

Share Your Thoughts

A Message from the NHWPCA President

By Michael R. Theriault, PE, Wright-Pierce

In 2023, the Association set ambitious goals of creating new committees and revising several existing committees with a common focus on workforce development and aligning ourselves with NEWEA and NEWWA initiatives on the **Work for Water** program. Thanks to the hard work of members of these committees, we are happy to report movement in a positive direction.



- The Education Committee was redefined and broadened to develop a pathway for Water and Wastewater Operations as curriculums at Trade/Tech Schools and Community Colleges. A syllabus was developed and the program gained significant interest from the Manchester Technical School which is targeting a Fall 2024 program roll out. Graduates of the program will gain the knowledge necessary to apply for the operator certification exam and, with minimum onsite experience, be eligible for operator certification. The NH Department of Education has expressed interest in the initiative and members of the Association Board and the Education Committee are working with the DOE to keep the program growing to other areas of the state.
- The new Youth Outreach Committee reaches out to pre-secondary education students planting the importance of clean water and clean drinking water into young minds through a variety of fun events such as the 4th Grade Drinking Water Festival and Science Fair, Wild NH Day, Construction Career Day, Clean Water Week Poster Contest, and others.
- The new Social Media Committee takes over some of the old goals of the former Communications Committee and helps to communicate with the target audiences of the Education and Youth Outreach committees. New social media accounts on a variety of platforms aligned with current trends of younger minds will be able to convey educational, humorous, and informative content. With the scan of a QR code, you can take a tour of Portsmouth's Pierce Island WWTF or watch Sean McDonald of NH Chronicle performing 'Dirty Jobs' at Concord's Hall Street WWTF. The committee is also facilitating a new NH WWTF Operators forum on the NHWPCA website for collaboration and information sharing.

The Association Board has formed a mini subcommittee of Board members that are exploring alternatives to the 2025 Trade Fair and Summer Meetings, possibly considering a combined event extending multiple days, with the goal of attracting more attendees, educational opportunities, and fun activities.

We enter the second year with NEWEA assisting with association management and there have been notable successes with this teaming.

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NHWPCA Board

- Michael Theriault,
President*
- Aaron Costa,
Vice President*
- Patty Chesebrough,
Secretary*
- Mario Leclerc,
Treasurer*
- Nate Brown,
1st Director*
- Peter Conroy,
2nd Director*
- David Webber,
3rd Director*
- Anthony Drouin,
1st Director at Large*
- Phil Boisvert,
2nd Director at Large*
- Michael Trainque,
NEWEA Director*

Editor's Words



Stephanie,
Somersworth WWTF

I recently had a new-to-me word come across my desk – PLUVIOPHILE. A pluviophile is a person who enjoys rain and rainy days, and who is fascinated by the sights, sounds, etc. of rain. Well, that does not describe me because, like most other WWTF operators, I find rain events kinda stressful. So, I decided to look up the word for a person who does not enjoy rain. Google failed me. I kept finding the word OMBROPHOBE. That means a person who is suffering from ombrophobia, which is a fear of rain...or a plant with does not survive in or tolerate rainy conditions. I'm definitely not an ombrophobe.

I suppose that I am a pluviophile. I do enjoy watching and listening to rain. And "rain" is different than a "rain event." The high flow alarm does not call me out for "rain."

I have been camping in the rain with a troop of young Girl Scouts on several occasions. The very first camping experience when my daughter was a first-year brownie involved rain. And wind. And thunder. And lightning. I continued to camp with young Girl Scouts many more times. There was the time that we tore down camp in the pouring rain, threw everything in the vehicles, and cooked our pancakes when we got back to my house. And the time that we went hiking in the rain and lost shoes in the mud. And the time that their tent blew over and got wet inside because they didn't stake it down. And the time that we were prepared for a ban on campfires because the weather had been so dry...and it rained...and the ban stayed in effect! My favorite rain experience was teaching them how to start a campfire in the rain. They were so proud when they got that fire started, and the campfire snacks tasted extra yummy.

Hopefully it's a sunshiny day when you're reading this newsletter. We've got lots of great articles and blurbs and some wonderful photos. And of course, I must mention that the newsletter committee would love to have more members. We meet quarterly via a cocktail-hour zoomie-zoom to critique the most recent edition of the newsletter and plan the next one. Cheers!

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Upcoming Events

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

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| Mar. 6 - Legislative Breakfast | Apr. 12 - Annual Trade Fair with Board Meeting |
| Mar. 8 - Board Meeting | Apr. 20 - Wild NH Day |
| Mar. 14 - NHWPCA, NEWEA, GMWEA Ski Day | May 10 - Board Meeting |
| Apr. 8 - DC Fly-In | Jun. 21 - Summer Outing with Board Meeting |

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Stephanie Rochefort, Mary Jane Meier, Steve Clifton, Ryan Peebles, Dylan Delisle, **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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For more information about the NHWPCA visit our website at www.nhwPCA.org

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- 2024 has the first full streamlined roll out of annual sponsorship. This has been widely requested by past Boards and supporting companies of the Association. Rather than soliciting vendors, consultants, and supporting companies with sponsorship of individual events, companies can sign up for an annual sponsorship at varying levels they choose – Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum. Of course, companies can still sponsor a single event a-la-carte, but the roll out provides a single signup for a year of events.
- Collaboration to avoid meeting conflicts. NEWEA maintains lists of events in NH and other New England states that is a great resource when planning events at the beginning of the year or further in advance. We want to make sure operators and vendors are not picking and choosing attendance between interesting events in other areas, golf tournaments, trade shows, or even more regional or national events.
- The Association and NEWEA are rolling out an Administration Handbook that will provide improved continuity as Board, Committee, and Association members change over the years. It has been almost 10-15 years since some of the standard operating documents had been updated so a facelift is a welcome. The handbook is intended to serve as a working dynamic updated annually, and contain standard operating procedures for each committee and event, and help to facilitate communication on lessons learned in the past.

All our committees are looking for volunteers to help with our many events. If you are not already on one, please check out the list of committees on the website which includes an information submission field to sign up. We highly encourage managers of Group Memberships to get your staff to signup for a committee, several of which meet virtually if travelling might be a concern.

There were no nominations for the Plant of the Year in 2023 and it was disappointing that we could not honor one of our own NH plants at the Winter Meeting. With all the fantastic work the folks in our industry have been doing with pencil thin budgets and limited staffing, the Plant of the Year award should easily be a competitive honor. I challenge all of you to take some time out of your year some day and put forth the effort to nominate a facility and a team.



