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**PETER L. JACOB WATER TREATMENT PLANT ACHIEVES HIGHEST LEVEL OF PLANT PERFORMANCE**

*Champlain Water District is the Only Utility in Nation to Maintain Pinnacle of Excellence*

DENVER, CO – JUNE 2009 - Champlain Water District's Peter L. Jacob Water Treatment Plant in South Burlington, Vermont, has received the Phase IV "Ten-Year Excellence in Water Treatment" recognition from the *Partnership for Safe Water*.

The *Partnership for Safe Water* is a national initiative developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other water organizations representing water suppliers that strive to provide drinking water that is superior to the federal quality requirements.

Phase IV is the highest possible level of performance that can be achieved in the four-phased *Partnership* program, and signifies optimized plant performance. Champlain Water District has maintained the Excellence in Water Treatment Award for ten years, and is the only water utility in the nation to do so.

The *Partnership* includes more than 400 water treatment facilities, collectively serving more than 85 million people, representing 60% of the US population served by surface water. Each utility has committed to enhancing drinking water quality and operational excellence in water treatment. As members of the *Partnership*, utilities make a pledge to their communities to improve their treatment operations to reduce the risk of exposure to microbial contaminants, namely *Cryptosporidium*, a parasite that can cause illness. By making this commitment the member utilities' treatment practices undergo a rigorous review developed by national experts, including a four-phased self-assessment and peer review process.

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*The Partnership for Safe Water is sponsored by the American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, United States Environmental Protection Agency, National Association of Water Companies, and the Water Research Foundation (formerly the American Water Works Association Research Foundation).*