

Finished Water

A PHOTOGRAPHIC PROFILE



CH2M HILL led the permitting, design, construction, and operation of Ave Maria's water (left) and wastewater facilities (top left), as well as the wetland treatment system (top right).

AVE MARIA PROJECT EARNS DBIA PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ave Maria Utility Company was formed to provide Ave Maria, Fla., with potable water, wastewater treatment, and reclaimed water. The utility's water and wastewater infrastructure was designed and built by CH2M HILL, and the company continues to operate the utility's water and wastewater plants and collection and distribution systems, as well as provide administrative services such as billing and customer service. For its efforts, CH2M HILL recently received the Environmental Project of the Year Award from the Design-Build Institute of America's New York Tri-State Metro Region.

The project's water and wastewater plants were designed and built to meet the current and future needs of the Ave Maria community, which will ultimately include a 5,000-student university, more than 1 million ft² of commercial property,

and 11,000 homes. The next phase of the project will include restoring a wetland system that will receive treated water from the wastewater reclamation facility. The application of reclaimed water to the wetland, which has been permitted by the Department of Environmental Protection, will result in restoring the hydrology and ecology of 167 acres of cypress wetland and marsh. Additional enhancements proposed include removing invasive nonnative plants, grading deep and shallow areas for year-round wading-bird use, and creating rookery heads for bird nesting and resting. CH2M HILL is in the final stages of permitting the restoration project with South Florida Water Management District.

PROJECT SPECIFICS

Project Name: Ave Maria Utility Company
Designer/Builder/Operator: CH2M HILL

Completion Date: 2007 (The wetland system will be completed in 2010.)

Water Source: Water is drawn from three production wells that tap into the Lower Tamiami aquifer.

Service: The project includes a 1.67-mgd water and 1.25-mgd wastewater facility, as well as a wetland treatment system that will provide a sustainable, wet-weather storage system.

Technology: The new nanofiltration water treatment facility is designed to accommodate a future membrane process train expansion to meet Ave Maria's future development needs. Wastewater treatment is achieved by using conventional activated sludge treatment followed by tertiary filtration and high-level disinfection.

Number of Operators: 2 operators (6 total project staff)

PHOTOGRAPHS: CH2M HILL