Blurbs, Blurbs, & More Blurbs

Congratulations to the Drinking Water & Wastewater Management School 2023 graduates!



Left to right are: Meadow Wotton, Syllas Slayton, Tom Caughey, Daumanic Fucile, Eric Messier, Sam Currier, Nicholas Fontaine, Ian Chase, Robert Burdick, Nathan Young, Jacob McLaughlin, Chris Walters Jr, Bryan Hollis, Luis Armas, Blake Miner, Nolan White

Calling All Corn-holers!

The Summer Meeting will be here before we know it! It's one of the very best gatherings of our membership and features a grand opportunity to relax with friends and dine on great BBQ fare with ice cream dessert. For many the crowning event is the Corn hole tournament. This year we will propose a new partner-selection method to allow "Fate" to make the pairings!

We will use a Random or Blind Draw concept. Basically, on the day of the event, each registered player will receive a Number. Tickets will be prepared for each player's number. An official will draw tickets from a bowl to determine player partners. Life is just one BIG test, and this year we get to see if the Mario Leclerc and Mike Dube partnership is meant to be! Look for more details in the Summer Collector! Hope to see you all at the Summer Meeting!

Calling All Volunteers!

Registration to volunteer for the New Hampshire Water Festival is open!

This year the 3rd-5th grade Festival, science fair and poetry contest will be in **Plymouth on May 8th**. Join us to share your passion for clean water and a healthy environment with the next generation of

stewards.

Learn more about it on our website! Check out the great video made about the event on the Home page (nhwaterfestival.org/) and find more details on the Volunteer page in the FAQ section (nhwaterfestival.org/volunteers/).

There are many ways to participate:

- Judging (science fair & poetry)
- Leading a Water Education Activity (If you don't have an activity in mind one can be provided)
- Present a Water Related Exhibit on behalf of your organization
- General Support Staff.
- Donations are always welcome (info below)

To register:

- To lead an activity, visit the Volunteer page and click on the Volunteer Registration button.
- As a judge or to offer general support, please email Festival Coordinator Lara Hooper directly at lara.hooper@des.nh.gov



If you have participated in the past, thank you! If you are new, we encourage you to volunteer and celebrate WATER with us in May!

If you are not able to volunteer or participate but still want to contribute to the Festival and Science Fair, of course donations will gladly be accepted. The Coalition is a volunteer organization that relies on donations to fund the festival and science fair for the students each year. Donors will be recognized during the festival and in NH Water Works Association's Summer Newsletter. You may Donate Online (tinyurl.com/water-festival-donate) and select "NH Drinking Water Festival" or download the Printable Donation Form.

Thank you for supporting WATER Education in New Hampshire!

Best,

Jason C. Randall,
Superintendent
Plymouth Village Water & Sewer
Office: 603.536.2769



nhwaterfestival.org

Congratulations to New Hampshire's newly certified wastewater operators!

The following people passed a wastewater exam and received certification at the grade level indicated:

- Robert A. Barrows, Jr. — 1
- Steven J. Blackwell — 1-OIT
- Lucas P. Carrier — 1-OIT
- Nathan Limric — 1
- Tom O'Shea — 1
- Tanner J. Reale — 1
- Greg J. Vaillancourt — 1-OIT
- Zackary M. Andersen — 2
- Andrew Carr — 2-OIT
- Ryan C. Eaton Jr. — 2
- Chris Grove — 2
- Jason P. Hurley — 2
- Ricky K. Meleski — 2
- Richard W. Pierson — 2
- Justin Ruskowski — 2
- Bradley K. Swan — 2-OIT
- Albert J. Vanasse — 2-OIT
- Colin McDonnell — 2-OIT
- David A. Horn — 3-OIT
- Kalen V. Kangas — 3
- James D. Casey — 4-OIT
- Travis C. Streeter — 4-OIT

Below are people who became New Hampshire wastewater certified operators by reciprocity from another state:

- Paul J. Jessel — 3
- Brett Anchukaitis — 2
- Michael Spaulding — 1
- Brett Dupree — 2
- Timothy Siart — 2-OIT
- Jefferson Tolman — 3



Announcements

NHWPCA Annual Trade Fair

The NHWPCA would like to invite all of you to the Annual Trade Fair on **Friday, April 12, 2024** at the Sheraton in Nashua, NH. The Trade Fair floor will occupy the large Grand Ballroom. Stay tuned for the formal announcement and registration with more details about breakout technical sessions to earn CEUs.

2024 Summer Meeting - Save the Date! Friday, June 21, 2024

Come and socialize with other Association members and attendees over a corn hole tournament, a game of horseshoes, or in the sun at the beach! The Summer Meeting will include a delicious buffet and beverages. Formal announcement and registration to be distributed soon!



Safety Corner

Safety Program Recognition

Submitted by John Hart; NHWPCA Safety Committee Chair

Just like any other year, 2024 should have Safety in the forefront whether at home or at work. While every facility requires a solid Safety Program, it can only be useful if all the guidelines, regulations, and policies are practiced and documented. Secondly, a solid Safety Program reinforces how we think by looking out for our own and our coworker's well-being.

One way to recognize your efforts in maintaining a solid Safety Program is to nominate your facility for the George W. Burke, Jr. Safety Award.

George W. Burke, Jr. Safety Award - NEWEA - New England Water Environment Association



<https://www.newea.org/about-us/awards/george-w-burke-jr-safety-award/>

This award is for any Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Facilities throughout New England, and I must note that there have been several New Hampshire Facilities that have received this recognition.

Description: The George W. Burke, Jr. Award was established in 1982 in honor of George W. Burke, Jr. for his many years of service both to the water pollution control field and the Water Environment Federation (WEF) as staff manager of technical services. Mr. Burke was instrumental in developing the Federation's annual safety survey and assisting in the production of several safety training aids and promotional packets. The purpose of the award is to encourage an active and effective safety program in municipal and industrial wastewater facilities and to stimulate the collecting and reporting of injury data.

Criteria: The documented and illustrated safety program and safety record of the facility for the preceding calendar year are the primary criteria for the award.

Awarding Organization: WEF through NEWEA as a Member Association of WEF

Submission Deadline: June 1, 2024

Please note that there are two awards that might be worth considering, as follows:

WEF Safety Award:

<https://www.wef.org/membership--community/awards-recognition/service-awards/wef-safety-award/>



NEWEA Operator Safety Award:

<https://www.newea.org/about-us/awards/operator-safety-award/>



For any questions or requests for other safety topics

you want to see, please reach out to John Hart at jhart@r-r-inc.com or 207-747-8597. Additionally, the NHWPCA Safety Committee is looking for any Safety Training topics and we will do our best to accommodate.

