



## **Whitman Awarded Several Contracts for Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Engineering Work at Various Housing Authorities in New Jersey**

### ***Projects are Partially Funded by the Federal Stimulus Package***

Whitman, New Jersey's leading environmental and engineering management firm, has been awarded contracts for mechanical systems engineering work at several housing authorities throughout New Jersey, including those in Elizabeth, Morristown, Phillipsburg and Highland Park. The projects are being partially funded by federal stimulus funds allocated to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which oversees the housing authorities as part of its mission to increase access to affordable housing.

"The federal stimulus package has provided various agencies with money to undertake projects that might have otherwise been put off through a lack of budget or incentive," said James Major, vice president of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering group at Whitman. "Additional money is being awarded to projects that have an environmental or energy saving focus, so it provides an ideal opportunity for agencies to consider replacing old or worn out systems with new, efficient equipment."

The largest of these contracts awarded to Whitman is for the Elizabeth Housing Authority, which includes the replacement of the hot water heating system and new, energy-efficient boilers in the 15 buildings that make up Mravlag Manor. Construction costs for the project are estimated to exceed \$3 million.

Whitman provided the housing authority with a review of the existing facilities at the manor and determined the conditions and options for boiler replacement, including justifying the return-on-investment for higher-efficiency models.

"Part of the stimulus bill ensures that priority is given to projects that meet certain energy guidelines," Major said. "The boilers at the Mravlag Manor were in need of repair or replacement because they are at the end of their useful life. If the federal funding had not been available, the housing authority might have had to live with the equipment until it was beyond repair. But we were able to economically justify the purchase of new, high-efficiency models that will save energy and money over the course of their useful life and qualify for rebates through the NJ Smart Start Program and the utility company."

Whitman also provided energy audits for the Morristown housing authority, bringing in a team of experts to assess the lighting, plumbing and mechanical systems, as well as the overall air quality of the authority's facilities. Based on the audits, Whitman professionals then made recommendations on repairing or replacing systems to upgrade the facilities.

At Morristown, Whitman will install a new air conditioning system for the housing authority office and replace the domestic hot water heaters. At Highland Park and Guttenberg housing authorities, Whitman will replace the domestic hot water heaters and furnaces. Finally, in Phillipsburg, Whitman will install highly efficient hot water heaters and furnaces for 220 cottages and install air conditioning for a high-rise tower.

"We wanted to ensure that the new systems would be energy efficient, but particularly in the case of air conditioning, that they would provide the tenants of these buildings with the appropriate amount of fresh air and that everything would meet the latest local code," Major said.

#### ***About Whitman***

Founded in 1985, Whitman is New Jersey's premier environmental and engineering management firm, comprised of the industry's leading professionals. The East Brunswick, N.J.-based company offers turnkey environmental, engineering, and mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP), IT and security services, as well as energy efficiency and renewable energy system design, installation and commissioning services. Whitman continues to grow into new and diverse markets, providing expertise to the private and public sectors, including all levels of federal, state and local governments, as well as a variety of public authorities.

For more information on Whitman please call 732-390-5858 or visit [www.whitmanco.com](http://www.whitmanco.com).

