

# Share Your Thoughts

## The Summer Meeting Celebration – an NHWPCA Tradition

By Charlie Tyler

For over 60 years, the NHWPCA has held a summertime celebration for the unsung hard workers of the water pollution control profession in the Granite State. The Summer Meeting, sometimes referred to as the Summer Outing, has been a high point of the year for generations of operations, maintenance, design, equipment vendor, and regulatory professionals to gather for fellowship, fun, food, and relaxation among their fellow professionals.



The feast day is organized by what is now known as the Activities Committee, a group that has been chaired by some hard-working notables such as the late Bob Livingston through the 1980s, Rick Seymour into the 21st century, Mike Theriault through the Covid era, and now, with thanks to Mike for over a dozen years of service, by Kevin Garvey, who is just getting started with his own ideas for the event. With the help of the committee, these folks work hard to choose a location, historically places like Odiorne Sate Park, Sunapee Ski Area, the Simpsons Pavilion, Hampton Beach State Park, and for most of this century, at Ellacoya State Park

in Gilford. They also have often planned party themes for dress-up and food choices such as a Mexican Fiesta with a piñata, a 50's Malt Shop, a Texas Cowboy theme, and a Hawaiian Luau complete with hula dancing in grass skirts by some of the VIP attendees. As we welcome new NHWPCA members, the Activities Committee seeks suggestions on themes for future outings.

The celebration generally begins with breakfast mimosas for the early volunteers who set up tables, tents, and food prep and serving stations followed by music and midmorning snacks including hot dogs and chips, chili, or chowder. The main meal has varied over the years with such luxuries as grilled steak tips and chicken, steamed lobster, corn on the cob, tossed salad, potato salad, rolls, and various desserts from cake to pastries to ice cream. All the food is procured, prepared, and



*Continued on Page 3*

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# Editor's Words



Stephanie, Somersworth WWTF

Welcome to the Summer edition of The Collector! I like to mark Memorial Day as the beginning of summer. If you know me, you know that I have traditions around Memorial Day weekend, which is also conveniently my birthday weekend. I like to celebrate by taking a hike, eating ice cream, planting my vegetable garden and taking a dip in Crystal Lake during the traditional get-together at Nonna's. Well, "the gang" is not going to be gathering at Nonna's this year. Her house was demoed this spring in preparation for the construction of a new home for the next generation. The next generation is her two daughters who are 68 and 80 years old and don't get along, so the new "camp" is going to include an accessory dwelling unit for the older daughter. La Lou, the younger daughter, is having a great time picking out appliances and fixtures. Dot, the older daughter, really wants to keep her current oven...the oven that I remember from when I was a teenager! Please keep Dot's son and daughter in your thoughts and prayers...

Since you've made it to the inside of the newsletter, you've already enjoyed the cover article about the tradition of NHWPCA's Summer Meeting. If you have never attended "The Outing", I strongly encourage you to start a new tradition in 2025. I'll be there! I play cornhole at home, but my skills aren't good-enough to be seen in public, so I won't be playing that game...but I'll be eating yummy food and having a wonderful time catching up with people that I don't see very often. Please come see me and let me know what you'd like to see in The Collector. After all, our motto is "Share Your Thoughts!"

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## Upcoming Events

Go to [www.nhwpc.org](http://www.nhwpc.org) for live links to online registration

*Save the Dates*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Jun. 18 - Risk Management Safety Training  | Aug. 7 - NHWPCA Annual Golf Tournament |
| Jun. 27 - NHWPCA's Summer Outing<br>Ellacoya State Park, 280 Scenic Drive<br>Gilford, NH | Aug. 8 - Board Meeting                 |
| Jul. 22 - Fisher Cats Game   | Sep. 12 - Fall Meeting                 |
|  | Sep. 25 - Construction Career Days     |

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

Stephanie Rochefort, Mary Jane Meier, Dylan Delisle, April Sargent, **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](mailto:srochefort@somersworth.com).