Please be safe everyone!



Thoughts from the Bench

By Stephanie Rochefort, City of Somersworth WWTF

It doesn't matter how careful you are with your analytical procedures or how close you nail the QA/QC parameters if the composite samples that you collected aren't representative. I absolutely hate spending time carefully analyzing a sample only to realize that the wonky result is because the sample was wonky. I'm going to write about what we do here in Somersworth to try to ensure that our samples are representative.

Influent composite samples are a struggle because there's STUFF in the influent that can clog the intake strainer. Y'all know what STUFF I'm talking about! We need to make sure that the intake strainer is not placed too low or too high because an intake strainer placed too low will sample muck from the bottom of the channel and if placed too high it may float and miss samples. AND we need to make sure that the STUFF that is floating mid-stream doesn't clog the strainer. Luckily, here in Somersworth, we have a great team of mechanics who have devised an attachment to the strainer that diverts all that STUFF away from the strainer holes, while still allowing typical influent to be collected.

This same great team adds insulation and heat-trace to the intake tubing of both our influent and effluent composite samplers because we live in New England. Enough said.

We collect a lot of information about our composite samples, both influent and effluent, to make sure that the samples are representative. We log in the time that the samplers are started and what time they are shut off. The composite samples are required by our NPDES permit to be 24-hour flow-proportional samples. It's really easy to over-think the 24-hour time-frame. We try to get as close as

we can to 24 hours, but did I mention that we live in New England? Again, enough said.

We also log the initial sample aliquot volume, the total number of aliquots collected, the total volume collected and the refrigerator temperature both at start-up and shut-down. The initial volume multiplied by the number of aliquots collected should equal the total volume collected. If we have collected less sample than expected, the culprit is usually the pump tubing. I cannot say the words "pump tubing" without making a twirly hand-gesture, can you? Anyway, it's not worth it to try to trouble-shoot further, especially when you have a great team of mechanics who can replace the pump tubing quickly.

The refrigerator part of our all-weather composite samplers should be in the range of 1-6 degrees C. Recently a negative number was recorded on our effluent composite sampler's refrigerator. That might not be a big deal, but it doesn't meet the rules so the great team of mechanics did some trouble-shooting and found that the door wasn't shutting properly.

By now, you're probably wondering why I've used the words 'great team of mechanics' so many times. When the newsletter planning committee had our kick-off meeting for the 2024 newsletters, one of the tasks that we set ourselves was to highlight ALL the people who work at our facilities making clean water, not just the operators. In Somersworth, we all rotate weekend duty, so our mechanics also need lab skills. Every single one of us can and do analyze effluent samples for pH and Total Residual Chlorine. When we have been short-handed, I've relied on our mechanics to set up effluent samples for e-coli...and read out e-coli...and even read out BOD!



Residuals Report

Phosphorus Regulation in Env-Wq 1600 Septage Management

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

With the significant attention given to emerging contaminants recently, it is important to also keep in mind the impact that more traditional pollutants

can have on the environment. The various rules of the NH Department of Environmental Services must be readopted regularly to remain in effect, and the rule Env-Wq 1600 Septage Management is presently in the readoption process. This readoption includes changes intended to improve septage management in NH. One of those changes is incorporating a USDA-NRCS Phosphorus Site Index Evaluation for any domestic septage land application site in New Hampshire. The evaluation will have to be conducted by a Certified Crop Advisor. The phosphorus site index evaluation will help to determine the risk of phosphorous transport from the land applied fields into adjacent surface waters. When thresholds are exceeded and/or the landscape and slopes of the permitted areas are more susceptible to phosphorus migration, the development of alternative management like increased setbacks to the surface water will help reduce the risk of phosphorus migration. As well, the inclusion of phosphorus as a limiting nutrient will create better alignment with nearby jurisdictions and help to protect waterways from negative phosphorus impacts. If a soil test shows phosphorus saturation to the point where it is not needed for crop growth per the agronomist recommendations, then the permittee must not spread septage containing phosphorus. The permittee will be allowed to spread septage once the soil test shows that phosphorus is needed for plant growth. These regulations follow similar ones introduced in New York and other states and will further the protect our waterways and the environment in New Hampshire.



Retiree Rave

We continue our salute to the wastewater and drinking water operators and administrators who are now enjoying retirement. Our newsletter committee would appreciate hearing from our readers to expand this list so we can recognize our loyal, hardworking associates and friends. Please reach out to any of the newsletter committee members with contact information for retirees and we'll take it from there!

Honoring Mario Leclerc: A Lifetime of Dedication to Wastewater Treatment



Mario Leclerc, a dedicated man in the field of wastewater, has recently announced his retirement. His departure marks the end of an era that spanned several decades, during which he dedicated his life to municipal wastewater systems.

Mario's journey began in 1981 at the Manchester wastewater plant, where he spent many years honing his skills and laying the foundation for a career that would span several communities and countless projects.

From Manchester, Mario moved on to Allenstown as Chief Operator and Milford as Superintendent spending several years at each plant. His expertise and commitment to the job were instrumental in the successful execution of numerous wastewater projects.

After his time in Manchester, Allenstown, and Milford, Mario joined GZA as a Field Tech, further expanding his knowledge and experience in the wastewater field.

Mario then took on the role of Superintendent of Nashua Wastewater, where he spent a decade and again, his commitment and knowledge contributed to the completion of several large upgrades over the years.

The final chapter of Mario's illustrious career was at the Seabrook Wastewater Treatment Facility. As the Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator, he dedicated nine years to aiding the plant's operations. His tireless efforts have left a legacy.

Mario was not just a colleague but a mentor and friend to many. He always had a story that related to whatever was going on at the time, typically with

a laugh and a lesson in it somewhere. His quick wit and good humor were always a source of joy and camaraderie in the workplace. His dedication to the industry is proven by his willingness to help a colleague study for a test, give a tour to the public, serve on the board of directors for NHWPCA, or instruct wastewater in a school setting.

