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Jane Downing Honored by the New England Water Works Association

HOLLISTON, Mass. – Jane Downing, Chief of the Drinking Water Branch of the US EPA, Region 1, received the Jerome J. Healey Award from the New England Water Works Association (NEWWA), the region’s largest and oldest not-for-profit organization of water works professionals.

The Jerome J. Healey Award acknowledges the contributions of an individual who has promoted the drinking water profession by reaching out to other NEWWA members and the public, and has enhanced the relationship between the regulated community with state and federal personnel to protect water supply and public health.

Jane has established great relationships with the state water works associations and NEWWA and has been instrumental in their outreach to attract new people to the profession. Through Jane’s work, EPA has funded internship opportunities and Water Boot Camps to try to attract students to drinking water careers. She developed the idea of creating a video that could be used to highlight careers in the profession and this video, titled “Water You Waiting For?” has been broadly used to give students an idea of the career possibilities. To address concerns about future workforce shortages, Jane had looked for ways to provide information to returning veterans about careers in drinking water and connect them with utilities that are in need of operators.

“Jane is a regulator who is very approachable and fits the criteria not only in her distinguished service to the EPA, but also because of her dedication to promoting the profession,” said Stephen J. Ryan, NEWWA executive director. “She is always willing to speak at meetings and events to inform water suppliers about regulatory issues.” Jane also regularly attends NEWWA’s Annual Conference and its December Monthly Membership Meeting to network with peers.

Jane was presented with this award on September 20, 2016 at the 135th NEWWA Annual Conference in Providence, Rhode Island.

The New England Water Works Association is a nonprofit, independent, member-driven organization dedicated to serving the region’s water works professionals and the public interest. It is the oldest and most active regional water works association in the United States. For more than a century, NEWWA has worked to improve and sustain public water supplies, protect public health and safety, and advance the water supply profession. Visit us at newwa.org.

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