

Share Your Thoughts



Newington Wastewater Treatment Facility

By Ariel Wright (H2O Innovation) and Jeff Mercer, PE (Wright-Pierce)

The Newington Sewer Commission welcomes you to celebrate the NHWPCA's Fall Meeting at the Wastewater Treatment Facility on Friday, September 13, 2024. Located in Newington along the Piscataqua River, the collection system includes two pumping stations and approximately 11 miles of sewers. The facility receives on average 0.1 to 0.2 MGD of wastewater from commercial and industrial users and septage from residential and commercial sources. As part of the Great Bay watershed, the Sewer Commission anticipated a Total Nitrogen discharge limit and began exploring upgrade options in 2010 followed by a Facilities Plan in 2013. Construction of a new WWTF began in April 2016 and was completed in 2018. The WWTF was able to produce effluent with TN less than 8 mg/l more than two years before the 2020 Great Bay Total Nitrogen General Permit. The WWTF has continued to produce effluent with a low TN and looks to the future for additional improvements.

The facility was built in the 1980s as an extended aeration packaged treatment unit (PTU) with the following improvements since its original construction:

- 1995 - Chlorine Contact Tank construction
- 2006- Dewatering System Upgrade including new centrifuge

Most recently, the facility was comprehensively upgraded between 2016 and 2018 including:

- Perforated plate influent screen with automatic bagger
- Grit Screw, Grit Blowers, and Septage Blowers
- Conversion of the PTUs to Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBRs)
- Effluent Equalization tank and pumping
- Aeration blowers, sludge feed pumps, polymer system and plant water system
- Control Building office space addition and other interior improvements
- New electrical feed and standby generator

Continued on Page 3

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Editor's Words



Stephanie,
Somersworth WWTF

It's 90 degrees again and here I am writing an intro to the Fall Collector. The absolutely, most exciting thing that has happened to me this summer is that my daughter's tenor saxophone is now at her house in South Carolina instead of taking up closet space at my house in Maine! If you're not familiar with the size of a tenor saxophone in a hard-case, I can assure you that it takes up a LOT of closet space. At the end of seventh grade, my daughter realized that the High School Jazz band didn't have any clarinets. She was furious and researched famous jazz clarinetists, like Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and Buddy DeFranco, and she was ready to present her case to the High School band director. Then, her private teacher suggested that she double on saxophone. So, we bought a second-hand alto sax and she spent the summer before eighth grade learning to play it and she played alto sax in the middle school jazz band. At the end of eighth grade, she auditioned for the high school jazz band and earned a spot... but the open saxophone spot was for second tenor sax. That summer I visited the high school band director and picked up the school-owned tenor sax and the folder of music that she'd be playing. (I also picked up trumpet music for her brother because he had earned a spot in the high school jazz band) That school tenor needed a little love and so we replaced a few pads and pearl buttons so that it both sounded and looked good. She had her eyes set on the first alto sax seat, so only played that tenor sax for one year, but loved it so much that she bought one for herself after passing the school sax back in. I've been storing it for over a decade but she happily reported that it's still in great shape and she is enjoying playing it. Please get in touch if you need any tips about storing musical instruments! And her horn-playing brother who lives in a small apartment in Tachikawa, Japan? There's still a pretty big double-case here in Maine that contains a trumpet and a flugelhorn...

Enjoy this fall edition of The Collector. Maybe while eating or drinking something pumpkin-spice flavored? I enjoy any and all pumpkin-spice flavored treats – baked goods, coffee, even beer (but YUCK, don't put a brown sugar rim on the glass, it's beer, not a frou-frou cocktail!) And, as always, please get in touch with me or any of the committee members and Share Your Thoughts 😊

In This Issue

- Blurbs, Blurbs & More Blurbs
- Save the Dates
- Safety Corner
- Thoughts from the Bench
- Residuals Report
- Pretreatment Tales
- This Political Season Think Before You Speak
- Wastewater Operator Certification: Required meeting with Certification Committee
- When Will the PFAS Stop?
- NH Drinking Water & Wastewater Managers School - Class of 2025 Program Announcement
- NH Water and Wastewater Managers School Highlights
- Here's what was news in The Collector a decade ago, could we still have this conversation today?
- Swings and Things from the 2024 NHWPCA Golf Outing
- Photo Gallery



Upcoming Events

Go to www.nhwPCA.org for live links to online registration

Save the Dates

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Sep. 13 - Fall Meeting | Oct. 11 - Board Meeting |
| Sep. 19 - GSRWA Operator Field Day & Exhibit | Nov. 8 - Board Meeting |
| Sep. 26 - Construction Career Days | Dec. 6 - Winter Meeting |

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Stephanie Rochefort, Mary Jane Meier, Dylan Delisle, Anthony Drouin, **YOUR NAME HERE.**
We welcome additional members. We are looking for meaningful articles for the Wastewater Operator in a timely fashion. Send submission articles for *THE COLLECTOR* to: Stephanie Rochefort via email at srochefort@somersworth.com.

Editor: Stephanie Rochefort

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The majority of the existing equipment at the facility was installed as part of the original 1980s construction and was approaching or past its anticipated service life, requiring frequent maintenance and repairs by Staff with limited availability to replacement parts. With concerns over the nitrogen loading to the Great Bay and Piscataqua River the Sewer Commission decided to pursue a comprehensive upgrade to replace aging equipment and implement a nutrient removal process prior to a new discharge permit. It has been several years since the equipment was put into operation in 2018 so this Fall Meeting offers an opportunity to review how the WWTF is performing and discuss what's next.

