



Colorado Springs Utilities

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### **SDS Earns *Engineering News Record's* 2013 Best Project Award**

**Colorado Springs, CO** – *Engineering News-Record (ENR)* has awarded the Southern Delivery System (SDS) with its “2013 Best Project” award in the water/environment category for the Mountain States region. ENR is a weekly magazine providing construction news and analysis for the construction industry worldwide.

*ENR Mountain States* will present the award to SDS management and program manager MWH on October 30 in Denver. The award-winning project was the 6.4-mile South Pipeline 2 (S2) project through Pueblo West, completed in 2012. One of the most complex phases of pipeline construction, the S2 project involved trenching and laying 66-inch welded steel pipe through a residential community. The work required installing pipe through easements purchased on more than 125 properties; tunneling under Highway 50; buying and removing five houses; relocating two residential septic systems and crossing a number of potable water pipelines. Garney Construction was the prime contractor.

The SDS project team took proactive steps to engage the affected residents before, during and after the project. Through letters, door hanger notices, email, newsletters, signage, personal visits, events and a 24-hour hotline, the team kept residents informed of construction activities and quickly responded to questions. In addition, the team actively managed community safety issues by placing barriers around open trenches; working with school districts to temporarily relocate school bus stops; and delivering notices to residents informing them of road closures and detours.

Safety was top priority during the project, and as a result, construction personnel worked 87,000 hours with no lost-time or recordable safety incidents.

One technique utilized in the project was weld-after-backfill – a technique for steel water conveyance pipelines in which the pipe joint is internally welded after the application of an exterior coating and backfill of the trench. The technique results in more efficient installation, less community disruption and lower costs.

“We are honored that a prestigious international engineering magazine would recognize the hard work and dedication of the SDS team for the work done in Pueblo West,” said John Fredell, SDS Program Director. “Our top priorities were to do this work safely and with the least disruption to residents. This is a great tribute to the team to be recognized for accomplishing both goals.”

SDS is a regional project that will deliver water to the southern Colorado communities of Colorado Springs, Pueblo West, Security, and Fountain. Construction of the nearly \$1 billion project is resulting in significant benefits to the local economy. To date, more than 300 companies and organizations in Colorado have helped plan and construct SDS, including 100 in Pueblo County. Of the more than \$362 million spent to plan and build SDS, nearly \$300 million has gone to Colorado companies.

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