



Staff photo by Megan Varner

Greenwood Metropolitan District (GMD) honored area industries Tuesday with a luncheon and plaques for their efforts in wastewater pre-treatment. Above, recipients display their environmental award plaques and honorable mentions.

Area industries receive thumbs up for clean water

By MEGAN VARNER
Senior staff writer

Their dedicated efforts are keeping Greenwood's water clean, and on Tuesday, Greenwood Metropolitan District (GMD) gave more than a dozen area industries a big "thank you" for their work in wastewater pre-treatment.

The representatives were honored at GMD's annual appreciation luncheon, at the Emmett F. Brooks Technical Services Facility. Many participants received plaques for their compliance with wastewater permits, said GMD Manager of Engineering Brian Waldrep.

The industries are required to pre-treat their wastewater before it enters the network of wastewater collections by removing

metals and other pollutants that "would put an overbearing load" on the treatment system, Waldrep said.

"Their waste is a much more polluted waste than domestic wastewater," Waldrep said. "It would cost the rate payers of the county extra money in their rates for us to treat that extra-strong waste."

"If they didn't do their job, we couldn't do ours," said Richard Coleman, manager at GMD. "Everybody works together well. We collectively get the job done to have clean, treated water to go back into the streams."

The area industries that received environmental award plaques for 100 percent compliance with wastewater pre-treatment permits were: Grede

Foundry, Greenwood Mills Mathews Plant, Greenwood Packing, Kaiser Aluminum, Fujifilm, Cutler Hammer, Cooper Power Systems, Kendall Healthcare and Solutia. Greenwood Mills Harris Plant and Anderson Metals received honorable mention plaques.

"It's always good to be on the good list," said Kaiser Aluminum's Bob Schmeisser. "You want to do your best to be good citizens. (The employees of these industries) all live and work here, and what we are doing is good for the whole community."

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