The Newington Sewer Commission would like to welcome all visitors to tour the Wastewater Treatment Facility, 115 Gosling Road to see the WWTF in operation. The Sewer Commission, engineer, and equipment vendors will provide tours and share project contributions. Breakfast and coffee will be provided by Wright-Pierce. Following the facility tours, guests are invited to join us at Cisco Brewers, 35 Corporate Drive, Portsmouth for lunch and a presentation on the WWTF.



Blurbs, Blurbs, & More Blurbs

Welcome Back!

Welcome back if it's been a hot minute since you've seen *The Collector*! Recently, your Collector Committee staff members learned there's a growing issue where our members receive neither a hard copy, nor the electronic copy internet link to view the *Collector* newsletters. We are very sorry to learn this. We understand this may have been a problem for many months affecting several newsletter mailings. We are researching the causes of the problem and apologize to all those impacted. The NEWEA staff are assisting us and we will rectify this problem very soon. In the meantime, please go to the following link to view the 2024 *Collector* copies online: <https://nhwpc.org/content.php?page=news>



Aaron Bernier has been promoted to chief operator at the North Conway Water Precinct's wastewater treatment facility

North Conway Water Precinct is pleased to announce that Aaron Bernier has been promoted to the role of chief operator at the North Conway wastewater treatment facility. Bernier is certified as a New Hampshire Grade IV Wastewater Treatment operator and has 17 years of experience in the operation, maintenance and management of North Conway's advanced wastewater treatment system.



He is a graduate of the New Hampshire Drinking Water & Wastewater Managers School and served in a leadership role in his military service.

The North Conway Water Precinct wastewater treatment facility is an award-winning regional facility treating wastewater from sewer systems located in Conway and Bartlett, landfill leachate from the Town of Conway, and private septic systems in the greater region.

The North Conway Water Precinct is dedicated to supporting the community through the delivery of clean, safe and great-tasting drinking water. NCWP's commitment extends to protecting the pristine natural environment through effective collection and advanced biological treatment of wastewater before returning the clean water back into the Saco River Aquifer via natural sand infiltration. If you are interested in learning more about the precinct's wastewater treatment facilities, call the office at (603) 356-5382 to schedule a tour.

This article is reprinted by permission of The Conway Daily Sun.

Congratulations to New Hampshire's newly certified WWTF operators

- Cannon Poland - 1
- Dillon Baete - 1
- Ervin Morann - 1
- Lauren Leary - 1
- Richard Keyes - 1
- Chris Posten - 1

- Brandon Grover - 1-oit
- Derek Wyskiel - 1-oit
- Ethan Davio - 1-oit
- Evan Bollens-Lund - 1-oit
- Josh Whipple - 1-oit
- Kevion Rich - 1-oit
- Michael Carpenter - 1-oit
- Phil Laflamme - 1-oit
- Rileyl Saladino - 1-oit
- Scott Madaglia - 1-oit
- Thomas Surridge - 1-oit
- Christopher Lavigne - 2
- Julstin Frazier - 2
- Michael Spaulding, Jr. - 2
- Scott Corriveau - 2
- Bert King - 2-oit
- Devin Keane - 2-oit
- Jacob Babkirk - 2-oit
- Marcus Turner - 2-oit
- Nathan Limric - 2-oit
- Robert Bishop - 3
- Meadow Wotton - 3-oit
- Charles Tiffany - 4
- Christopher Kelley - 4
- Gary Hancock - 4
- Seth Darling - 4
- Dean Costello - 4-oit
- John Kudlich - 4-oit
- John Meyers - 4-oit
- Samuel Wood - 4-oit

Reciprocity Certified

- Robert Silva - 1
- Tom Groves - 1
- Logan Derome - 1
- Paul Brunelle - 1-oit
- Alexis Wagoner - 2
- Brian Hays - 2
- Roger Sheldon - 2
- Isaac Golding - 2
- James Blackwell - 2
- Brett Anchkaitis - 2
- Nelson Todis - 2-oit
- Andrew Keyser - 3



NHWPCA 2024 Winter MEETING

Friday, December 6, 2024
Town of Merrimack WWTP
Double Tree by Hilton Nashua

The Town of Merrimack, NH is pleased to welcome all visitors to tour their WWTF as part of the NHWPCA Winter Meeting on December 6, 2024.

Recent upgrade projects to be highlighted new screenings building, compost facility upgrade, admin area, Primary and secondary clarifiers, electrical and control systems and new generator. The meeting and luncheon will be at Double Tree by Hilton Nashua, which is located four miles from the treatment facility. We look forward to seeing you there!

Event Schedule

- 8:30 AM – Tours begin at the Merrimack WWTF
- 10:30 AM – Last tour
- 11:00 AM – Gather at the Double Tree by Hilton Nashua for presentation, appetizers, and lunch
- 11:30 PM – Presentations by Wright-Pierce and the Town of Merrimack
- 12:00 PM – Buffet Lunch
- 1:00PM – NHWPCA Business Meeting
- 1:30 PM – Holiday Raffle

Morning refreshments and snacks will be provided. Following the tours, a luncheon will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton Nashua. Attendees will be eligible for CEUs.

