

Employee of the Year 2016
Joe Pezzino, Chief Water Operator
Ephrata Area Joint Authority

Joe Pezzino, Chief Water Operator for the Ephrata Area Joint Authority (EAJA), is the 2016 recipient of PMAA's Employee of the Year award. The award, sponsored by ARRO Group, Inc. acknowledges the selected employee's contribution to community service as well as service to their authority.

"Joe has been a driving force of change responsible for transforming the authority into a modern, efficient water system," said Tom Natarian, EAJA's Director of Operations. "During his 7 year tenure with the authority, he has developed a keen interest in process controls and automation."

Joe is a certified water operator for EAJA and was recognized as the Water Operator of the Year by PA Rural Water in 2015.

Joe and his fellow operators received the 2015 President's Award from the Partnership for Safe Water. At that time, EAJA was one of 9 systems in PA and 23 in the country to reach this level of performance.

Joe pioneered the use of SCADA controls and has enabled operators to monitor the process remotely. The use of VFD motors, and PID controls has provided for precise fine-tuning of critical operating parameters.

"System performance and efficiency has improved significantly and system reliability is at an all-time high," said Natarian.

With new regulations involving disinfectant byproducts, Joe used the authority's GIS system to identify all system dead ends to achieve the most efficient flushing.

"Joe led the charge to identify sources of unaccounted for water and implemented a program to change out large meters to improve accuracy, tracked water usage in a database, and refined the process for estimating unmetered water uses."

In addition to a personalized plaque, Joe also received a monetary award of \$750 to designate to an institute of higher learning or nonprofit organization.

Caption:

The award was presented by Matt Brown, President and CEO of ARRO Consulting, Inc.