MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

THOMAS J. DEARING
COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH L. FIEGL, P.E.
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

COUNTY OF ERIE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING
DIVISION OF SEWERAGE MANAGEMENT
** MEMORANDUM **

FROM: Joseph Fiegl, P.E. – Deputy Commissioner JLF

TO: Kevin Zynda, P.E. – Secretary, ECSD No. 5 Board of Managers

DATE: January 19, 2016

RE: Proposed Name Change – Water Resource Recovery Facility

In the wastewater industry, there is a big push to re-brand utilities and do away with the "dirty" image. The core mission of the wastewater industry is to protect public health and water quality by treating society's pollution; while the waste stream utilities must manage is certainly dirty, this is a clean water industry. By shedding the dirty image, the hope is that the public will better value the services provided and support necessary investments in the infrastructure.

One way in which the wastewater industry is changing this perception is by renaming wastewater treatment plants as "water resource recovery facilities." The philosophy is that fundamentally treatment plants recover a valuable resource (water) from a major societal waste stream. This is particularly important in arid/drought stricken areas where water is scarce, but it is relevant here as well where Lake Erie and our other waterways are valuable community assets. The Water Environment Federation – which is an international water quality organization – now refers to wastewater treatment plants as water resource recovery facilities in all of its publications. The enclosed article discusses this change.

The Division of Sewerage Management is proposing that all Erie County Sewer Districts rename their wastewater treatment plants as water resource recovery facilities. Enclosed is a suggested resolution for the Board's consideration. Additionally, in 2016 the County is starting its Charter Revision process and the Division of Sewerage Management would like to explore a possible name change for the Division as a whole. More details will be discussed later in the year.

If the Board has any questions, please have them contact me at (716) 858-7537 or joseph.fiegl@erie.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Encl.

V:\Sewerage Management\Staff\Fiegl\BOM Correspondences\ECSD Nos 2 3 5 6 8 - WRRF Name Change.docx

Item 5(b)

RESOLUTION
BOARD OF MANAGERS
ERIE COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT (ECSD) No. 5

WHEREAS, the core mission of wastewater water treatment plants is to protect public health and water quality; and

WHEREAS, these clean water facilities recover valuable resources – specifically water – from a major societal waste stream; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the international Water Environment Federation began referring to wastewater treatment plants as "water resource recovery facilities" in all of its publications; and

WHEREAS, the term "water resource recovery facilities" better captures the function of treatment plants and attempts to reverse the "dirty" perception of the clean water industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the ECSD No. 5 Board of Managers recommends that the Clarence Research Park Wastewater Treatment Plant be renamed the "Clarence Research Park Water Resource Recovery Facility" to better capture its true function.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Zynda, P.E.
Secretary, Erie County Sewer District No. 5
Board of Managers

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED: _____

DATE: _____

WE&T
water environment and technology

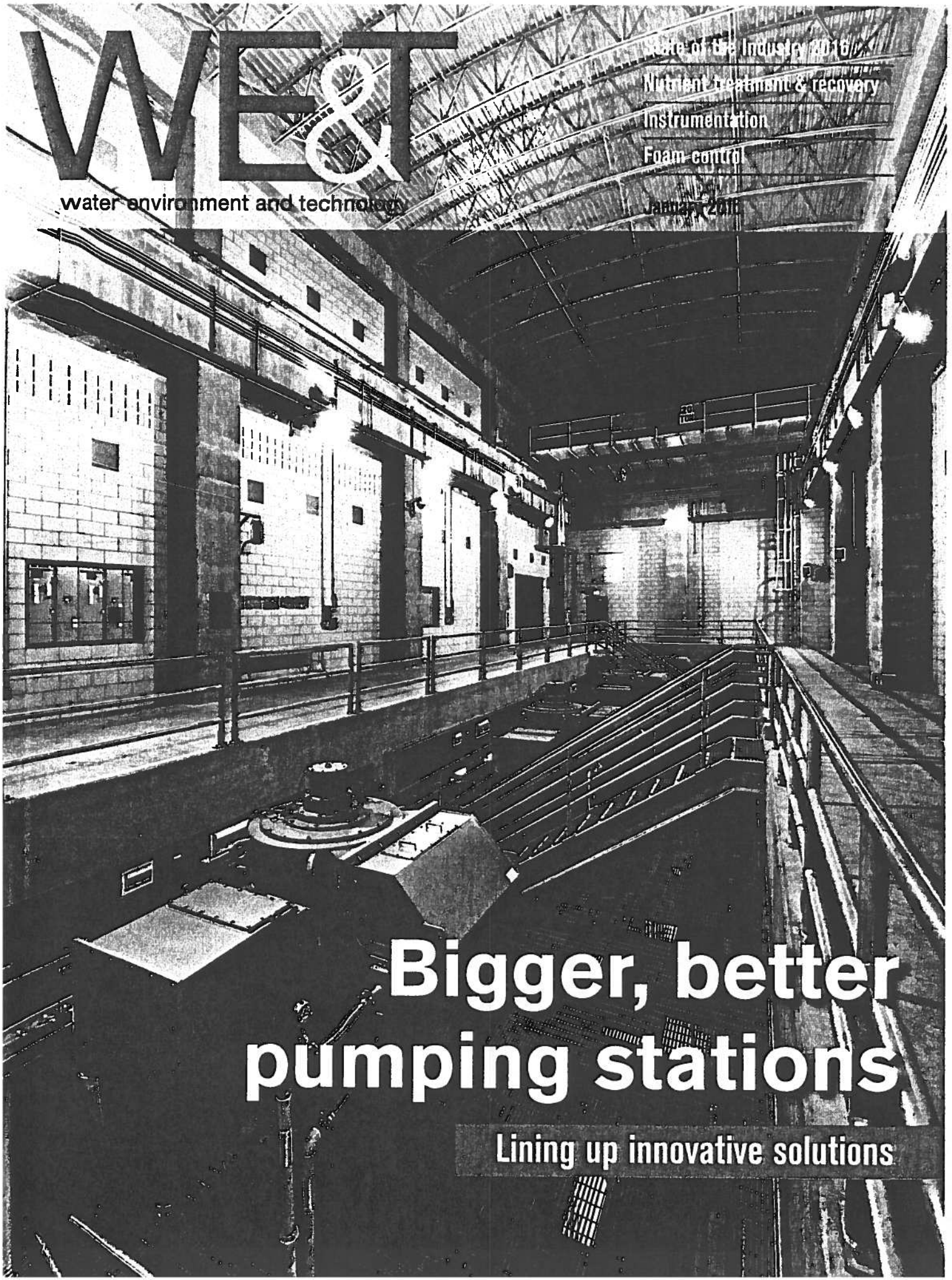
State of the Industry 2016

Nutrient treatment & recovery

Instrumentation

Foam control

January 2016



Bigger, better pumping stations

Lining up innovative solutions