GSRWA Operator Field Day & Exhibit

September 19, 2024
7:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Pat's Peak

Join Granite State Rural Water Association (GSRWA) for New Hampshire's premier event for water and

wastewater professionals. Check out new products and services, attend training classes and network with others in the field. Let's celebrate the work we do!

Construction Career Days

September 26, 2024
8:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Hillsborough County Youth Center Foundation
 15 Hilldale Lane
 New Boston, NH 03070

Promoting Construction Industry to NH Youth



Safety Corner

Beware of Meth Lab Waste

The NHWPCA is pleased to share with you the following important article written by Wende Giorgi, NHDES Safety Compliance Administrator

What is meth?

Methamphetamine, or meth, is a highly addictive drug with potent central nervous system (CNS) stimulant properties. Crystal meth resembles glass fragments or shiny blue-white "rocks" of various sizes. Some of its street names include crank, crystal, speed, chalk, glass, and ice. It can be smoked, snorted, injected, or ingested. Manufacturing, distributing, or possessing meth is illegal.

Why is meth lab waste dangerous?

A common way to make meth is the "one pot" or "shake and bake" method. This process involves combining several common household ingredients in one container (such as a drink bottle, toolbox, cooler, or other containers) and is extremely dangerous. The concentration of the products builds up pressure within the sealed container and runs a very high risk of exploding. Simply picking up or prodding a container that has waste from meth manufacturing could cause the bottle/container to burst into flames, explode, or fail, which can cause the toxic chemicals to spray the person holding the container, or anyone nearby. Exposure to the high levels of contaminants used in meth manufacturing can cause shortness of breath, coughing, chest pain, dizziness, lack of coordination, chemical irritation, and burns to the

skin, eyes, mouth, and nose, and in severe cases, death.

Where can meth lab waste be found?

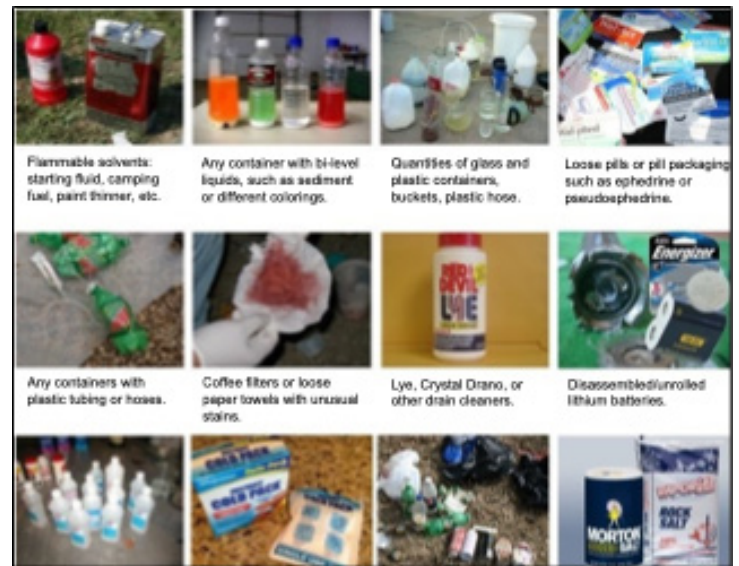
Meth lab waste can be discovered anywhere! Meth labs have been found in homes, sheds, motel and hotel rooms, car trunks, the woods, abandoned areas, parking areas, parks, along rivers, trails, and roadways.

What to do if you encounter meth lab waste:

If you suspect meth lab waste, DO NOT TOUCH IT! Leave the area immediately. Note the location and report it to local law enforcement. If possible, mark the location to make it easier for responders to find. Notify your supervisor immediately.

Commonly found meth lab waste

Commonly found meth lab waste may include those pictured below.



Meth waste could also include rubber gloves, sulfuric/muriatic/phosphoric acid, cat litter, respirator masks, bed sheets/pillowcases with red staining or white residue, propane tanks, fuel tanks/cans, matches.



This article was brought to you by the NHWPCA Safety Committee in the absence of any Near Miss submissions. We are still seeking Near Miss ideas, so if you or someone you know has had a Near Miss, please reach out to Patty Chesebrough at ChesebroughPL@gmail.com. Submissions are always kept confidential!

The Safety Committee would like you to think about where you might find these kinds of wastes in our industry. In sewer/drain systems? On the ground near a pump station?

If you have questions or requests for other safety articles or training you would like the Safety Committee present, please reach out to Committee Chair, John Hart at jhart@r-r-inc.com or 207-747-8597.

Thoughts from the Bench

By Stephanie Rochefort, City of Somersworth WWTF

Sometimes my lab looks like Christmas Day! I'm thinking about Christmas Day when my twins were three years-old. They opened up all their gifts,

Lab in movies~



Lab in real life~



scattering wrapping paper and ribbons and bows all over. And then they opened up all the boxes to play with their new toys. They also opened the boxes that contained new clothes, but that wasn't much fun so the new clothes were thrown in with all the wrapping paper and ribbons and bows. If a new toy needed to be put together or have batteries installed, it was tossed aside. After creating all this mess, one of them wanted crackers and juice and the other one wanted a new story-book read. So, I grabbed some crackers and juice and we sat down in the middle of the mess to read a story. And please don't judge me for giving them juice – I watered it down when they were little so they weren't consuming too much sugar.

My lab looks like Christmas day when too many boxes of supplies and equipment arrive at the same time. I open up all the boxes and take everything out so that I can check the packing slip. Then, if I'm busy, everything just sits on the bench... How busy am I that I can't put stuff away, you must be wondering?! Well, there's a lot of important steps involved.