Even in retirement, Mario plans to continue teaching, further proving his dedication to the field. As we honor Mario LeClerc, we celebrate his remarkable career and express our deepest gratitude for his 42+ years of service. His dedication to his work serves as an inspiration to us all. We wish Mario and his wife Susan a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Paul Sussman

"I have had the pleasure of knowing Mario Leclerc for over 30 years. Any time I visited one of his plants, we would sit and shoot the poop for a while before talking any business. It was always a pleasure visiting Mario. But when plans needed to be implemented, Mario was all business. He had a unique way of combining personal time and work time into the same conversation. And

his efforts for the Association over the many years will not be forgotten. Thank you, Mario, for your time and dedication to the wastewater industry. It was a pleasure working with you and if you're ever in Florida, the first couple drinks are on me! Oh, and you were the best cornhole partner I ever had! Peace and long-life Mario!"

Mike Dube, Hampton WWTF

Mario made it to retirement, lucky guy! Now that he is retired, he can take his cornhole skills on the road and tour the country's cornhole competition league... LOL Congrats!

John Adie

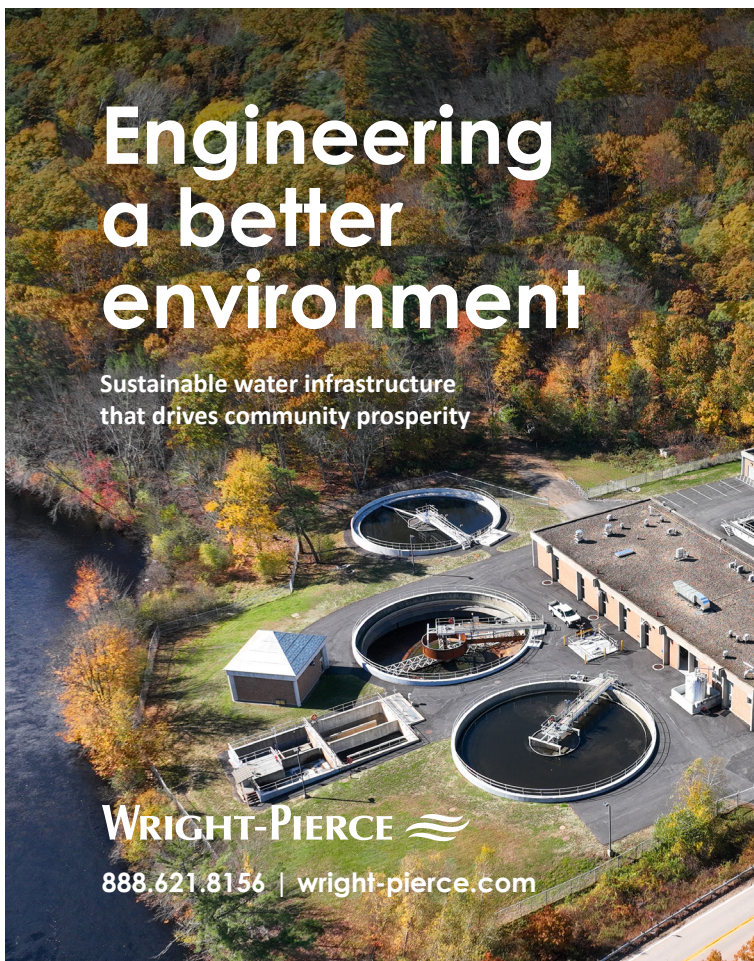
In all seriousness, Mario Leclerc is a remarkable man. We all have our ups and downs in life but it's all about how we choose to let them shape us. Mario has chosen to use all his life experiences to become a better and stronger man. He is always willing to help out and pass on knowledge about our industry or life experiences. Congratulations and much success for all his future endeavors! Shake 'em up Mario!

Funny Story: This one Mario still talks about too!

Mario and I were up in Canada checking out some dewatering equipment. It was in Montreal, Quebec....so everyone likes to speak French. I would have liked to but...well I had Mario as my interpreter. Everywhere we went I looked for him to translate. On one of our dining excursions, I was asking about the menu and food choices. I said "Mario can you find out what kind of meat that is?" Of course, without hesitation Mario blurts out some French to the server waiting on us, I could tell it was a question by the inflections on his words. There was some bantering back and forth and chuckling. I could not wait anymore, so I said "What did he say, what kind of meat is it?" Mario paused, looked me straight in the eyes, and said "sure you want to know?" and I said "YUP!" Then, with that little Mario chuckle in his voice he said "Johnny, it's MEAT!" And that was the end of that. Never found out what kind of meat it was and don't remember if I tried, either. Still makes me chuckle when I think about the whole thing! Best Wishes Always, Johnny

Frederick J. McNeill, P.E.

Mario has worn many hats during his long and distinguished 42+ year career in New Hampshire's wastewater industry. He has worked public sector



and private sector. He has worked big city and small city. He has worked inland and at the seacoast. But my favorite hat that Mario wears is as one of our industry's BIGGEST cheerleaders. Be it at the annual summer outing's corn hole tournament, or as our coach on the softball field, or running the golf tournament's putting contest Mario always has a boisterous greeting, a pat-on-the-back, and well wishes for all. But his cheerleading extends well past NHWPCA events. When my son was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident Mario was immediately there for support and comfort. When our Past-President Ray Vermette was diagnosed with leukemia Mario was there with a call every week to support and encourage him during his long road to recovery. Yes, Mario has worn many hats over his 42+ years in our industry, but the one that I will remember most fondly is as one of our most supportive cheerleaders both inside and outside of NHWPCA. Thanks to You Mario!

Mike Carle

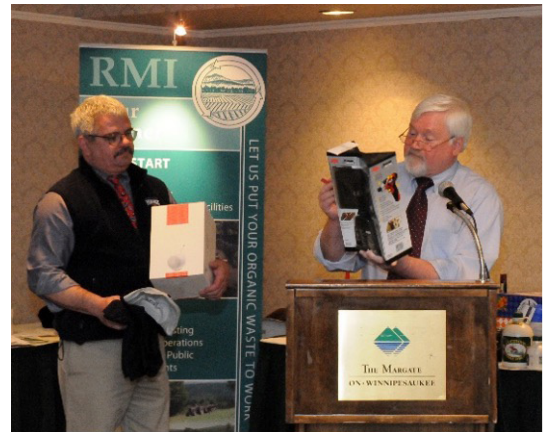
Mario may be retiring, but I doubt this is the last we will see of him. Shit is in his blood (which is better than the other way around). He is a fierce competitor and an adept educator, be it hockey, cornhole, softball, or helping to bring in a new generation of operators. I hope to continue to see him, but just not as much.

