



## NRS Consulting Engineers Wins Watermark Award

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Harlingen, TX – NRS Consulting Engineers, Inc. is the winner of a 2009 **Watermark Award for Communications Excellence** from the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) and the Texas Section of the American Water Works Association (TAWWA). The award will be presented at the Texas Water '09 conference in Galveston on April 16.

NRS won the Watermark Award for its work creating the *Guidance Manual for Brackish Groundwater Desalination in Texas* for the Texas Water Development Board. It's been described as a "road map" for communities that are considering using brackish groundwater to supplement their water supplies.

Using the North Cameron Regional Water Facility as a model, NRS and its subcontractors documented the planning, design, construction and operation of the desalination facility. Photos, drawings, maps and other information obtained during the process were incorporated into the guidance manual. After it was operational, NRS interviewed construction staff and project owners about what worked well, and what could be handled differently on the next project. This feedback was integrated into the case study discussions and helped form the recommended strategies to develop similar projects in other areas of the state. An informational website [www.desal.org/desaldemo](http://www.desal.org/desaldemo) allows users to read or download the document in its entirety and take virtual tours of the facility.

"We are extremely proud of our work on the North Cameron facility and the guidance manual," said NRS President Joseph W. "Bill" Norris. "The facility was designed for three regional partners – the East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation, the North Alamo Water Supply Corporation, and the City of Primera. We could not have written the guidance manual without their full support."

Befesa WaterBuild President Jesus Leal said, "Cities all over Texas are looking for new ways to provide water to growing populations, and brackish groundwater is a logical solution. We've written a step-by-step manual for developing this natural resource. It's very rewarding for us to be honored for our work on this project."

Mike Irlbeck, the director of business development for NRS and Befesa WaterBuild, will receive the award on NRS' behalf. As the project leader, he was the primary author and designed the document. Other project partners for the guidance manual were R.W. Harden & Associates, Dietrich Consulting Group, TRC, and Electrical Expertise, Inc. The website was designed and developed by WaterPR and Go9Media.

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