If I receive a chemical or reagent, I first write the date received on the bottle. And then I write "date opened_____". I also add a site-specific

lot number so that I can track what reagents were used for any given test on any given day. I have a log-book where I designate the site-specific lot number and I record the manufacturer's lot number, expiration date and name of the chemical or reagent. I also have a note to check the SDS and the COA. What are those acronyms? SDS (formerly MSDS) is the Safety Data Sheet. There is usually a paper copy in the box that the chemicals arrive in, but sometimes I have to go online and download the SDS. The SDSs are updated at an annoying frequency, so I have to check whether the one that I just received is the same as the one in our big book of SDS. If not, the SDS gets reviewed and signed off by all staff. COA is certificate of analysis. Again, sometimes these are in the box and sometimes I have to download. I review the COA, write the site-specific lot number and file.

All of this work is really important because if any of my lab results are ever questioned, I could demonstrate that all of the reagents that I used for each test were not past the expiration date and that I used the appropriate reagents for the test. This also comes in handy for an in-depth audit...

I've learned the hard way to add an extra step before putting critical reagents, like pH buffers, on the shelf. I print out the words "WRITE THIS ITEM ON THE BOARD WHEN OPENED". That's because I don't have a personal clone, so I'm the only one to order critical reagents and I need help keeping track! The hard way that I learned this was after I got a phone call while on vacation and had to order supplies with FAST (expensive) shipping. I'd love to say that I solved this problem by making sure that I have a full stock of all my critical reagents at all times, especially before going on vacation...but I'm not that good, and didn't I just say that I need help keeping track...



Residuals Report

New Hampshire's Other 603

By Wade Pelham, Water Division – Wastewater Engineering Bureau, NHDES

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports a diverse framework of

environmental regulations which protect public health and the environment. Wastewater treatment facilities are designed, constructed and operated to properly treat wastewater flows originating in the more densely populated areas of the state. More rural areas rely on septic systems to treat their wastewater. Proper design and construction of these on-site wastewater systems are also overseen by NHDES. To help ensure longevity of operation for these systems, septic tanks must be pumped routinely by a NHDES permitted septage hauler. Those septage volumes are removed from the septic tank and transported to a wastewater treatment plant for processing. NHDES receives annual reports from each of the New Hampshire permitted septage haulers and the wastewater plants, allowing the reported volume totals to be compared to ensure that pumped volumes and the septage volumes offloaded at the plants are able to be reconciled. A crucial link in that treatment chain is the septage hauler vehicle fleet. The tanks of these trucks and trailers must be physically sound in order to safely transport septage. To help guarantee this, NHDES inspects the vehicle when it is initially permitted, and subsequently every other year after that. The NHDES inspector travels throughout New Hampshire and the region to make sure that all the vehicles hauling septage in New Hampshire are properly permitted; have sound, watertight tanks; and have spill control kits present to provide quick remediation in the event of very small volume, accidental spills. Current NHDES inspector Jim Talvy has been diligent in making sure that companies providing this important service in New Hampshire are properly permitted and equipped to safely transport the material over the roadways, and waterways in some cases, of New Hampshire. The current number of NHDES permitted septage hauling vehicles has surpassed the 600 threshold and presently sits at an impressive total of 603 (a rather fitting number for New Hampshire). When asked whether it is difficult to permit and inspect that many vehicles, Jim explains that he sees that number as a positive indicator. "To me", he says, "that 603 number shows that there are a healthy number of environmental professionals in the industry in New Hampshire fulfilling these important roles, and that is a good thing provided it is done safely and in compliance with the environmental regulations".



Pretreatment Tales

26th Annual New England Industrial Pretreatment Coordinators Workshop

By Jay Pimpare, Regional Pretreatment Coordinator

Just a quick reminder that the Workshop registration is open! See the following announcement:

I am proud to announce that on October 29-31, 2024, the New England Regional Pretreatment Coordinators Association (NERPCA) and EPA New England will be hosting the 26th Annual New England Industrial Pretreatment Coordinators Workshop in Nashua, New Hampshire. This is the longest consistently (we never missed a beat with the pandemic) running workshop in the country! Please note there is an optional training session (Dealing with High Strength Waste) on October 29th.

The training session will be followed by a tour of the brewery process and networking event within walking distance of the hotel. Please note the tour is limited to the first 50 people who register. The full two-day workshop will be held on October 30-31.

All Workshop information (agenda, registration, hotel rooms, etc.) can be found by visiting: <https://nerpca.org/index.html>



