



## NO MISERY IN ROCKFORD

The Rockford High School music Department presents "Les Misérables" to the delight of grateful audiences.

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## PARCC Side Clean Water Plant wins top state honors

■ Engineering society chooses North Kent plant as Michigan's best new project

A new West Michigan wastewater treatment facility was recognized recently for its superior engineering. The North Kent Sewer Authority's (NKSA) PARCC Side Clean Water Plant, located along the Grand River just north of Grand Rapids, received the 2010 "Engineering Eminent Conceptor Award" from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Michigan. This is the highest honor ACEC gives to an engineering project.

The \$48-million project treats wastewater from Plainfield, Alpine, Cannon, and Courtland Townships, and the City of Rockford. The plant currently processes approximately four million gallons of wastewater each day with a state-of-the-

art membrane bioreactor treatment system.

This new system produces effluent (treated water) of a far greater quality than any plant in the Grand Rapids area, reducing the amount of nutrients discharged into the Grand River by more than 100 tons per year.

The NKSA and Prein&Newhof, a local engineering firm, worked hard to make the plant a green addition to the community:

- **Energy Recovery** – The heat produced by the blower room heats the Machine Building. The waste material removed from the wastewater is sent to a landfill, where it helps decompose the landfill waste faster, producing methane used for power generation.

- **Low Energy Use** – Fine bubble diffusers maximize oxygen transfer in the aeration tanks, reducing air and energy needs. Pumping and blower units have energy-



Rockford Independent/Courtesy Photo

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An aerial view of the PARCC Side Clean Water Plant. The wastewater treatment plant is located along the Grand River on Coit Avenue. The state-of-the-art facility claimed the 2010 "Engineering Eminent Conceptor Award."

## NEWS



Rockford Independent/Courtesy Photo

The scene above greets visitors to the North Kent Sewer Authority's PARCC Side Clean Water Plant. The buildings look like they belong on a farm, complete with weather vanes.

## Award

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efficient features such as premium duty motors, soft starts, and variable frequency drives.

- Minimal Chemical Use – Chemicals are flow-paced to match system needs, reducing use and maximizing operational efficiency.

- Water Re-Use – Processed plant water is used to cool and wash the plant equipment.

- Wetlands – The project disturbed two acres of wetland, so four replacement

acres were created.

- Threatened Species Revival – Beak grass, the threatened species found on site, was moved to a different location, where it is now thriving.

In addition to the membrane bioreactor, the plant uses an ultraviolet system to disinfect the effluent before releasing it to the river; a green biofilter air treatment system to remove odors from plant air; and inclined screw presses to dewater the biosolids before they are sent to a landfill. Each of these technologies is on the cutting edge, and allows the

plant to be very space and energy efficient.

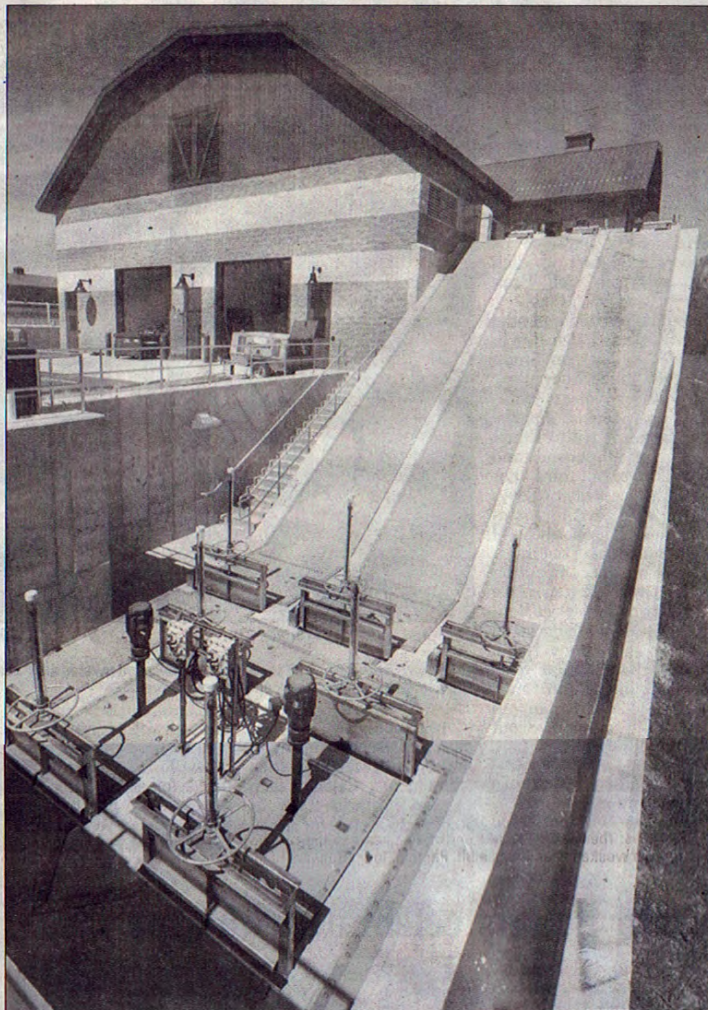
This award honors both the NKSA and Prein&Newhof, the firm that planned, designed, and oversaw construction for the project. It is presented annually to a Michigan infrastructure project in recognition of the project's:

- Application of new technologies
- Future value to the engineering profession
- Social, economic, and sustainable design considerations
- Complexity

Prein&Newhof is a full-service engineering firm offering a wide range of civil engineering, environmental consulting, surveying, GIS, and laboratory services to municipal and private clients across West Michigan. The firm is celebrating 40 years of operation.

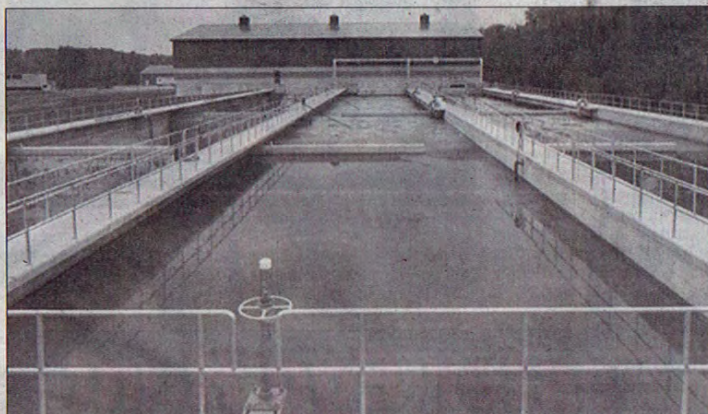
The firm has offices in Grand Rapids, Byron Center, Muskegon, and Kalamazoo, as well as an environmental laboratory adjacent to its headquarters in Grand Rapids.

Photo at right: The membrane bioreactor at the plant is shown at right. The plant currently processes approximately four million gallons of wastewater each day with a state-of-the-art membrane bioreactor treatment system.



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The photo above shows the headworks at the PARCC Side Clean Water Plant.



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