

## Effluent beer op-ed and press release

Drink like an astronaut

Opinion by Sharon Waller

The first effluent beer made in Illinois will be tasted along with others from around the country at the largest water conference in North America, on September 23 at McCormick Center at the Water Environment Federation Technology and Exposition Conference. Astro Amber Ale is home brewed using water sourced from the North Shore Channel downstream from the discharge of the O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant. Further treatment inspired by the International Space Station water recycling system including distillation, carbon filtration, and ion exchange is applied before brewing.

Potable reuse is not new. Water reuse is currently used on the International Space Station where your coffee today is your coffee tomorrow. The City of Wichita Falls in Texas operated an emergency direct potable reuse system for 12 months starting in June 2014 in response to a historic four-year long drought. After the drought ended, the advanced treated water was redirected to replenish the source water lakes in anticipation of future droughts. The citizens of Windhoek Namibia have been drinking recycled water since 1968.

If we can drink recycled water, our industry can use it. Joliet is running out of groundwater in 5-10 years but is not able to use the neighboring Des Plaines River because it is considered "too dirty". Reuse is a cost-stable and reliable water source for industry and reduces discharge of pollutants to the environment. Decentralized reuse can be used at airports for deicing without the need for 2-pipe systems or a new water conveyance network.

The Great Lakes states have a responsibility to protect our plentiful water resources, and we can protect both quantity and quality by embracing reuse. Residential non-potable reuse is legal in several other states, but Illinois still requires the governor's signature for plumbing code variances such as flushing your toilet with your shower water. Ask your legislators to legalize water reuse.

Sources:

Wichita Falls TX:

<https://www.tpomag.com/editorial/2016/12/how-wichita-falls-turned-a-drought-into-enlightenment>; <https://www.wateronline.com/doc/texas-leads-the-way-with-first-direct-potable-reuse-facilities-in-u-s-0001>

Windhoek: [https://mg.co.za/article/2016-03-10-windhoek-shows-the-world-how-to-treat-water?fbclid=IwAR1XBV1DJUy2O6fa9VK\\_vySzbxWldAEac4j90KVq34WGV6o\\_vF9zSZHZvVg](https://mg.co.za/article/2016-03-10-windhoek-shows-the-world-how-to-treat-water?fbclid=IwAR1XBV1DJUy2O6fa9VK_vySzbxWldAEac4j90KVq34WGV6o_vF9zSZHZvVg)

Effluent beer: <https://effluenthomebrew.weebly.com/>

Joliet water shortage: <https://www.theherald-news.com/2019/01/15/joliet-plans-to-decide-on-future-water-supply-in-december/a2ni9al/>

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- - FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE - -

The first effluent beer made in Illinois will be available for tasting at the largest water conference in North America, on September 23 at McCormick Center at the Water Environment Federation Technology and Exposition Conference. Astro Amber Ale is home brewed using water sourced from the North Shore Channel downstream from the discharge of the O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant.

An informal chat with Home Brewer Paul Strome of Unreconciled Brewing Chicago and Sharon Waller of Sustainable Systems LLC – Consulting will be presented at 2pm on Monday September 23 in Effluent Beer Garden located on the exhibit floor. Other effluents beers from Colorado, Oregon, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee will also be offered for tasting.

WEFTEC®, the Water Environment Federation's Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference, is the largest water and environment conference in North America. Attendees include water professionals and elected officials.

See page 28 of the conference program at the following link [https://lsc-pagepro.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=591538#%22issue\\_id%22:591538,%22page%22:0](https://lsc-pagepro.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=591538#%22issue_id%22:591538,%22page%22:0)

WEFTEC DISCOVERY ZONE AND PURE WATER BREWING INNOVATION NEIGHBORHOOD - This exciting section of the exhibit hall features a beer garden, serving samples of beer brewed with recycled water, as well as kiosks for startup companies and other entities committed to driving water innovation.

The effluent beer menu is included as an attachment.

For press pass to WEFTEC Effluent Beer Garden, contact:

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