

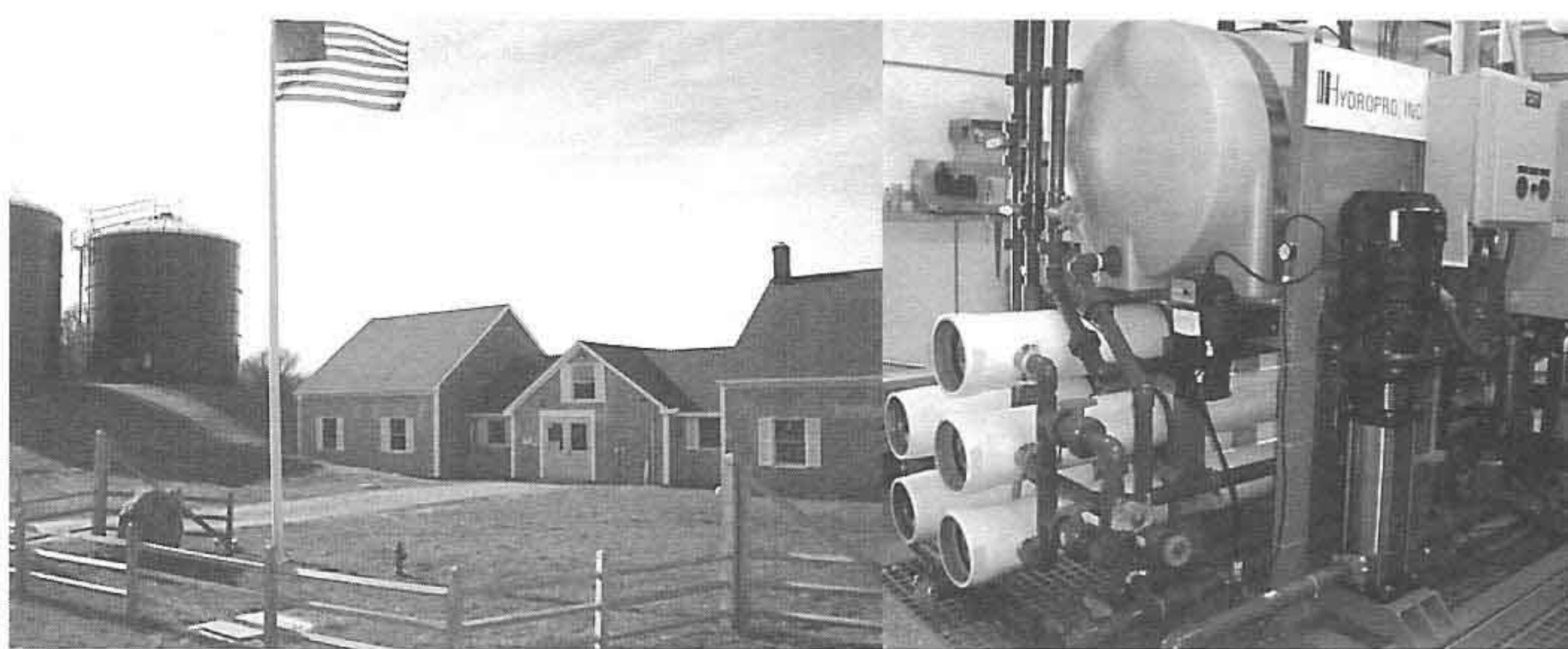
## RI Water Outstanding Operations Award

By Mike Romano, Water Circuit Rider  
Atlantic States Rural Water & Wastewater Association honored the Block Island Water Company and Superintendent, David Simmons, for their ongoing progress and dedication to preserving water quality in Rhode Island with the Outstanding Operations Award at the 2006 Annual Rhode Island Conference.

For a system that started life many years ago, as a small privately owned water supply that served a mostly seasonal community, the Block Island Water Co. has come a long way.

The Town of New Shoreham took over the water system in the late 1980's and has steadily made improvements. The last six years have been the major turning point for the system with regards to water quality and water supply.

In 2001 they took the path less traveled when they discontinued their previous treatment process (flocculation and sedimentation) in favor of



*[left] The picturesque Block Island Water Company; [right] Reverse Osmosis Filtration System.*

reverse osmosis filtration (RO). The RO process has rectified their biggest problem, iron, boosted their water quality and has allowed the system to produce enough supply to finally meet the demand for consumption and fire protection.

After new storage tanks were erected and with their supply taken care of, Superintendent David Simmons started the process of replacing old and undersized mains throughout the distribution system. Their proactive approach to management and maintenance also includes flushing programs, leak surveys, water audits, a backflow prevention program and the replacement of all of their meters.

If a population that nearly quadruples in the summer months isn't enough to keep your operation on its toes, try being somewhat isolated from the vendors and services that we rely on during emergency situations. Being an island community demands that additional attention is paid to being prepared for the unexpected and the Block Island Water Co. is ready.

We congratulate David Simmons and the Block Island Water Company for their great work.