

GOVERNOR'S AWARDS HONOR IOWA ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

PRESS RELEASE

June 5, 2008

Ames, Iowa FOX Engineering Associates, Inc. has received a 2008 Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Award in the Water Quality category.

Along with the city of North Liberty, Iowa, and the city's consulting engineer, Shive-Hattery Architecture & Engineering of Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, FOX will receive the award from Governor Chet Culver later this summer.

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 awards program recognizes comprehensive environmental programs by organizations and businesses, along with special project awards in water quality, air quality, waste management, habitat restoration/development, and energy efficiency/renewable energy.

The winners were chosen from nearly 40 nominations.

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, P.E., can be reached at 800/433-3469 or SJT@foxeng.com.

"Iowa's environment is in the hands of every community, business, organization, farmer and citizen. Many innovative Iowans are leading the way in the protection and enhancement of our natural resources. Their actions deserve the highest recognition. The **Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards** are the premier environmental honors in Iowa, designed to recognize comprehensive approaches to sustainability."

Governor Chester Culver