Editor: Stephanie Rochefort

*THE COLLECTOR* is the Official Newsletter of the NHWPCA  
For more information about the NHWPCA visit our website at [www.nhwpc.org](http://www.nhwpc.org)

Printed by **EVANSprinting**  
155 River Rd. Unit 15, Bow, NH 03304 | 603-225-5529 | [evans1@evansprint.com](mailto:evans1@evansprint.com)

served by committee volunteers under the watchful organization of the committee chair. So much to love about this event!

All during the day, outdoor activities and conversations with fellow professionals have been refreshed with a variety of beverages to wet the whistle, and the opportunity to test such skills as horseshoes, volleyball, bocce, and lately the more popular and boisterous cornhole tournament that runs from mid-morning all the way to last call in the afternoon.

Who wouldn't trade a Friday afternoon of work for a gathering with fellow environmental enthusiasts to cut loose from 10 am to 3 pm and enjoy an afternoon by the lake? It's out there if you want to reach for it, this year on June 27 at Ellacoya State Park, a public recreation area located at 280 Scenic Drive on the southwest shore of Lake Winnepesaukee in Gilford, New Hampshire. The state park has 600 feet of beachfront, swimming, boating, picnicking, and campground. Come join the fun! Register at <https://tinyurl.com/ellacoya>

*Charlie Tyler has been a very active member of the Activities Committee for 37 years! You've likely seen him at NHWPCA events, he's the guy with the camera who takes all the awesome photos.*





# Blurbs, Blurbs, & More Blurbs

## Another Successful Ski Day with MEWEA

By Patty Chesebrough, Activities Committee



The New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association and the Maine Water Environment Association held our 16th annual Ski Day on Thursday, March 13, 2025. Ski Day is a chance for wastewater professionals from across New England to gather to ski and ride together, network, get some great exercise, and experience some of New England's most valuable recreational areas. This year 30 of our wastewater colleagues gathered at Attitash Mountain Resort and enjoyed great skiing, riding, great food, and great company!



The 2025 Ski Day Crew



Congratulations to Fred McNeill, winner of the snowboard bench raffle



NH & ME skiers/riders enjoying the view atop Bear Peak



A big thank you to our Ski Day sponsors!

## Join the Conversation: Get Involved with NHWPCA on Social Media!

Are you passionate about water quality, environmental protection, and the future of New Hampshire’s water resources? The New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association (NHWPCA) is building a vibrant social media community, and we want YOU to be part of it!

### Why Get Involved?

By joining our online community, you can:

- Stay informed about the latest industry news, regulations, and best practices.
- Connect with fellow water and wastewater professionals.

- Share your expertise and inspire the next generation of water stewards.
- Celebrate successes in pollution control and water management.

### How You Can Participate

- Follow & Engage – Like, comment, and share posts on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter/X (coming soon), and Instagram.
- Show Your Work – Share photos and stories from your projects and tag NHWPCA!
- Spread Awareness – Help educate the public on the importance of clean water.
- Join the Conversation – Ask questions, share insights, and connect with peers.

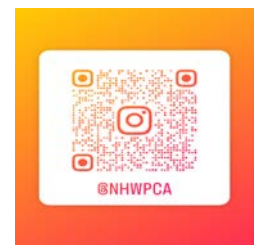
Promote & Attend Events – Stay updated on NHWPCA trainings, meetings, and networking opportunities.

### Let’s Make a Difference Together!

Water professionals are at the heart of protecting New Hampshire’s most valuable resource. Let’s amplify our voices, share our knowledge, and build a stronger community—online and beyond!

Follow NHWPCA today and start making an impact!

Find us on:



Got ideas or topics you’d like to see? Drop us a message at socialNHWPCA@gmail.com we’d love to hear from you! Social Media Committee meets monthly. Drop us an e-mail and be invited to the next meeting. We would love to have you on our team.

