Enviro Water Minerals Company Celebrates Completion of Innovative Water Project in El Paso

New plant will enhance the city’s supply of drinking water, conserve existing water supplies, and create environmental benefits

EL PASO, Texas - Enviro Water Minerals Company (EWM) celebrated the completion of construction on its new, award-winning Full Recovery Desalination℠ plant in El Paso with a ribbon-cutting event at the new facility on April 25, 2017. The plant will enhance the city’s supply of drinking water, conserve existing water supplies, and create environmental benefits by converting the desalination waste stream into beneficial products. EWM has built the new facility located next to El Paso’s Kay Bailey Hutchison (KBH) Desalination Plant. The construction was performed in conjunction with lead manager/contractor Norris/Leal, Lloyd Hamilton Construction (El Paso), and Ideal Electric (El Paso).

The first of its kind facility in the world continues the development of El Paso as a hub for water supply innovation. The new, more efficient water supply solution will mean better use of scarce water supplies without the need to deep-well dispose of the wastewater.

This revolutionary desalination facility will be equipped with EWM’s cutting-edge technology that desalinates salty waters and recovers minerals, eliminating waste. The innovative plant will take brackish water and waste brine concentrate from the KBH Desalination Plant, extract and transform salts and minerals into commercial products for beneficial use in local markets.

El Paso is located in a desert, where water is precious and additional supply options are limited or costly. The new EWM plant will produce more than two million gallons of drinkable water a day for the region. “El Paso’s dry climate and isolation from major bodies of freshwater require our city to be innovative in the ways we obtain and conserve our water supply,” said El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser. “By allowing our city to conserve over 700 million gallons of water a year, the new EWM facility will help provide El Paso with a greater supply of drinkable water for years to come. It will also play a critical role in ensuring that ElPaso can continue to grow and improve in a way that minimizes our impact on the environment.”
The EWM solution will also make more efficient use of the water pumped from the aquifer. Conventional desalination technologies for brackish water typically yield 75%-85% fresh water, with the remaining 15%-25% disposed of as a waste product. EWM’s Full Recovery Desalination technology yields approximately 99% from the original source water, conserving more of the water supply and eliminating disposal. “This plant increases our conservation and resource recovery options by providing more useable water from every gallon we pump,” said John Balliew, president and CEO of El Paso Water. “It also reduces the volume of concentrate that we dispose of by deep well injection, giving those wells a longer lifespan and eliminating a major barrier to expanding the desalination plant.”

The entire El Paso area benefits from the additional water supply, a new environmentally friendly industry, the more efficient use of water, and making beneficial use of contaminants (rather than disposing of them). “All of El Paso County, including areas outside the city, will greatly benefit from this new facility,” said El Paso County Judge Veronica Escobar. “The additional water supply will provide residential, commercial, and agricultural users with a greater amount of this valuable resource. The fact that we are able to do so while promoting the growth of a new industry in El Paso and becoming more environmentally friendly in the process is incredible. I’m proud to see El Paso County continue to be a global leader in water conservation.”

The EWM partnership with El Paso furthers the region’s economic opportunity because of the many benefits this innovative project brings. Further, it enhances the status of El Paso as a water technology innovator. “Not only will the new EWM facility create jobs in El Paso and provide opportunities for local contractors and suppliers, but it will also help raise our region’s profile as a global leader in water supply innovation. This state-of-the-art plant keeps the Borderplex region at the forefront of technological development and environmental sustainability.

The EWM facility will be a great asset to our region, both in terms of its immediate economic impact and the signals it sends to investors that the Borderplex is innovative when confronting challenges,” said Jon Barela, CEO of The Borderplex Alliance.

Hubble Hausman, CEO of EWM, stated “This project has been innovative in all aspects, from concept to permitting and piloting, through construction. Construction has been achieved in a little over a year from breaking ground, thanks to our partners and especially our construction lead, Norris/Leal.

Bill Norris of Norris/Leal observed, “This project has benefited from our previous experience doing design-build projects in the water industry. Innovative design, management, and teamwork were key in our construction of this project in a short time frame. It is important to note, the majority of our team was locally hired in El Paso and played a big part of the success of the project. We are proud of our team and excited to have been a part of this game-changing project.”

About Enviro Water Minerals

Enviro Water Minerals Company, Inc. is a Texas-based company deploying its cutting-edge Full Recovery Desalination™ technology to help more communities access additional fresh water supplies economically. EWM’s revolutionary desalination solution eliminates the costly and environmentally sensitive waste stream typically associated with desalination by “mining” the water to produce commodity products and drinking water. All contaminants are extracted from the water as commercial products, leaving only potable-quality water. Utilizing proven, commercially available technologies in unique and innovative configurations, EWM chemically separates the salty waters into high-purity, industrial-grade mineral products that can be sold in commercial markets. For more information and contact details, visit www.envirowaterminerals.com.