



AQUARION
Water Company

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Aquarion Water Company, Tighe & Bond, Win Grand Award for New Mystic Dam

BRIDGEPORT — A new dam and chemical storage facility built by Aquarion Water Company has won a prestigious award from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Connecticut.

Aquarion worked closely with engineers from Tighe & Bond of Westfield, Mass., on the project at Palmer Dam in Stonington, which Aquarion acquired in 2002. Representatives of both companies accepted the Engineering Excellence Grand Award at a recent ACEC dinner in Middletown.

The reservoir behind Palmer Dam holds 88 million gallons of water and serves as one of two supply sources for a population of more than 10,000. The site also houses the Dean's Mill Water Treatment Plant.

There were concerns about the former dam's capacity to hold up in flood conditions, so Aquarion began to plan the replacement project. At the same time, Tighe & Bond engineers were designing improvements to the treatment plant, and Aquarion elected to combine the two projects in order to minimize disruption to the area and to water service.

Improvements to the treatment plant included the addition of a new chemical storage facility to replace aging equipment and ensure adequate and safe storage. Another feature of the renovation was construction of a containment area to protect the environment in the event of an accidental release of chemicals from a truck during deliveries. Though portable enclosures are more common for this purpose at many similar facilities, Aquarion chose to raise the bar and install a permanent containment unit.

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With the project's completion last summer, the dam's integrity is no longer in question, and environmental protection and safety have been improved.

"Receiving the Grand Award was a proud moment for us," said Michael Hiltz, Aquarion's project manager. "The rehabilitation of Palmer Dam was a major undertaking, and to have that work recognized by an organization such as the ACEC is truly an honor."

Carolyn Giampe, another project manager at Aquarion, said the award underscored the productive partnership between Aquarion and Tighe & Bond.

"Together we worked through a number of challenges on the Palmer Dam project," Giampe said, "such as protecting water quality and reconstructing the dam without interrupting water service to our customers. The project was designed and executed expertly, and we were able to accomplish all our goals."

Tighe & Bond, founded in 1911, is one of the most experienced engineering firms in New England, with three offices in Connecticut and three in Massachusetts. The firm provides engineering and environmental services for clients in government, industry, health care, education and real estate development.

Aquarion Water Company, headquartered in Bridgeport, is a water utility company serving 680,000 people in 36 communities throughout Connecticut. It is among the seven largest investor-owned water utility companies in the U.S.

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