## Wild New Hampshire Day 2025

By Nate Limric

We had a great turnout for Wild New Hampshire day on April 19th. NH DES and NHWPCA put together a shared booth for the event with giveaways and educational handouts. Our free fishing pole raffle was an absolute hit. Ray Gordon commanded the megaphone reeling in parents and kids alike for each drawing. Over 2 dozen fishing poles were given away to excited young anglers. Along with the poles we had branded fishing bobbers for the winners. Those who did not win the raffle were able to take home NHWPCA stickers as well as pamphlets. Throughout the day students from the New Hampshire Water and Wastewater Managers School connected with numerous folks who visited the booth. Grease scrapers and grease can lids were popular take home items for the adults, courtesy of DES. Thank you to Curtis, Dylan, and BJ for volunteering from Managers School. A big thank you to Wade Pelham for his management of the set up and tear down of the booth, and thanks to Nate Brown for assembling the donations. If you want to get involved with future events like this, reach out to Casey Rosenberg from the Youth Outreach Committee.



## Volunteering at Discover Wild New Hampshire Day

By Dylan Delisle, NH DW&WW Managers School  
This past Saturday, I had the privilege of volunteering at Discover Wild New Hampshire Day, and I was genuinely impressed by the size and scope of the event. Hosted at the NH Fish and Game headquarters in Concord, the event brought together an impressive range of organizations, vendors, and agencies, all working toward a shared goal: fostering appreciation for New Hampshire's natural resources and outdoor heritage. I wasn't expecting such a huge turnout, but it's estimated that between 8,000 and 9,000 people usually attend. The energy was high all day long, and it was inspiring to see so many families, kids, and community members eager to learn and engage.

One of the most meaningful parts of the day for me was having the chance to talk with people about careers in the water and wastewater industry. These are critical sectors that often operate behind the scenes,

but they're essential to protecting public health and maintaining the quality of our environment. I enjoyed speaking with adults exploring career options and curious members of the public who wanted to learn more about how these systems work and how they can support them.

In addition to promoting job opportunities, I also had the chance to educate visitors on practical steps they can take to help maintain their own septic systems and support the proper functioning of our wastewater facilities. Sharing information with the public about what they can do to support these systems, such as proper septic system maintenance and avoiding the disposal of grease and rags down the drain, was an important part of our message. These behaviors not only help protect infrastructure and equipment but also reduce the burden on taxpayers by minimizing costly repairs and maintenance. It was rewarding to see how receptive people were to the message, and I appreciated the opportunity to help raise awareness on an issue that affects every community.

Another highlight of the day was raffling off fishing rods to kids. This was a fun and fulfilling part of the experience. The excitement on their faces when their names were called was priceless, and it was great to support their interest in outdoor recreation. It also opened the door to conversations about environmental stewardship—how keeping our rivers and waterbodies clean benefits everyone, and how even small actions can add up to a big impact. Helping young people build a connection to nature is one of the best ways we can ensure its protection for the future.

Overall, Discover Wild New Hampshire Day was an amazing experience. It was a chance to connect with the public, share valuable information, and support a collective appreciation for the outdoors and environmental responsibility. I'm grateful I was able to take part and contribute to such a meaningful event, and I'm already looking forward to the next one.

## New Hampshire Water Advocates Champion Clean Water

*by Devon Pasco, Resource Management, Inc.*

New Hampshire water advocates gathered at The Hotel Concord on March 6th for the 2025 "Water's Worth It" Legislative Breakfast in Concord, NH.

Attended by state legislators and water professionals from all facets of the industry, the annual Legislative Breakfast provides an opportunity to address the unique challenges that the unified sectors of the water industry are facing and to advocate for legislation that promotes responsible, effective, and science-based water management practices.

Moderator Fred McNeill, a recently retired water industry professional with 43 years of service, welcomed attendees and introduced the priority issues for 2025: funding for infrastructure, energy, and workforce development. Investing in water infrastructure projects and technological upgrades to meet changing regulations, workforce development initiatives to create a resilient workforce, and recognizing the energy demands and resulting challenges for water utilities has become crucial for the continued success of these indispensable facilities and the communities they serve.

