



H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

Nomination Deadlines:

Spring Awards: February 3, 2025

Fall Awards: September 2, 2025

Agency: Sweetwater Authority

Project/Initiative Title: WQ Gantry Electric Hoist

Implementation Date: July 30, 2024

Cost to Implement: \$0.00 Repurposed Existing Electric Hoist

Staff Time Required: 18 Hours

Number of Employees/Facilities Impacted: Six Employees/One Facility

Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

Name(s): Filippo Sua, Matt Kloska, Mike Bailey, Nathaniel Radovan, Filiberto Esquer and Davis Doane

Job Title/Department: Plant Maintenance Technician Leadworker, Plant Maintenance Tech II, Instrumentation and Control Technician (III/II), and Plant Maintenance Supervisor / Water Quality Department

Nomination Summary

Write a brief summary of your project/initiative. Clearly state the problem/hazard recognized by the nominee and the specific reasons that they initiated corrective action.

The Perdue Water Treatment Plant (WTP) utilizes Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) in the pretreatment process for the treatment of water. The DAF has large sludge pumps submersed several feet under water in vaults. Periodically, these pumps need to be serviced or inspected. Water Quality Maintenance Department utilizes a large mobile "A" frame hoist to lift pumps from the vault. The "A" frame lifts the pump and motor utilizing a chain-fall. The chain fall is mechanical (non-electrical), requiring an employee to use hand over hand action to operate. There have been concerns regarding utilizing the device near and over the open vault (fall potential).

Describe the specific actions taken to resolve the problem(s) or challenge(s). Share the best practices that made this initiative successful for the agency and its impact.

The Plant Maintenance Department installed an electric hoist to the gantry with a cable powered controller; allowing staff to operate the device at a safe distance from the vault. Staff can now stand to the side and operate the controls when removing or installing the pumps.

State whether the hazard was reduced with engineering controls, introduced a new administrative or work procedure, or relied on personal protective equipment to solve the problem.

The engineering control of using of an electric hoist above an open vault allows employees to raise and lower the pumps with one hand and removes the need of standing at the open vault.

Describe any extraordinary circumstances that made this nominee's safety accomplishments significant. Describe whether the nominee influenced safety in the workplace, encouraged employee participation in safety efforts, obtained organizational "buy in" to implement the solution.

Previously employees would use hand over hand actions to operate a chain fall over an open vault. Eliminating the need to manually pull the chains on the chain fall avoids the possibility of a slip/trip/fall and injury from the chain fall.

Describe whether the project/initiative addressed a hazard or exposure included in the JPIA Commitment to Excellence Program.

The possibility of a slip/trip/falls-falls from heights and field ergonomics were a driving concern and avoiding a foreseeable accident.

- Office/Field Ergonomics
- Vehicle Operations
- Slip/trip/falls – falls from heights
- Emergency Readiness/Wildfire Prevention
- Other:

List and attach any supporting materials that you feel are important for the reviewers to gain a complete picture of the nomination. Digital photos, supporting documentation, sample forms, etc.

Nominated by: Sweetwater Authority Safety Dept.

Date: 1/23/2025

General Manager: Carlos Quintero

Date: 1/23/2025

Please email this form with supporting documents and digital photos (jpg) to tlofinq@acwaipia.com.

