

Stantec recognized for Kamloops water solution

THE STANTEC DESIGNED Kamloops Centre for Water Quality has received the British Columbia Public Works Association 2005 Project of the Year award. Officially opened in February 2005, the Centre is currently one of the largest membrane filtration water treatment plants in North America and supplies drinking water to over 80,000 Kamloops residents. The facility is capable of producing up to 160 million litres of water per day.



The Public Works Project of the Year is awarded to the municipality which commissions, engineers, and constructs a major and complex public works or utilities project and deserves special merit because of its unique features and complexity relative to the resources of the community. Some factors taken into consideration include the project's significance to the community, innovation in design, environmental protection measures, and quality of final work.

Stantec was the prime consultant responsible for the design of the plant. Other firms involved in the project included Urban Systems and LR Pearson. Stantec provided integrated design services including process engineering, process mechanical, architecture, interior design, and mechanical and structural engineering. Upgrades to the low lift and high lift pumping systems were also completed. With a LEED® target of Silver, sustainable solutions include recycling and treatment of process wastewater, heat recovery from process equipment, implementing a green roof, screening to reduce heat gain, natural ventilation systems, low volatile organic compounds (VOCs), low water use plumbing fixtures, and reuse of reject water for site and City park irrigation.

The building is designed to perform 66 percent more efficiently than a Model National Energy Building Code comparable reference building.

Educational facilities are a component of the new plant and the city has entered into a partnership with Thompson Rivers University to provide training to students in the area of water quality and treatment. Pilot facilities have been built into the plant and will be used for operational enhancement, research, and educational purposes.

The City of Kamloops now enjoys one of the highest standards of drinking water in the Province of British Columbia. The plant design has garnered much attention from the public. A visiting delegation of Italian engineers recently toured the plant. When asked by the City engineer what their thoughts were on the plant design, they summed it up with one word – *masterpiece!*

Reprinted with permission from Stantec Engineering.

To contact the City of Kamloops about this project, call Maurice Gravelle at 250-828-3450. ❧

United Nations procurement practices being audited

The United Nations will update its outdated procurement system following a review by Deloitte & Touche, published in early December 2005. The review, conducted in the wake of the oil-for-food scandal where a UN procurement officer admitted to fraud, found significant internal control deficiencies and insufficient management oversight. The UN is now undertaking a forensic audit of its procurement activities over the past two years in search of further fraud or incompetence. The results are expected June 2006. ❧

e-voting more common in the US

The use of electronic voting systems is becoming more prominent in several US states. In the election last November, the State of Ohio deployed more than 15,000 voting machines (Diebold Election Systems Inc.) in 41 counties for the first time. According to Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell, it was a success – both the voters and the poll and election officials found the machines easy to use. Both Ohio and Utah also implemented a federally qualified paper audit printer integrated with the touch screen machines so voters could verify their vote. In addition to the voting machines and printer, Georgia and Virginia added Diebold's ExpressPoll electronic poll book, which streamlines the check-in process for voters by allowing the poll worker to immediately determine which precinct a registered voter should vote in. The 6,000 units for Georgia, including service support, cost the state approximately USD\$15 million. On election day, November 8, 2005, the State of California conducted state-mandated Parallel Monitoring accuracy testing on the Diebold system and released a report in early January 2006 saying the system tested 100 percent accurate. California is now holding hearings on the potential use of "open source software" within the California electoral system. ❧