And Here's a Little Limerick on Mario's Behalf:
 There once was a man from Manchester
 In his sweaters, he looked like a jester.
 With a brain sharp as a knife
 He made shit his life,
 But his students could only last a semester.

Raymond Vermette Jr

I first met Mario in the 1990s when he was at the Milford Wastewater Facility. (I think he has worked at most facilities in New Hampshire). If I remember correctly, he talked A Lot? So things haven't changed much..... When George Neil retired as Santa and the raffle MC at the Association's events, I somehow became his replacement. Mario would and continues to heckle me while I'm trying to perform this most important duty. Most people would think that his name was "Shut Up Mario" because I would have to say that to him at least a couple dozen times at every event. All kidding aside.... You will always find Mario volunteering his time whether it be cooking at the summer outing, working the putting contest at

our golf events, selling raffle tickets to raise money for ops challenge or whatever is needed. I consider him a true friend and wish him nothing but the best in his years of well-deserved retirement.





Committee & Board SPOTLIGHTS

David L White

Certification Committee Member

1. Who is your current employer and for how long have you worked there?

Town of Hopkinton – Wastewater Superintendent – 20 days

2. What is your favorite thing about your career?

Feeling like I'm making a difference

3. Why did you decide to go into this field?

My wife made me (Sarah White)

4. What's the last movie you watched in a theater?

Can't recall – it's been 5+ years

5. What's your favorite book of all time?

O & M Manuals

6. What makes you laugh the most?

Watching the grandkids and their antics

7. If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Pizza

8. When you're not working, what are your hobbies?

2 grandchildren, camping, judging BBQ competitions.

9. Which is your favorite NHWPCA event or meeting?

Summer Outing / Winter Meeting

10. What is one thing about our association that you'd like to accomplish/change?

Increase / Expand membership

Phillip Boisvert

Position on the Board:
2nd Director at Large



1. Who is your current employer and for how long have you worked there?

Currently, I work for the City of Portsmouth at Pease WWTF as Assistant Chief Plant Operator (ACPO). I had been serving the city for just over six years.

2. What is your favorite thing about your career?

The ability to grow in the ever changing and challenging world of wastewater treatment. As with other careers it involves a myriad of specialties with the added benefit of protecting the environment.

3. Why did you decide to go into this field?

To be honest it was originally the money. At my previous job in the private sector industrial pretreatment jobs were paying more than the position I had at the time. I was given a great opportunity that set me on the course I am on today. Easily one of the top five best decisions I have made.

4. What's the last movie you watched in a theater?

MEG 2: The Trench. I sure we can all agree, not on the specifics, but some movies have to be seen in theaters.

5. What's your favorite book of all time?

Embarrassed to say, but not a huge book reader. Much of my reading is work related (which there is no shortage). If I had to choose, perhaps the most memorable, was a fantasy novel I read in middle school. A Spell for Chameleon

6. What makes you laugh the most?

In recent years my children bring the most joy to me. I also enjoy a good classic comedy movie or even dad jokes. No dad joke is too L in my opinion and they should be cherished.

7. If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Sushi, but only if someone else is buying. I can eat a lot and it would get expensive

8. When you're not working, what are your hobbies?

Obviously talking!... one of my favorite things is talking about wastewater. (That is becoming less of a joke the more I say it). I enjoy cooking new things and improving on things I cook terribly. Recently, I have taken up skiing with my son. As those of us with children know we grow to love what they love. Which fortunately for me may also be the occasional video game. Got to balance that with that goal of going to the gym more.

9. Which is your favorite NHWPCA event or meeting?

The Winter meetings are the most fun for me. I was built for the colder weather and seeing the increasingly familiar faces just before the holidays has given me the best memories so far.

10. What is one thing about our association that you'd like to accomplish/change?

I would like to continue to carry the torch of those who have laid the trail before me. We all have met those in the community whom we respect and wish we could be more like. It has become quite clear to me that given the time and dedication most anyone can be a better person and reach new heights.

Plymouth Village Water & Sewer maintains operations when the Pemi River spills over—demanding effective communication, readiness, and adaptation

*By Jason C. Randall, Superintendent
Plymouth Village Water & Sewer*

On December 19th, 2023, the Pemigewasset River (Pemi) crested at 20.58ft. This historic crest was a number 10 all-time high since records began in the late 1800s. Although the river exceeded the 18ft gauge height mark making it a “moderate flood”, it never reached 21ft which would have categorized it as a “major flood”. This time flood water from the Pemi river never reached the 100-year flood elevation, which is the WWTP parking lot, but they were about a foot away from doing so. Only one time in recent history, during Hurricane Irene in 2011, did water ever come into the WWTP parking lot when the river crested at 21.69ft. District staff constantly watch the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service River gauge website to see what the river is predicted to do.

<https://water.weather.gov/ahps2>

The Plymouth community is fortunate to be at a slightly higher elevation than our neighbors just to the east in Holderness, who take the brunt of the flooding within the Intervale. Most of the media coverage you see of “Plymouth” flooding is in Holderness. Most people think that all land west of I-93 is Plymouth, whereas the Pemi is the town boundary. I suppose you could say during a flood the Pemi does extend to I-93! The Plymouth side of the river does not come away unscathed from flooding events, our water and sewer infrastructure at the confluence of the Pemi and Baker Rivers is the most vulnerable to flood waters, but our engineers and staff do their best to reduce risk and ensure resiliency by making sure we can adapt to the conditions, whatever it takes. For Plymouth, if it is not floods, it is landslides. The sugar sand glacial eskers extending north to south along the Baker River valley continue to erode each time we experience a deluge of rain or spring melt. In fact, there are two locations where District underground

sewer infrastructure is nearby and in one instance the sewer main was exposed, suspended, and hanging off the cliff! But that is another story for another day...

The District WWTP receives wastewater by gravity and then pumps from an influent wet well up to two primary clarifiers. All the facility's process tankage, including emergency backup power, is designed approximately 9ft above parking lot elevation, which is the 100-year flood elevation. Only historic Pemi crests of 1927 and 1936 would come close to topping the treatment process tankage at 27.4ft and 29ft, respectively. Our WWTP would have withstood the 23.62ft crest of the Pemi during the New England hurricane of 1938 that devastated the region.

