

North Liberty, FOX, and Shive-Hattery Receive Award

July 28, 2009

A ceremony was held at the Iowa Capitol to present Governor Culver's 2008 Environmental Excellence Awards.

The City of North Liberty, FOX Engineering Associates, Inc., and Shive-Hattery Engineering and Architecture have received a 2008 Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Award in the Water Quality category.

The awards are the premier environmental honors in Iowa, recognizing leadership and innovation in the protection of Iowa's natural resources. The project, a membrane bioreactor process for treating wastewater has been used on a limited basis in the U.S.; **this project is the first of its kind in Iowa.**

"The efforts of these organizations serve as a model in providing clean air, water and land for all Iowans," Culver said. "I congratulate them for their outstanding work to protect and enhance our environment."

Rapid growth of the city of North Liberty caused hydraulic and organic overloading at the wastewater plant. With a great deal of input from city staff, FOX recommended converting the existing sequencing batch reactor activated sludge plant to a membrane bioreactor (MBR) process – an advanced form of activated sludge that utilizes membranes to produce a very high quality effluent. This solution pleased the ecologically responsible city. The project was completed summer of 2008 and has received praise from both Iowa Department of Natural Resources officials and environmental groups. The new MBR wastewater treatment facility at North Liberty has greatly improved the effluent quality being discharged from the plant, and will have a positive, long-term effect on the receiving stream.

The winners were chosen from nearly 40 nominations. For a link to a full list of the 2008 award winners, please visit: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/other/ee/index.html>



Left to right: Governor Chet Culver, Steve Troyer with FOX Engineering, North Liberty Mayor Thomas Salm, Kevin Trom with Shive-Hattery

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. Steve Troyer, PE, can be reached at 800/433-3469 or by email at stt@foxeng.com.