



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anna Meyer (978)349-2048

NEIWPC Staff Receive EPA Environmental Merit Awards

Lowell, Mass., April 22, 2015 – At the Environmental Merit Awards ceremony of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s New England branch (Region 1), two New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission staff members—Thomas Borden and Heather Radcliffe—received Environmental Merit Awards for their roles in launching EPA’s new Southeast New England Coastal Watershed Restoration Program. SNECWRP is an initiative to improve coordination among the numerous entities (federal, state, local, and non-governmental) working to restore the coastal watersheds of Southeast New England.

Borden, director of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, and Radcliffe, who serves as project manager for the NBEP, were recognized at the Boston ceremony along with Joe Costa, executive director of the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, for coordinating the process of selecting the recipients of grants totaling \$1.5 million. The SNECWRP monies went to 12 projects aimed at reducing nutrient pollution, a major issue in both estuaries. Members of EPA’s SNECWRP team who nominated Borden, Radcliffe, and Costa said all three “were dedicated to collaboration across programs and state lines.”

Shown (l-r) on the Faneuil Hall stage are EPA Region 1 Deputy Administrator Deb Szaro, Tom Borden, Johanna Hunter of EPA’s SNECWRP team, Joe Costa, Heather Radcliffe, EPA Region 1 Administrator Curt Spalding, and Carl Dierker, regional counsel.



“It is a great honor to receive an Environmental Merit Award on behalf of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program,” Borden said. “The Southeast New England Coastal Watershed Restoration Program has been under development for many years by various nonprofit and governmental partners in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and it would not have happened without the critical support of Senator Jack Reed and his congressional colleagues in both states.”

“I’m truly honored to receive this award and even more honored to be among such distinguished past and present honorees, all of whom have made important contributions to New England’s environment,” Radcliffe said. “NEIWPC is grateful for EPA’s confidence in our ability to help them move SNECWRP forward as a true partnership.”

Established by an Act of Congress in 1947, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission is a not-for-profit interstate organization that works to support and augment the water-related efforts of its member states.

New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
650 Suffolk St., Suite 410, Lowell, MA 01854
www.neiwpc.org