For our institutional customers on the Holderness side of the Pemi, it is a completely different story. They are underwater every time the Pemi reaches minor to moderate flood stage. Essentially, the District advises that they stand their ground, until they cannot. (*Refer to the pre-flood communication shown below, for reference.) Plymouth State University (PSU) owns and operates a pump station in the Intervale/floodway that receives wastewater from the Holderness School (on high ground east of I93) and a handful of Town of Holderness Residents, and one business on north and south River Roads (within the floodway). The PSU pump station wet well usually goes underwater and although it has a "waterproof" hatch, inundation occurs with minimal head. It is yet to be proven whether the inundation occurs because of inflow or because of infiltration, likely both. The station keeps pumping and PSU staff monitor wet well level advising their upstream constituents whether they are at capacity and if they may continue discharging. Most of the Holderness residents on River Roads are evacuated, so there is typically little to no sanitary sewage being discharged

during flooding from those connections. Since the Holderness School is high and dry up on the hill to the east of I-93, they continue to operate and have a need to continue discharging to the PSU pump station. Once submerged, and losing ground on their wet well, PSU typically advises Holderness School to stop discharging. Holderness School will close their inline valve and divert wastewater to a 10,000-gallon emergency backup storage tank, initially designed as an emergency backup if the "sagging" gravity sewer ever completely failed under I93, that is also another story... If the flood event lasted longer than one day, Holderness School would then need to have the emergency backup tank serviced and brought to a nearby, non-flooded WWTP.

During the December 2023 flooding the Plymouth WWTP continued to receive wastewater and flood water from the PSU lift station along with all our other sanitary (and I/I) from the Plymouth side without incident or having to shut down the plant. The PVWSD WWTP is permitted for 0.7MGD with average daily flow at the WWTP of 0.3 MGD. During flooding events we experience flows of 1.5MGD, with peaking at 3MGD (because that is all our influent wet well pumps can pump and the max limit for our influent meters). The District is fortunate not to have experienced an event exceeding our capacity to date. But if we were to... The first step would be to have the PSU pump station shut down to eliminate the threat from flood waters. Once water reached the WWTP parking lot, staff would be advised not to report to work. All efforts would be made so that staff could continue to remotely monitor both water and sewer operations through the SCADA system (our staff also have the responsibility to operate Plymouth's Drinking Water treatment and distribution). The PVWSD Drinking Water Treatment facility located at the confluence of the Pemi and Baker Rivers is frequently impacted by flood waters, more so than the WWTP. Like the WWTP, the Drinking Water Treatment facility, emergency generator, and groundwater well casings are all designed approx. 13ft above 100-year flood elevation, which allows continuous and uninterrupted operation during flooding.

If staff had to respond onsite to any impacted District facility during a flood event, they would first communicate with District management, the local emergency management director, and Fire and Police Departments to determine if they could safely

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enter the grounds and/or facility. If they could safely enter the WWTP property, they would be required to wear personal flotation devices/life jackets, use the buddy system, a watercraft or heavy equipment, and potentially use rope to tie off to fixed or non-movable objects depending on just how deep the floodwaters are. It is important to realize that moving water just six inches deep has the potential to knock a person off their feet, and twelve inches of moving water has the potential to sweep a large vehicle downstream. If the facility is flooded, moving water is not the only risk or hazard to be aware of. There could be live electricity, moving objects and debris, falling trees, and potential for sinkholes or changing landforms under the water line that would not be visible.

Through effective communication, readiness, and adaptation strategies the Plymouth Water & Sewer District can maintain control of operations through flood events with minimal impact to users and the treatment process. Staff and our engineers continually assess the risk, resiliency, and vulnerability of critical infrastructure that is located within the floodway, and we can plan and be proactive to protect our essential assets. Situational awareness is key in being able to effectively communicate risk and hazards to customers and stakeholders, affirming public safety as the number one priority during a flood event. Stay safe out there, weather and water can be dangerous and unpredictable. As Operators, our primary goal is to be able to go home to our families, friends, and loved ones at the end of every day. Please keep that in mind whenever considering and assessing risk and hazards in the workplace.



*Pre-Flood Communication:

Good Morning,

As you are all aware, the NWS is predicting the Pemi to crest at about 20ft later on this afternoon and this evening, with potential flooding in the Holderness Intervale.

The PVWSD requests that the Town of Holderness, PSU, and Holderness School stay in communication with each other throughout the day to monitor the situation at the PSU sewer pump station and take the following measures to prevent flood waters from entering into the sewer collection system and downstream WWTP.

1. Please review your sewer system Emergency Response and Sewer Overflow Response plans.
2. Please take precautions to ensure that the pump station and associated buildings are properly



sealed at the surface to prevent flood waters from entering as well as surrounding sewer manhole structures. If covers are damaged or are not bolted there is high risk that they could fail or become dislodged and compromised during flooding or system inundation.

3. Monitor pump station pump operation and wet well level throughout the day and evening to prevent flooding and associated backups from occurring. Holderness School does now have emergency sewer tank capacity if the pump station becomes overwhelmed. With appropriate notification they could valve off and divert, if necessary. My understanding from previous flood events is that a majority of flood waters entering the sewer system may be associated with the Town of Holderness collection system and associated properties/residents. At the discretion of the Town of Holderness and PSU, if all Town of Holderness properties are evacuated, it may be appropriate to install a temporary "plug" in the system to prevent flood waters from entering the sewer pump station.
4. PWWSD will monitor the WWTP and communicate with PSU/Town of Holderness/Holderness School to relay if a change in operations or pump station shutdown is required due to high flows.

4-mile ice jam causes flooding near Plymouth State University



Updated: 1:52 AM EST Feb 27, 2017



About 50 cars left in the flooded parking lot

"Look out my window and it's creeping up and there's cars underwater, so we were told to get all our stuff out in a couple hours." - PSU Student



"I don't think the ice jam is going to let loose. It's going to be too cold, but I think the river and water should recede," Holderness Fire Chief Eleanor Mardin said.



"I've heard of this happening in the past, but I've never seen anything like this. This is outrageous. This is insane!" -PSU Student

Waste Water Infrastructure Remarks

*Senator Maggie Hassan
December 8, 2023*

I wanted to take a minute to say to your winners: I know that Granite Staters in your communities are really grateful for the difference that you have made, and I am glad that we have a chance to honor your exemplary service to your communities and to our state. And to everybody here, that's a theme

you'll hear from me today, because I want to talk briefly about why your work to improve waste water treatment is so critically important.

IMPORTANCE OF WASTE WATER TREATMENT

As you all know and know it well, waste water treatment is not always the most glamorous of work right – but it is indispensable to the health and success of our communities.

Families want to know that when they turn on the faucet and pour a glass of water for their kids, that the water is safe to drink. When businesses are looking to grow or expand into a new community, they know that they're going to need to have access to reliable water and waste water infrastructure.