State Senator Denise Ricciardi led with opening remarks on the necessity of clean, affordable water to the residents of New Hampshire, and emphasized dependable water infrastructure as a prerequisite for the increase of affordable housing within the state. Congressional greetings followed with the sharing of letters of support from Senators Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen, as well as a pre-recorded video from Congressman Chris Pappas. Congressman Pappas acknowledged the importance of federal funding for critical water systems and for the continued management and reduction of PFAS contamination, advocating source control and a polluter pays approach.

Focusing on an often-overlooked challenge for water utilities, Keynote Speaker Alyssa Rosenzweig, Deputy Director of the Overwatch Foundation, highlighted the recent increase in cybersecurity attacks targeting the water sector. The Overwatch Foundation, a not-for-profit cyber defense group, offers "in a box" grant programs that include cybersecurity assessment and implementation services for municipal water systems, providing protection from the many forms of cyber-attacks that can immobilize a utility.

Reiterating the need for workforce development, NEWWA CEO Kirsten King presented on the Work For Water Coalition, a collaborative effort between NEWWA and NEWEA that was developed to elevate the water profession and address the most pressing workforce challenges. Through the creation and

implementation of a multi-phase strategic plan, the coalition continues to make invaluable strides in recruiting, training, and strengthening New England's water workforce.

The event wrapped up with closing remarks from Rene Pelletier, Director of the NH DES Water Division, who encouraged the legislators in attendance to stay interested and informed about water policy. Thanks to the coalition of water associations who host this annual event, our water professionals can continue to educate our policymakers on the value of water and the actions needed to ensure that it remains safe, clean, and affordable throughout the Granite State. These efforts are mirrored at the annual National Water Policy Fly-In held in Washington, D.C, where our water advocates gather to connect with legislators on Capitol Hill to further promote sound, science-based water management practices and legislation.



*Kirsten King, NEWWA*



*Alyssa Rosenzweig, Overwatch Foundation*



## Safety Corner

### It's Summertime! Is the Water Safe?

*Brought to you by the NHWPCA Safety Committee*

#### **Understanding Summertime Water Quality Hazards: Resources and Preventive Measures**

As the summer months approach, many people take to lakes, rivers, and coastal waters for recreation; however, water quality hazards can pose health risks to swimmers and pets. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provide important information and monitoring to help keep the public safe. Here is what you should know about water quality hazards and how to stay informed.

#### **Water Quality Monitoring and Public Safety**

To safeguard public health, NHDES requires monitoring of bacteria levels in recreational waters. These efforts focus on identifying potential threats such as elevated *E. coli* or fecal coliform bacteria, which can cause gastrointestinal illness and skin infections. Testing is conducted at public beaches and other recreational sites, with results made available through local health departments and online resources.

When bacteria levels exceed safe limits, authorities issue advisories or temporary closures to protect swimmers. Public warning systems, including signage at affected locations and digital alerts, help notify visitors in real-time. NH beach (and other) advisories are posted online at: <https://www.des.nh.gov/advisories>. Or, you can check out the NHDES Healthy Swimming Mapper at: <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/healthy-swimming/healthy-swimming-mapper> to ensure a safe experience.

#### **Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and Their Risks**

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) are another significant water quality hazard during summer. These blooms, caused by cyanobacteria, produce toxins that can be harmful to humans and pets. Exposure to HABs can lead to symptoms such as skin irritation, nausea, respiratory issues, and, in severe cases, neurological damage.

NHDES provides updated reports on HAB occurrences, and public warning systems alert communities about affected areas. HAB advisories are also posted/mapped on the NHDES water quality web pages discussed above. Pet owners should be particularly cautious, as dogs are highly susceptible to HAB toxins when drinking or swimming in contaminated waters. Avoid water with visible scum, foam, or discoloration, and always follow posted advisories.

