving this important milestone. The Office of Water looks forward to working with you and learning from your experience in implementing this important program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James A. Hanlon".

James A. Hanlon  
Director  
Office of Wastewater Management

cc: Randy Fisher, Assistant Director of Environmental Services

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