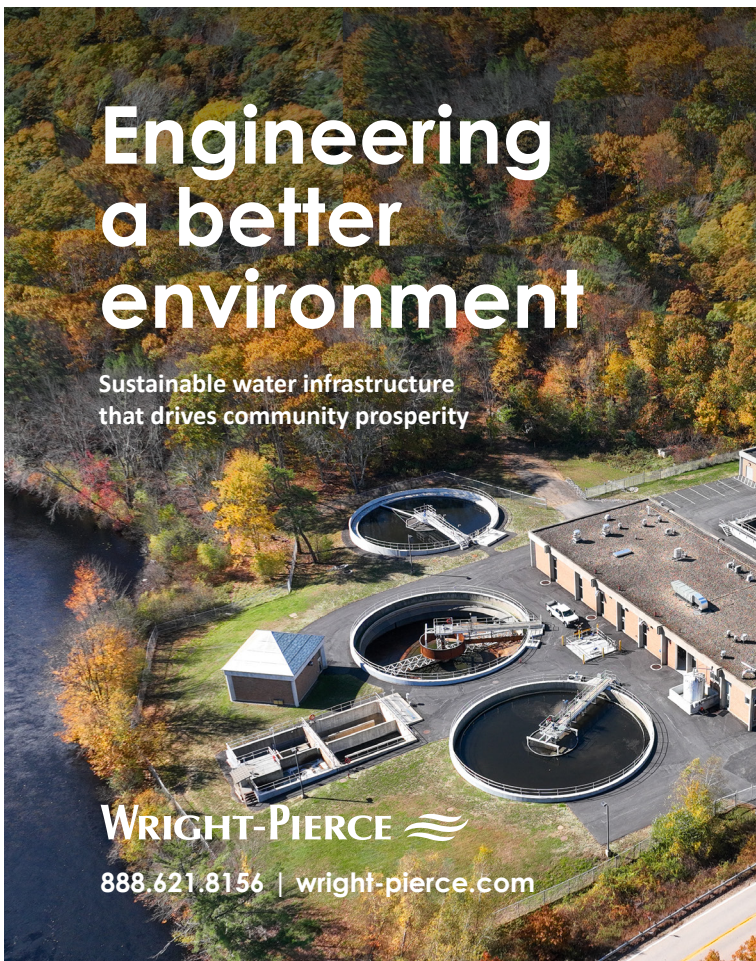
Please use the Annual Conference link to register for the workshop. Registration forms can be sent to the NERPCA email or mailed to the PO Box. Payments can be made by credit card via pay pal or municipal check only mailed to the PO Box. Please note the hotel block and link for anyone looking for accommodations.

Attendance at this conference is strongly encouraged for all municipal (and their consultants, if applicable,) and state industrial pretreatment personnel. This workshop is not open to industrial users so please do not share with your permitted users.

Hope to see as many of you as possible in October. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Kerry Britt at kbritt@narrabay.com

Cheers
Jay

Justin Pimpare
Regional Pretreatment Coordinator
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This Political Season Think Before You Speak

EDITORIAL reprinted with permission from the Londonderry Times, original print-date July 18, 2024

In past years, comments of some candidates have been so outrageous, that they polarize people, get them all riled up, and it's all we can do not to blurb out something as equally inappropriate.

The same holds true as we read and watch most news stories about the latest acts of violence against political parties. It's too easy to react with generalizations, rumors, and accusations that, in calmer times, we would never consider uttering.

Looking at the anger and outrage of an us VS them mentality makes it even more important to recognize the power that free speech carries. Free speech is a serious responsibility. We need to understand the potential result of demonizing religions, nationalities, or political parties.

It's not just the Presidential election that brings out the worse in people, it happens with all kinds of tragedies. People looking to divide us more instead of making it better in a calm manner has people taking matters to a violent level using fear. We all need to learn how to listen to each other; maybe we think differently or we do not have the same perspective, but no matter what, we must learn to agree to disagree and civilly find common ground.

Calling for violence against each other is just wrong. Whether it's in the heat of a political race or reaction to a horrendous act it does no one any good and is very hard to justify. The idea of thinking about what we say before we say it needs a huge boost right about now.

In this age of social media and the Internet, people write, send, and post without even a second reading or a thought as to what consequence the words they just posted may have. We're used to immediate gratification when we get all wound up about a cause, politician, or injustice and love an almost immediate reaction. But we're dealing with real lives. If people hear something enough times about someone or something with no truth to it, just allegations, violence is a possible response, one no one wants.

Think before you speak!

It is very human to care, and be passionate about a particular topic or subject. Channel that passion and your messaging in a way that gets people to listen to you, promotes dialogue and discussion, and creates an atmosphere where free speech is welcomed and celebrated. Find common ground, recognize, and appreciate people's differences. We are all just people. Dividing us more that we already are serves no purpose, and the more we draw attention to these differences, the less we see how we are all the same.



Wastewater Operator Certification: Required meeting with Certification Committee

Env-Wq 304.13 Requires each applicant who achieves certification, whether by examination or reciprocity to meet with the certification committee prior to receiving certification.

Like defending a doctoral thesis this meeting (“the interview”) sounds rather intimidating; So why do we do it, and what is it all about?

We do it because wastewater certification is a big deal – it is a credential you earn to show you have the specific skills and knowledge necessary to properly operate and maintain wastewater treatment plants, to meet all applicable permit requirements and achieve the highest quality of effluent of all wastewaters prior to discharge to the surface or groundwater of the state. We do it because without wastewater treatment plant operators, we would all end up living in an environment of our own waste and face the consequences of such living. We do it because wastewater treatment plant operators aren’t generally appreciated the way they should be, and we want to make sure you know from the start that you are appreciated.

The essence of the meeting is to congratulate you on becoming a certified wastewater treatment plant operator, and to communicate not only the importance of wastewater treatment in a civilized society but to highlight the rights and responsibilities you now have as a certified wastewater treatment plant operator. Only certified wastewater treatment plant operators can operate wastewater treatment plants and you have the responsibility to do so

professionally and ethically.