Our schools, our hospitals, fire departments, and more rely on our water infrastructure each and every day.

And the health of our communities depends on excellent waste water treatment facilities to protect Granite Staters from toxic contamination from waste, or from chemicals like PFAS. Water infrastructure can make the difference between success and failure for a community. And it also allows for looking at things like the housing shortage in New Hampshire; it's absolutely critical to have water infrastructure in place so that we can expand our housing stock and make sure that all Granite Staters have a safe place to call home.

Beyond protecting the health of our communities, waste water treatment also plays an important role in protecting our environment, and preserving its beauty for future generations. And, I always like to say – our environmental resources are our treasures. Our beautiful beautiful natural resources really define us as a state and make us who we are, so I am truly grateful for everything that you do to protect it.

EFFORTS TO IMPROVE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

I also want to talk too about your public service, because today we are recognizing the public servants who have gone above and beyond in their mission to strengthen water and waste water infrastructure in their communities.

Thanks to your dedication and creativity, you have helped find new ways to improve and modernize waste water facilities and make them more efficient

in Lisbon, Peterborough, Claremont, and Bethlehem.

Together, we need to build on your success, to continue to modernize and improve our water infrastructure all across our state.

Like you, I have heard for years from Granite Staters who are deeply concerned about water quality. I have been hearing about this since my days in the State Senate, which I hate to say how long ago that was, but this is a constant theme, and thanks in part to the advocacy of so many of you in this room, but also community members all across New Hampshire, we were able to pass the bipartisan infrastructure law, which is already helping strengthen both water and waste water infrastructure all across the country, including right here in New Hampshire.

This law is a reminder that when we find common ground and work together, we can tackle any challenge.

And just as I know that you will continue to work to find new ways to improve water infrastructure and make it more efficient, I am also committed to doing whatever I can to support your important work to ensure that New Hampshire's water infrastructure is second to none.

CONCLUSION

Thank you again for all your work, and for giving me the chance to help shine a spotlight on the dedication of New Hampshire's public servants. Your work – like the work of many public servants – too often is thankless; waste water treatment does not always fill the headlines on a newspaper page.

And we don't always appreciate sanitation services or even access to clean water unless we are without them.

But make no mistake: your dedication and commitment to excellence embodies the best of New Hampshire's tradition of public service.

Our communities, our state, and our democracy itself depends on people like you – people who are willing to roll up their sleeves, put in long hours, try and fail and try again, all because you want to make a difference for your community, and you care enough to try. And I just want to emphasize how important it is right now, for our constituents, for your friends and neighbors, for each and every person in New Hampshire and around the country

to understand that democracy can deliver for them. Because, rest assured, that if we didn't live in this democracy, when people, like all of you, spoke up you wouldn't have government that hashed out the details of a bipartisan infrastructure law and got dollars where they needed to go so that you could all do your work. This is a really important time, and you all are really important messengers for what we can do when we work together. I know some of you personally, I've seen your work, I've visited with some of you at your treatment plants, I don't know a lot of you in this room but here's what I do know about you. I know that you work really hard every day, not only to deliver but to think to the next step and to think about ways you can improve your community. You refuse to accept "good enough" as enough; and you never stop working to make things better. So, I am really really grateful to your work, I'm really really grateful to the award winners today, and I look forward to continuing to work with all of you to make us a stronger, cleaner, better place to live and to work and to raise a family. Again, thanks and congratulations to today's award winners.

Winners' photos from top to bottom: Peterborough, Claremont, Bethlehem and Lisbon



New Hampshire to Vermont Operator Exchange

*Timothy Jarest, Operator
Town of Peterborough WWTP*

Earlier this month I had the pleasure of being the Exchange Operator from New Hampshire, touring Vermont wastewater facilities. I would like to thank Jennifer Garrison, the Lab Analyst at South Burlington treatment plant, who was my tour guide for the week. Jennifer made me feel right at home. I want to thank the operators at each plant for being very kind and knowledgeable in answering any questions I had. I also want to thank the Green Mountain Water Environment Association (GMWEA) for making this all possible.

My first Tour started at the Montpelier Wastewater Treatment Plant. Chris Cox took me on a very detailed tour of his treatment facility. This plant is an activated sludge plant with aeration basins. I got to see a few pieces of equipment that I have never seen in person before, including their Archimedes screw pumps used to lift the influent to further treatment. This plant takes in a lot of septage which can be difficult at times, but Chris and the guys seem to handle it just fine.

Second tour my list was Burlington Main Wastewater Treatment plant. The Burlington Main plant was the largest on the tour list with flows reaching 15MGD. Matt Dow took me on a tour of the plant, he seemed to take great pride in his work and told me working in the wastewater field runs in the family. The plant is also an activated sludge plant with aeration basins. I also got to see how a combined sewer can really affect the day-to-day operations if they get

significant rain fall. The plant had beautiful views of Lake Champlain which seemed to be a perk working at this facility.

The next day the tours started with the Essex Junction Wastewater Plant. Chelsea Mandigo, the superintendent, was very welcoming and introduced me to the crew. Arthur Garrison, the Chief Operator, took me on a tour of the plant. This plant was a very clean Activated sludge plant with aeration, it shows that they take great pride in maintaining this facility. This plant also uses Anaerobic Digestion. This process allows them to use the gas produced for the facility for heat. Montpelier WWTP and South Burlington were the only other facilities to use this process. We had lunch at the plant from a local sandwich shop, which will be hard to forget because this sandwich was very large. It took a while, but I was able to finish it.



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Photos (above and previous page) from the Essex Junction Wastewater Plant

The last tour on the trip was Jennifer Garrison's plant, the South Burlington/Airport parkway WWTP. Superintendent Bob Fisher was very knowledgeable and friendly, he also took a lot of pride in his facility. He introduced me to his operators who seemed to have the same work ethic and goals. This plant was a very well-maintained Activated Sludge with aeration plant. This plant has Thirty-Five lift stations which can be a full-time job, but the operators have no problem maintaining these stations. I enjoyed seeing the fighter jets fly over while on my tour. It really took the experience to the next level. Later that evening we had a wonderful dinner at the Windjammer in Burlington with all the GMWEA Board members.

In closing I would like to thank GMWEA and everyone that made this trip an excellent experience. I would fully recommend any new or experienced operators to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Congratulations to NEWEA/ WEF/EPA Awardees!