### Community Involvement: Volunteering with Lake Associations

Concerned citizens can play an active role in preserving water quality by joining local lake associations and volunteering for monitoring programs. Many organizations collaborate with NHDES to collect water samples, report changes in water conditions, and educate the public about environmental stewardship.

Programs such as the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) train individuals to conduct water quality testing, helping expand monitoring efforts across more locations. Participating in these initiatives contributes to long-term conservation and enhances public awareness of water safety. For more information, visit the NHDES VLAP web page at: <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/rivers-and-lakes/volunteer-assessment-programs>.

### Additional Prevention and Safety Tips

Follow these additional safety tips to be safe in and around the water:

- Avoid swimming after heavy rainfall, as runoff can introduce pollutants into the water.
- Rinse off after swimming to remove potential contaminants.
- Prevent pet waste from entering water bodies, as it contributes to bacterial pollution.
- Support policies and initiatives that promote clean water regulations.

By staying informed, following advisories, and participating in local conservation efforts, individuals can help maintain safe and clean waterways for all. For up-to-date information on water quality and safety, visit the NHDES websites or contact local health departments.

*This article is brought to you by the NHWPCA Safety Committee in the absence of any Near Misses submitted by the membership. We are always seeking Near Miss ideas.*

*If you or someone you know has had a Near Miss, please let us know by sending the incident to Patty Chesebrough at [Patricia.L.Chesebrough@des.nh.gov](mailto:Patricia.L.Chesebrough@des.nh.gov). All submissions are strictly confidential. Please do your part to keep a Near Miss from becoming an accident. Tell us about it and we will get the word out to others! Thank you in advance for your submissions.*



## Thoughts from the Bench

*By Stephanie Rochefort, City of Somersworth WWTF*

My lab dishwasher is OUT-OF-ORDER!!! I opened it up one day last week and the bottom spray bar was hanging out on the bottom of the washer...not connected and not spraying. I fished it out along with the associated parts that were supposed to be holding it together and thought "this doesn't look difficult to fix, I can put this right back together". Turns out that it was difficult and I couldn't...

My "elevator speech" to describe my job here is "I'm one of six very talented people who treat all the wastewater produced by the City of Somersworth, NH". Luckily, my talented team of six includes great mechanics! The first thing that was tried was to glue a broken piece back together so that the bottom spray bar could be re-attached. Unfortunately, that only worked for a week. Also unfortunate was the fact that the flash-drive of information about the LabConco SteamScrubber did not have a parts-list. Just for fun, I looked up the price of a new dishwasher and Yikes! we needed to dig deeper to repair this one. Our great mechanic spent a LOT of time on-hold in order to learn the part number for a "washer arm base". That's the official name for the broken piece that wouldn't stay glued together. I was able to order

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this \$15 piece and now I'm waiting for it to arrive.

In the meantime, I'm hand-washing all the stuff that I normally put into the dishwasher. That includes sample bottles, BOD bottles, beakers, graduated mixing cylinders, settlometers, and more! Sometimes the dishwasher runs 2-3 times in a day.

You might be wondering WHY I wash all this stuff so diligently? After all, this is a wastewater lab so it's all just going to get dirty again... Clean labware is the first step in ensuring accurate and precise results because clean labware prevents contamination that can lead to wonky results. We clean our labware for safety because contamination can lead to dangerous chemical reactions, especially as we expand our scope of what we're required by our NPDES permits to analyze.

Here in Somersworth, we use a lot of Nalgene bottles for samples. The 1000-mL size fits nicely in the dishwasher. To hand-wash these bottles, I first empty the sample and rinse the bottle and cap with tap water to remove solids. Then I put the bottle and cap into a sink full of soapy water. I like Alcojet powder detergent for this step. I let the bottle soak while I'm analyzing the samples and then I scrub with a brush and rinse. And rinse. And rinse. And rinse. Then I put everything into a dish-drainer to air-dry. When the dishwasher is working, I just load them up. I was going to time myself to see how much longer the hand-washing was taking me, but it was obviously taking a long time and I'd just upset myself if I knew the exact number of minutes extra!

