

In the Field

CORNELIUS, OR – Thanks to host **Holly Witte**, five delegates from Arkhangelsk Region, in Russia's far north, spent Oct. 24–31 studying water management with staff of **Clean Water Services (CWS)**, a public utility in **Washington County, OR**, recognized nationally for its water management operations. Workshops led by CWS's team of highly skilled and enthusiastic water management professionals alternated with visits to a water treatment facility (pictured), wetlands, a fish ladder project, the irrigated vineyard owned by Witte and her husband, and Cornelius City Hall. Witte structured the program in a way that encouraged presenters and delegates alike to discuss—and brainstorm solutions for—the water-quality issues facing both Washington County and Arkhangelsk Region. For the latter area, those issues include aging pipes and inconsistent water-quality testing.

The Russians approached this interactive experience from varied backgrounds: Marina Klikunova is a local-government and tourism specialist for the rural Pinezhsky District; Galina Shestakova oversees a coalition of 229 mayors for the regional administration; Olga

Tarakanova heads the Mayor's Administration of the remote Mezensky District; Aleksandr Vyatkin is the city manager of Cheremushskoye; and Olga Sannikova is Northern State Medical University's director of training.

As a follow-up to the visit, Witte and several CWS presenters plan to travel to Arkhangelsk Region in fall 2009 to conduct training sessions at Sannikova's university for city officials, NGO leaders, water managers, and educators from

across Arkhangelsk Region. Says Witte, "One of the biggest challenges in Arkhangelsk is getting people to pay attention to the fact that there *are* water issues, so that will be the focus of our reciprocal visit: training on how to raise awareness and financial support; and working on an environmental education project that grade schoolers can do, because everyone will be so proud of the kids and it will get attention."

National Grantee: National Peace Foundation



Delegates from Arkhangelsk Region, Russia, tour a water treatment plant in Washington County, OR, with staff from both the Joint Water Commission, the county's primary drinking water supplier, and Clean Water Services, a water management utility.

Hosting Corner



Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY), center, meets on Capitol Hill with members of the Georgian parliament. Sen. Clinton noted that she would make women's leadership a priority as secretary of state in the Obama Administration. Staff from **Vital Voices Global Partnership** (the Georgians' host organization) and Open World joined the delegation. (Dec. 10)

Two-Week Funded Exchange to Russia for U.S. Secondary School Teachers

American Councils, the Center's logistics contractor, is now accepting applications from U.S. secondary school teachers interested in collaborating with their Russian counterparts at a U.S.-Russian joint teacher conference (to be held at a U.S. university in October 2009 or February 2010) and during a two- to three-week visit to Russia in March 2010. All travel and program expenses are supported by American Councils through a grant from the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

For more information on American Councils' "Teachers to Teachers" exchange program, please go to http://www.americancouncils.org/newsDetail.php?news_id=MTky.