NEWEA is pleased to announce the 2023 NEWEA/ WEF/EPA Award Recipients, who were honored at the Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on January 24, 2024 during the 2024 Annual Conference & Exhibit in Boston, Massachusetts.

Congratulations to all!

NEWEA Recognitions

Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Abhinav Avaru, Nashua, NH

Alexander Busko, Bangor, ME

HyeonKi Lee, Gill, MA

Naomi Park, Riverside, CT

NEWEA Scholarship

Environmental Major

Varsha Niroula, University of Massachusetts

Non-Environmental Major

Owen Callaghan, University of Maine

Kate Biedron Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Ella Quinn, University of Massachusetts

Terry Campbell Memorial Scholarship

Dominic Perkins, University of Maine

NEWEA Awards

Alfred E. Peloquin Award

Thomas Tyler, Hartford, CT

Philip K. Tucker, York, ME

John Downey, Dedham, MA

Sharon L. Nall, Concord, NH

Nathan Boiros, Providence, RI

Bernard J. Fleury, Essex Junction, VT

Biosolids Management Award

Mary Waring, Brunswick, ME

Clair N. Sawyer Award

Nick Tooker, Amherst, MA

Committee Service Award

Kevin Garvey, Andover, MA

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Leadership Award

Jasmine Strout, Westford, MA

E. Sherman Chase Award

Jane LaMorte, Stafford Springs, CT

Elizabeth A. Cutone Executive Leadership Award

Steven J. King, North Kingstown, RI

Energy Management Achievement Award

Hall Street Wastewater Treatment Plant, Concord, NH

Founders Award

James R. Barsanti, Boston, MA

James J. Courchaine Collection Systems Award

Kevin Brander, Woburn, MA

Operator Award

David Milano, Cheshire, CT

Keefe Cyr, Bangor, ME

Eric Kerr, Chicopee, MA

Sam Heffron, Newmarket, NH

Kathy Perez, South Kingstown, RI

Matt Dow, Burlington, VT

Past President's Plaque and Pin

Frederick J. McNeill, Manchester, NH

Paul Keough Award

Sarah Robertson, Montague, MA

Wastewater Utility Management Award

North Conway, NH Water Precinct

Youth Educator Award

Jeff Kalmes, Billerica, MA

Young Professional Award

Casey Rosenberg, Bedford, NH

WEF-MA Awards**Arthur Sidney Bedell Award**

Matt Formica, Chelmsford, MA

Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award

Walter Palm, Providence, RI

Operations Challenge Competition – Div II 2nd Place

Rising Sludge

William D. Hatfield Award

Sean Greig, Newmarket, NH

Quarter Century Operators' Club

Erik Bailey, Johnson, VT

Chris Robinson, Shelburne, VT

Mary Waring, Brunswick, ME

WEF Operator Scholarship

Mitchell Ryan, Greenfield, MA

George W. Burke, Jr Award

Cohasset, MA WWTP

WEF Fellow

Jennifer Kelly Lachmayr, Wakefield, MA

John Trofatter, Land O' Lakes, FL

WEF Delegate-at-Large Award

Matt Formica, Chelmsford, MA

WEF Delegate Award

Peter Garvey, Boston, MA

US EPA - Region 1 New England Awards**Wastewater Treatment Plant O&M Excellence Award***Burrillville, Rhode Island*

Michael Emond, Superintendent

Hanover, NH Water Reclamation

Kevin MacLean, Superintendent

Wells, ME Sanitary District

Nick Rico, Superintendent

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator of the Year Excellence Award

Nate Brown, Peterborough, NH WWTF

Dan Copp, Johnson, VT WWTF

Joseph Gaudiana, Ludlow, VT WWTF

Kenneth LaCasse, Hardwick, MA WWTF

Kathy Perez, South Kingstown, RI WWTF

Robert Wells, Middlebury, VT WWTF

Wastewater Trainer of the Year

Betty Green, B. Green L&P Consulting

Industrial Pretreatment Program of the Year*Greater Lawrence Sanitary District, MA*

Colleen Spero, Monitoring Manager

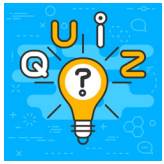
City of Nashua, NH

Douglas Starr, Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator

Lifetime Achievement Award

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

William L. Patenaude (retired)



Skills Builder Questions from WEF.org

1. An anaerobic digester is failing when _____.

1. alkalinity increases
2. volatile solids reduction increases
3. methane production increases
4. volatile acids increases

2. LOX stands for _____.

1. Level Ozone Exchange
2. Light Oxygen Exchanger
3. Low Oxygen
4. Liquid Oxygen

3. If you are feeding well-flocculated sludge to your rotary drum thickener but getting low solids concentration, a possible cause could be a clogged drum and/or _____.

1. Steep drum incline
2. High ferric chloride dosage
3. Drum speed too low
4. High solids loading rate

4. After a settleometer test you have a thin layer of clear supernatant over a poorly settling sludge and your SVI is greater than 150 mL/g. This condition is referred to as _____.

1. sludge bulking
2. straggler flock
3. ashing
4. pin floc

5. During a jar test, optimum chemical and dose for dewatering are indicated by rapid settling, floc size, and _____ supernatant.

1. Clear
2. White
3. Opaque
4. Cloudy

6. For conventional activated sludge treatment, which is the most common F:M ratio range?

1. 0.25 to 1.0
2. 1.5-5.0
3. 0.05-0.15
4. 0.2-0.4

7. An operator notices that the some of the secondary clarifiers have rafts of sludge floating on the liquid surface of the clarifiers. What is the problem?

1. the sludge is floating because the SVI of the activated system is at 300
2. the sludge is not being removed quickly enough from the clarifiers, causing denitrification to occur in the tanks
3. there is an excessive amount of filamentous organisms in the activated sludge process
4. the secondary clarifiers are experiencing a solids washout because of excessive flows entering the clarifiers

8. One of the most frequent causes of activated sludge foaming is _____.

1. under aeration
2. nitrifying bacteria
3. over aeration
4. filamentous bacteria

9. Which of the following chemicals is used for dechlorination?

1. sulfur dioxide
2. sodium hydroxide
3. sulfuric acid
4. sodium hypochlorite

10. What happens to solids not recovered (captured) on a gravity belt thickener?

1. Discharged with the effluent
2. Recycled to the head of the plant
3. Sent to the digesters
4. Returned to a sludge-holding tank

ANSWERS: 1(4), 2(4), 3(4), 4(1), 5(1), 6(4), 7(2), 8(4), 9(1), 10(2)

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