

## **SOUTH SHORE ENTREPRENEUR: LOVE THAT DIRTY WATER - Wastewater treatment plant fills a need**

*By BRAD KELLY  
The Patriot Ledger*

Operating a wastewater treatment plant is no easy task. The state requires all operators of the complex system to obtain a wastewater treatment license and get Hazmat certification for handling hazardous materials. Exams for both requirements are difficult to pass.

Understanding of chemistry, science and engineering is a must. If that isn't enough, one must always be prepared for tough inspections from both the state and federal environmental regulators and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Plymouth resident Sam Butterfield underwent this rigorous process and bought the wastewater treatment plant located at the former Texas Instruments campus in Attleboro.

In 1990, he launched Plymouth-based Butterfield Environmental, a consulting firm that helps private companies and municipalities with their on-site wastewater needs, such as supplying them with equipment and chemicals. But his new plant adds to the list of environmental services that he can now offer clients.

New Stream LLC opened for business in March of 2005. It has the ability to treat hazardous and nonhazardous wastewater, recycle water, manage solid hazardous waste and provide high-purity water to other tenants on the site.

"It was a two-and-a-half year process to buy the plant from TI," he said. "If we didn't, the site would have been decommissioned."

New Stream has the capability to treat one million gallons of water a day and receives wastewater from environmental remediation projects, manufacturing operations, utility plants, construction and highway projects.

"Before we opened, generators of wastewater had to ship their water to plants in New Jersey, New York and Ohio at a great expense," he said.

Butterfield said the 30,000-square-foot plant was built for the Texas Instruments Sensors and Controls division, now known as Sensata Technologies, in the late 1970s.

New Stream houses hundreds of 3,000-gallon tanks, a dozen 6,000-gallon tanks, eight 10,000-gallon tanks, two outdoor 250,000-gallon tanks as well as hundreds of yards of piping connecting all the tanks.

Butterfield said New Stream treats about 100,000 gallons a day, which can be discharged to Attleboro's sewer system, which conducts another series of treatments.

Water is usually trucked into the plant where Butterfield and his staff of seven evaluate what's contaminating the water. Once that is determined, the water is transferred by pipe through four other treatment processes.

Butterfield said the greatest challenge with operating a treatment plant is the energy costs, which can reach \$10,000 a month.

Butterfield Environmental and New Stream together generated \$3 million in revenue last year. He said New Stream essentially broke even last year, with at least \$1 million in sales in its first year of operation.



**Sam Butterfield of Plymouth is president of the NewStream industrial wastewater treatment plant in Attleboro. The firm recovers waste chemicals from water and neutralizes it for safe disposal. (GREG DERR/The Patriot Ledger)**

Butterfield plans to expand the plant by another 60,000 square feet. The expansion will exclusively handle the plant's testing labs and water recycling operations.

"This is a hungry beast and it requires round-the-clock monitoring," Butterfield said, "but when water is discharged from this site, it is environmentally sound."

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Transmitted Monday, May 29, 2006