I follow a similar routine for the settlometers, except I don't use the brush because settlometers scratch easily. I'm wearing gloves, of course, and I just hand-wash the settlometers with my gloved hands. And rinse, rinse, rinse, rinse before air-drying. Oftentimes I hand-wash the settlometers instead of running another load through the dishwasher since this is a fairly quick process.

The labware that I use for TRC analysis is treated differently. Tap water contains chlorine, so I don't want to add that contaminate. I rinse, rinse, rinse with lab-water and allow to air-dry. Occasionally the TRC labware looks like it needs a "good cleaning" as my grandmother would say. Then I scrub and triple-rinse with tap water before triple-rinsing twice with lab-water. Then I run a blank to make sure that there's no chlorine contamination. My lack of a dishwasher

doesn't impact this routine.

I normally clean my BOD bottles with the SCIENCE setting on my dishwasher and I don't have any issues with blank depletion from contamination. Occasionally I will do a quick brush of the bottles that contained influent. There's a brush that's perfectly made for that! I fear that I'll have to be doing a lot of scrubbing with that brush while I wait for that \$15 part to arrive. I thought about just throwing away the BOD bottles and buying new ones but then I looked up the price of BOD bottles....sigh.

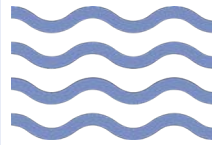
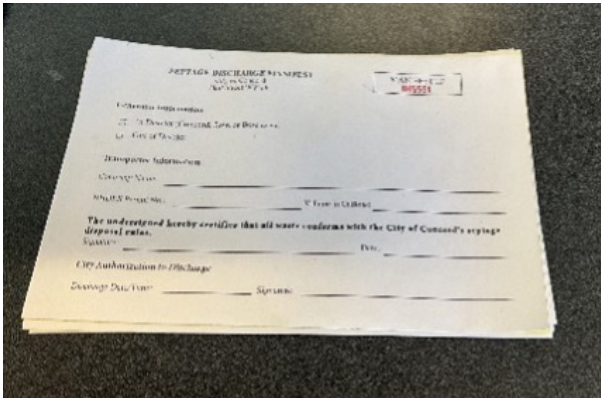
Fingers crossed that by the time y'all are reading this that I'll be back in business with a repaired dishwasher! If not, you just might be able to hear me screaming from miles away...



## Residuals Report

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

Wastewater production is a constant in both urban and rural areas. Wastewater treatment facilities are built and operated to properly treat wastewater from more urban areas, and also volumes from rural areas. To help keep septic tanks operating properly, septage is pumped from septic tanks and transported to the treatment plants by permitted septage haulers. Many plants recognize septage processing as a way to generate additional revenue however this comes with additional operational and administrative burdens. At the Concord WWTF, they recently made some improvements to their septage receiving process which should reduce that burden. The old procedure involved filling out a paper slip (photo 1) with information like Company Name, NHDES Permit Number and Gallons to be Offloaded, and placing it in a box (photo 2). The new system is an electronic kiosk (photo 3) where the hauler scans in and enters the volume information. This helps streamline recordkeeping, billing and reporting. I asked Dan Driscoll, the Concord WWTF Superintendent, how it was working out and he said that after the haulers got used to it, they seemed to like it pretty well. That seemed to bear out. When I was there taking photos for the article, a hauler came in. I asked how he liked the new system, and he replied "...it's great!".



# Pretreatment Tales

## State Pretreatment Rules

by Zach Lorch, P.E., Pretreatment Engineer, NHDES – Wastewater Engineering Bureau

### Disclaimer

NHDES agreed to contribute this article to increase knowledge of the current rules and the proposed changes. Rulemaking is a long process and one that is vetted. NHDES reserves the right to deviate from the proposed restructuring mentioned below. NHDES may also clarify a point below if requested. NHDES makes no promises or guarantees by providing this and directs the reader back to the rules and statutes for clarification.