To help you discharge the duties of a wastewater treatment plant operator the meeting highlights the help available from the wastewater community and various operating documents like O&M manuals, discharge permits, laws, rules, and other educational materials. The wastewater community includes not only fellow operators, and you are introduced to some at this meeting, but organizations like NHWPCA, GSRW, NHDES and the WW Certification Committee. You need to know right from the start that even though you are now a certified operator you aren’t expected to do it alone, you’re now a member of an esteemed team of wastewater treatment professionals who are ready to help.

Well, I guess the required meeting with the certification committee isn’t so intimidating after all, and by the way, the meeting is a public meeting which anyone can attend, either in person or virtually, so check it out sometime. The meeting is scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of January and July each year at the Franklin Training Center or find the virtual meeting at <https://www.des.nh.gov/about/boards-and-committees/wastewater-certification-committee>

Current members of the certification committee are:

- Richard “Dick” Emberley – Chairman, NHDES (WWEB WW Operations)
- Mark Kondelis Sr. – NHDES (WWEB WW Operations & Certification and Training Manager)
- Ariel Wright – Non-DES Member (H2O Innovation – Newington)
- Dan Driscoll – NHWPCA (Concord WWTF Superintendent)
- David White – NHWPCA (Contoocook/Hopkinton WWTF Operator)
- Alt.#1: Dylan Tucker (Waterville Valley Superintendent)
- Alt.#2: Vinnie Melendez (MA Rural Water)



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When Will the PFAS Stop?

By Anthony F. Drouin, Supervisor, RMS NHDES

When will the PFAS stop.....?

The short answer to that is, most likely not in our lifetimes. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been dominating our internal and external conversations in the clean water world for quite some time now. We have discussed its impacts, source, and even potential treatment technologies. The one topic that is gaining much attention this year is the new NPDES monitoring requirements for PFAS in influent, effluent, sludge, and collection systems. These new requirements can seem daunting to most, and potentially even impossible to execute for some.

The good news is that there is a process to successfully sample for PFAS in your wastewater and sludge without needing an extra college degree or even 20 plus years of direct experience. The guidelines for PFAS sampling, along with training courses, are now available for operators in New Hampshire. Each Spring and Fall, NHDES hosts a NHWPCA PFAS sampling training class that goes over in detail how to establish a PFAS Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP). The course even has hands on sampling events to demonstrate proper sampling methods.

By using the NEIWPCC "The Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators Guide to Biosolids Sampling and Analysis Plans" book and the NEBRA "Sampling and Analysis of PFAS in Biosolids and Associated Medias" guidebook, the NHDES is able to provide training on how to establish an SAP for the new PFAS monitoring requirements in a way that complies with the NH NPDES permits. By utilizing these documents to create a strong SAP for PFAS, we can confidently pass this new work assignment onto operators and laboratory technicians. If a facility lacks an SAP for PFAS, how will the next operator know how to clean the equipment and sample for PFAS without cross contaminating? As we have all seen in the recent past, people retire or seek opportunities elsewhere, leaving vacancies at the plant. These vacancies are being felt across the whole industry and even beyond.

So, do yourself and your facility a favor by reviewing these two-sampling guidance documents to

establish your facilities' SAP for PFAS. That way this valuable information can be passed down smoothly and easily to the operators of the plant. You can take it one step further by signing up for the next NHWPCA PFAS sampling training class that will be provided at the Franklin Training Facility this Fall. Keep an eye out for this class advertisement coming out real soon. If you have any questions about the class, please reach out to Wade Pelham, Residuals Coordinator at NHDES.



NH Drinking Water & Wastewater Managers School

Class of 2025 Program Announcement

The NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), the NH Water Pollution Control Association (NHWPCA) and the NH Water Works Association (NHWWA) are pleased to announce the next session of the NH Drinking Water & Wastewater Managers School, for 2025. Application to the program is open to drinking water and to wastewater professionals preparing for future management or supervisory positions, as well as current managers and supervisors who wish to improve their management skills. Course topics include municipal and utilities legal concepts, budgeting, personnel management/human resources, communication skills, education and outreach, public information and messaging, and instruction by current NH water and wastewater utility managers. All applicants must complete the 2 forms (Form A and Form B available at: https://nhwpca.org/NH_Drinking_Water_Wastewater_Managers_School) and have them returned to the DES **by December 31, 2024** for consideration. Each applicant will be notified of individual selection results by January 31, 2025.



Program Details

The course is expected to begin in March 2025. Training will be conducted one day per month, March through November, on the **3rd Tuesday of each month**, with most classes in Concord, NH. In addition to this classroom time, there will also be: a utility exchange where candidates will spend a day with the manager of another water utility; time outside of class involved with preparing presentations; and time outside of class performing outreach promoting water utility/environmental concepts. Individuals who complete the course will be awarded 70 training contact hours (7.0 CEUs), approved for NH DW and WW operator certification continuing education credit.

Program Cost

There is no cost to apply. For those accepted into the program, tuition is **\$750 per person**, with full payment due by February 28, 2025. Scholarships may be available through the NHWPCA and NHWWA, please contact NHWWA at info@nhwwa.org or visit www.nhwpc.org to learn more.

To Apply

Candidates simply need to complete **Form A** and have their supervisor complete **Form B**, and ensure that both are submitted to:

NHDES-WWEB, attention: Wade Pelham, PO BOX 95 Concord, NH 03302

or emailed to wade.pelham@des.nh.gov by December 31, 2024.

