



MVD Hosts German-American PFAS Knowledge Exchange Visit

On Thursday, June 18, 2026, the Merrimack Village District (MVD) welcomed representatives from the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Boston, as well as the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), Underwood Engineers, and the MVD Commissioners for an informational tour of MVD's PFAS Treatment Facilities located at Wells 4 and 5.

The visit was coordinated by Commissioner Wolfram von Schoen in cooperation with Dr. Ina Wiest, Senior Advisor for Science and Economic Affairs at the German Consulate, as part of a German-American PFAS Knowledge Exchange Grant Project funded by the German Federal Foreign Office. The project focuses on PFAS removal from drinking water while promoting German-American business cooperation. Funding is provided through the German Federal Foreign Office's Clean Economy Bridge grant program. The project also features the Technology Centre Water (TZW) in Karlsruhe, Germany, a leading water research and testing organization, and the Public Works and Water Department of Rastatt, Germany. Like Merrimack, the Rastatt area has been affected by PFAS contamination and has made significant investments in advanced drinking water treatment technologies. The project offers a valuable platform for exchanging practical experiences and lessons learned from these efforts on both sides of the Atlantic.

A follow-up meeting will be held to discuss the continuation & outline subsequent steps for the project; the meeting will be the first transatlantic virtual meeting.

MVD is pleased to participate in this international initiative and is eager to share its experience in PFAS remediation and drinking water protection. Additionally, we look forward to learning about Germany's advancements in PFAS treatment technologies, filtration media, system operation, and long-term treatment performance. This exchange of expertise will offer valuable operational insights that may inform future treatment strategies and help minimize the need for independent development of similar knowledge locally.

Attendees included:

Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Boston

- Dr. Sonja Kreibich, Consul General to the New England States
- Dr. Ina Wiest, Senior Advisor for Science and Economic Affairs

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES)

- Brendon Kernen, Administrator, Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau
- Mike Unger, Water Engineer
- Lara Hooper, Water Education Coordinator

Merrimack Village District (MVD)

- Ron Miner, Superintendent
- Don Provencher, Chair, Board of Commissioners
- Wolfram von Schoen, Commissioner and Project Initiator
- Brian Hieken, Operations Manager
- Jill Lavoie, Business Manager and Water Quality Specialist

Underwood Engineers

- Lynnette Carney, Senior Technical Leader



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Pictured (L to R): Dr. Ina West, Ron Miner, Dr. Sonja Kreibich, Wolf von Schoen, Brian Hieken, Lynette Carney, Mike Unger, Don Provencher, Lara Hooper, Brandon Kernan