

FOX Engineering Receives 2008 ACEC/Iowa Honor Award for Engineering Excellence

January 2008

FOX Engineering Associates, Inc. of Ames, Iowa, and the City of Clarinda, Iowa, received the 2008 American Council of Engineering Companies of Iowa (ACEC/Iowa) Honor Award for engineering excellence for the **Clarinda Water Treatment Facility** located in Clarinda, Iowa. FOX Engineering is an environmental engineering firm specializing in water, wastewater, and solid waste projects.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Iowa is a state-wide association of independent consulting engineering firms. The candidate projects were judged by an independent panel of experts on the basis of the following five criteria: innovative application of technology; future value to the engineering profession; social, economic, and sustainable design considerations; complexity of the problem; achievement in meeting the needs of the client.

Faced with deteriorating water plant structures and equipment, mounting repair costs, and the ever-increasing difficulty in complying with drinking water regulations, the city realized that critical action was necessary. In 2004, after much deliberation, the Clarinda City Council decided it was



time to set into motion the processes to plan, design, and construct an entirely new water treatment facility. After that decision was made, the council retained FOX Engineering Associates, of Ames, Iowa, for the engineering services needed to bring their dream to fruition.

FOX Engineering Associates, Inc. provided all of the civil and environmental engineering for planning, design and contract administration services. Architectural and structural engineering services were provided by Structural Engineers, P.C., of Marshalltown, Iowa. Mechanical engineering services for the plumbing and HVAC systems were provided by Brewer Engineering Consultants, PLC, of Ankeny, Iowa. Millard Engineering of Ames, Iowa provided electrical engineering services for plant power, lighting, and control system design. This engineering team, with valuable input from City staff members Gary Walter, Gary McClarnon,

and Steve Guthrie, was responsible for providing a cost-effective design capable of meeting the Project goals on a continuing basis.



Economic viability was another aspect of the new water treatment facility. Throughout the planning process, the City decision-makers held cost-effectiveness as a major project goal. The planning efforts, design process, value engineering, and construction administration process were all conducted with the goal of obtaining the best possible value for the City and its water customers. The final construction cost for the water treatment facility was \$9,280,000.

The project team met all deadlines during the planning and design of the project. Construction by Hawkins Construction Co. also proceeded according to schedule; and PeopleService was able to start up the new plant just as planned in May 2007.

In addition to providing enhanced water quality, the new water treatment facility has increased the supply capacity for Clarinda by more than 50 percent. This is crucial for rural Iowa communities that are continually on the lookout for economic development opportunities.

FOX Engineering is an environmental engineering firm based in Ames, Iowa. They specialize in water, wastewater, and solid waste management solutions for their diverse governmental and industrial clients. The firm's environmental projects vary in size and scope and can be found throughout the Midwest and beyond. Dale Watson, P.E., or Steve Troyer, P.E., can be reached at 800/433-3469 or DAW@foxeng.com, or SJT@foxeng.com.