If you have any questions please contact Wade Pelham, NHDES at (603) 271-2818 or wade.pelham@des.nh.gov. We look forward to receiving your application.



NH Water and Wastewater Managers School

Jason Gagnon

*North Conway Water Precinct W&WW Superintendent
NH W&WW Managers School class of 2017*

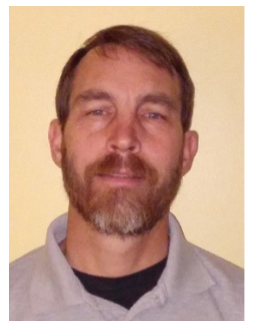
I am incredibly grateful for the experience I had in the NH Water and Wastewater Managers School. Before entering the municipal world, I had years of experience both in engineering and hands-on construction and maintenance of water infrastructure. What is often overlooked, however, is how much more goes into management of water and wastewater facilities than just operational knowledge. The W&WWMS provided me with a background in the managerial disciplines of finance, human resources, and capital planning. And perhaps most important, the personal relationships developed with NHDES staff and other managers across the state gave me a full address book's worth of experienced water and wastewater professionals to reach out to whenever I come across a "new to me" situation. Years after graduating from the program, my classmates and instructors are still the ones I reach out to first with questions. If you think you might be interested in moving into a management position, I strongly encourage you to participate in WWMS.



Mike Carle

*Chief Operator
Hampton Wastewater Treatment Plant
NH W&WW Managers School Class of 2017*

My name is Mike Carle and I am the Chief Operator for the Hampton Wastewater Treatment Plant. Having moved up the ranks, most of my management education had been on-the-job training. The opportunity to participate in the NH Water and Wastewater Managers School really helped me identify areas for improvement and sharpen the skills needed to lead my team and bring out the best job performance in all of us.



Here's what was news in *The Collector* a decade ago, could we still have this conversation today?

National Certification: What Would it Mean for Wastewater Treatment Operators?

By Sheldon Primus

Increased salaries? The elimination of state reciprocity? Those are just two reasons the wastewater industry should consider a national certification.

In North America, water, wastewater, and distribution and collections systems do not have a national certification program. In some industries—including teaching, nursing, therapy disciplines and interpreting—a national certification has been the norm for years. Should the wastewater industry be standardized under a federal requirement? Would a national certification program serve the greater good of the industry in the future?

The Current Certification System

Under the current wastewater certification system, each state creates criteria to maintain compliance with FRL-6230-8 found in the Federal Register Volume 64 No. 24 Feb. 5, 1999. The ruling is specific to drinking water operator certification, but wastewater certification has also been adopted under this ruling. States were given control over items such as:

- The type of exam that should be given (oral or written)
- The type of operator training, which the EPA evaluates annually
- A fixed renewal cycle term not to exceed 3 years
- Training requirements for certification renewal

That said, state guidelines must follow the operator certification guidelines outlined by Section II of the Operator Certification Guideline.

Reciprocity is an issue that goes hand-in-hand with a national certification program. Reciprocity means an operator who holds a valid license from one state can get credit for that established license

in another state. Therefore, the operator only has to apply for reciprocity with the new state. States such as Indiana and Kentucky currently reciprocate with other states, while states such as Florida do not. An operator who wants to move to Florida and operate a facility must meet all of that state's requirements as a new operator. Though the experience will still be credited to the operator, he/she must meet training and testing requirements before receiving a Florida license.

Why Do We Need a National Certification Program?

A national certification program would give the wastewater treatment industry a much needed image boost and add professional credentialing to a highly technical industry. In an August 2013 article in the AWWA's *Opflo* magazine, the authors declared "operators also enjoyed comparatively less earning power than other professions, largely due to the fact that the cost of their services are priced much lower than they're worth." The article went on to introduce a Professional Operator (PO) designation much like engineers earn a Professional Engineering (PE) designation.

In addition to a PO designation, a national certification would eliminate the system of state reciprocity. This certification should not be mandated, but serve as an option for operators who might want to keep options open. Operators who must move will have the assurance they can apply for a job without having to take a drastic pay cut while obtaining a new license.

Lastly, a national certification program would include uniform training criteria as developed by the EPA, a national operator association or other entities such

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as the Association Boards of Certification. ABC has an established voluntary, international operator certification program and has developed model standards of operator certification that provide a framework and benchmark for operator evaluation.

How Can We Create a National Certification Program?

The creation of a national certification program has to come from the inside out, meaning the change must be demanded by operators, municipalities that are struggling to hire qualified operators, and states that are willing to divide the piece of the certification fee pie. The industry has widely established the Sacramento State Course as a standard for drinking water and wastewater certification, so course training doesn't have to change from the established curriculum. However, in addition to these courses, criteria should be set to determine an operator's knowledge on specialized systems. Imagine having a national certification with a concentration or endorsement for UV Disinfection, Advanced Waste Treatment or Biological Nutrient Removal. With an endorsement addition to a national certification, a hiring municipality can rest assured a candidate is qualified for a particular system.

States can administer the test or use an online program. CEU requirements would be consistent with the law—not more than three years—but that training will be as its current framework within the states. A PO would have to meet ABC program requirements, but each state would have to formally recognize the PO designation.

The future of operations would change forever with a national certification program. And who knows? It could lead to an international program where global water and wastewater communities share talent.

