



H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

Nomination Deadlines:

Spring Awards: February 1, 2024

Fall Awards: September 2, 2024

Agency: Sweetwater Authority

Project/Initiative Title: Clearwell Stairs

Implementation Date: June 2021

Cost to Implement: 15000.00

Staff Time Required: 2 Months

Number of Employees/Facilities Impacted: 30

Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

Name(s): Jason Lee and Jim Dickerson

Job Title/Department: Water Quality

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.

Treated water produced at the Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant is stored in a 10 million-gallon (MG) Clearwell prior to delivery to the distribution system. Occasionally, the Clearwell needs to be drained for inspection or other reasons. The Clearwell drain daylights at a headwall on a steep slope above the highwater line of Sweetwater Reservoir. Prior to the water returning to the reservoir it must be dechlorinated and monitored at the headwall. Prior to improvements, the headwall was accessed by an uneven dirt trail following a steep slope to the headwall, where there is another 3-foot drop off to rip/rap (rocks) that dissipate the energy of the flowing water. One of the past Clearwell draining events occurred during the rainy season and the access trail became muddy/slippery, which created a potential safety hazard. Although the work ended up being performed safely, this situation brought on a desire by staff to develop a permanent solution to address potential safety issues.

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.

Staff suggested installing a cemented walkway and staircase with a safety railing to the headwall to greatly reduce the risk of slips/falls when accessing the area. Ultimately, Water Quality staff worked with Engineering, and an on-call contractor to make the requested improvements. This improvement greatly increases safety and reduces the potential for injury when draining the Clearwell. This corrective action will greatly decrease the potential for slips and falls for many decades to come.

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.

Engineering controls by design will help reduce the likely of slip and falls injuries due to loose footing when compared to before the improvements were made.

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.

The two Operators felt a need to improve this area for their safety and the safety of their current co workers and those that will come after them. Great job of thinking of a permanent long term solution.

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

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

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: 1/10/24

General Manager: Carlos Quintero

Date: 1/30/2024

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