Sheldon Primus is a Class A licensed wastewater operator with more than 18 years of industry experience. He is a Certified Occupational Safety Specialist, authorized OSHA outreach instructor and holds a master's degree in public administration with a concentration in environmental policies. He has held positions as a laboratory operator, chief operator, plant superintendent, safety and compliance officer, and industrial pretreatment coordinator.

Primus is CEO of Utility Compliance Inc. based in Port St. Lucie, Fla., which helps utilities in industrial pretreatment and risk management program compliance, water

and wastewater CEU training as well as occupational safety program development and OSHA outreach training for general industry and construction. He is also an online adjunct instructor for the Environmental Science Department at Florida Gateway College. He can be reached at sheldon@utilitycompliance.net or 888/398-0120.

Swings and Things from the 2024 NHWPCA Golf Outing

By Fred McNeill, City of Manchester

The New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association hosted its 35th annual golf tournament at the Beaver Meadows Golf Course in Concord. Beaver Meadows is one of the oldest golf 18-hole courses in New England, starting play in 1896. Today, some 128 years later, despite all the improvements in agronomy, technology, and equipment we are still challenged and humbled by this beautiful and majestic golf course.

The first day of August was a warm sunny mid-summer day. Perfect for 110 golfers from all over New England to join their NHWPCA colleagues for a day of fun, fellowship, and golf. This event always provides an opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new ones, and trade the latest in industry gossip. All players received a Taylor Made golf hat as a participation prize and a raffle ticket for the many high quality gifts courtesy of our generous sponsors. Players enjoyed a continental breakfast, some early morning adult beverages, and then hit the driving range and putting green to hone their golfing skills for the big tournament. At 8:15 am 28 teams totaling 110 players headed out in their carts to their respective starting holes to begin 18 holes of fun and games.

As a tournament tradition, a putting contest was hosted by recently retired Mario Leclerc, a long-time industry leader and friend of NHWPCA. Each team stopped by to test their putting skills after the 9th hole with 12 putts. We once again faced a short but tough left breaking uphill putt. It was such a tough putt that the winning score was only three made, which was achieved by three different teams. Using the old scientific tie-breaking method of throwing the scores sheets in the air and picking the one closest to your foot, the winner was our new friend Parsons.

The golfers finished their rounds in record time and headed back to the clubhouse for lunch at Beaver Meadows' famous 19th Hole. All the guests enjoyed a traditional BBQ lunch of chicken, burgers, dogs, along with plenty of tasty treats for dessert. After lunch it was time for the awards ceremony which started with the skill prizes that were awarded for the putting contest, longest drive, straightest drive, and "closest-to-the-pin". During the awards ceremony there were several "shout-outs" to recognize our industry leaders. Howard Carter, incoming WEF president was recognized along with Deb Mahoney incoming NEWEA President. Three generations of the Fritz Family who operate Electrical Installations, Inc. were recognized as long time tournament sponsors. Lastly, recognized as NEWEA's patriarch, parliamentarian, and photographer Charlie Tyler was given a hearty NHWPCA shout-out!

After the skills prizes it was time for the rubber to meet the road and see who the 2024 NHWPCA Golf Tournament champion was. After posting 28 scores the cream quickly rose to the top. Grabbing third place with a 63 was Weston & Sampson led by Andrew Butler. Second place with an identical score of 63 was Team Wright Pierce No. 2 led by Rebecca Saucier. This year's winner with a sizzling 59 was Team Wright Pierce No. 2 led by old friend Tim Vadney. Next over \$2,000 in prizes were raffled off including drivers, hybrids, wedges, bags, and other golfing goodies courtesy of our generous sponsors. Lastly, our long-time sponsor Aqua Solutions, Inc. provided Bruins tickets and Western & Sampson provided Red Sox tickets that were raffled off. A well-earned congratulations to all our winners and participants. As the day began to wind down, the last of the golfing gang on the patio raised their glasses in one last toast to the NHWPCA golf tournament and the great time had by all.

As always, we wish to thank all of our very generous sponsors listed below. Our sponsor's generosity and participation is what makes this such a successful event for NHWPCA. We look forward to seeing you next year for our 36th golf tournament on Thursday August 7, 2025 at Beaver Meadow Golf Course.

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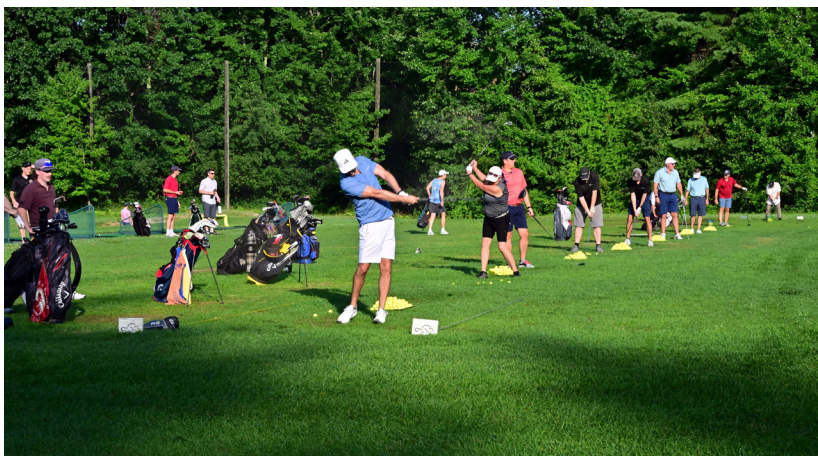


Photo Gallery

NHWPCA Golf Outing







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