### Background

NH is not a delegated state for the Clean Water Act. EPA is the approval authority for municipalities' pretreatment programs. Some municipalities in NH have industrial pretreatment programs (IPPs) approved by EPA. Those municipalities take on the role of control authority. The other municipalities have EPA as the control and approval authority.

NHDES has rules and statutes that govern sewer use ordinances, reporting, industrial discharge approvals, permits, intermunicipal agreements and management of dental amalgam. NHDES has statutory authority to enforce limits on behalf of the municipalities that NHDES has previously reviewed and approved.



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Municipalities with EPA approved IPPs have gone through an extensive process to demonstrate their capacity to properly regulate their industries. These municipalities have tools such as local limits and enforcement response plans to ensure compliance of regulated industries.

For municipalities without EPA approved IPPs, NHDES' oversight of the permitting process is essential. Significant indirect dischargers in municipalities without approved IPPs must first go through NHDES' indirect discharge request (IDR) process. And as a final step, the municipalities are required to submit a final industrial discharge permit (IDP) to NHDES.

### Proposed Changes

NHDES is pursuing rulemaking that will place sewer use ordinances and intermunicipal agreements (IMAs) in Env-Wq 305 which will apply to all municipalities with sewer. NHDES will then place the IDP approval process and reporting requirements in a new Env-Wq 307 that applies only to municipalities without an approved IPP. The hope being that what applies to all municipalities in 305 and applies to some in 307, will be clear. This proposed change is not anticipated to have an impact on municipalities with approved IPPs as the IMA statute is already in place. One intent of the rulemaking is to make the IMA content requirements clearer.

One proposed change for municipalities without an approved IPP is to involve NHDES in the IDP writing process. This will allow for one industrial "authorization" concerning the discharge to be issued. The current approach of NHDES issuing an IDR approval and the municipality issuing the IDP after will now involve NHDES at the end of the process instead of in the middle. NHDES will be able to ensure that things like local limits are properly

incorporated into the IDP by moving away from the IDR process.

Please remember, nothing is final, all concepts are in draft form.

### Next Steps

NHDES held an early stakeholder meeting on the proposed rule structure changes in March. When the draft rules are ready, a public hearing will be scheduled at which point the draft rules can be shared. The hearing will allow for the public to provide feedback on the proposed changes. Rulemaking is a long process and may not be completed this calendar year.

### Feedback

Please provide any feedback on the proposed rule changes to [des.wastewaterengineering@des.nh.gov](mailto:des.wastewaterengineering@des.nh.gov) or call Zach Lorch, NHDES Pretreatment Engineer at (603) 271-2052.



## Energy Matters

### The Battle to Keep Energy Costs Under Control

*By Steve Bolles of Process Energy Services*

Plant superintendents are constantly pressured to keep energy costs under control. In addition to utility bill unit cost increases, there are many other influences that can impact energy budgets. Some of these may include:

- System upgrades that add equipment to improve the treatment process,
- Ventilation system upgrades designed to meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 820 requirements,
- Equipment that is wearing down and becoming less efficient,
- Operating equipment at higher capacity than needed, and
- Cold weather/electric heater controls operated at high settings.

The challenge is to figure out why energy costs

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increased and making the time to dissect plant energy use and costs. Like any large project, start with breaking down the effort into manageable pieces and potentially delegating some of the work to staff or additional (no/low cost) assistance. Even plants that have done a full energy evaluation in the past may need to update the energy use/cost data. Below are simple steps to look at energy use and cost (both sides of the meter).

**Summarize Annual Energy Use and Benchmark with Process Data**

*Time Required: 5 minutes to copy and send electric bill to NHDES/PES.*

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) selected Process Energy Services (PES) to perform energy evaluations and technical assistance to wastewater and drinking water facilities in NH. Summarizing/benchmarking energy use data can be as simple as making a copy of one electric utility bill and sending it to Process Energy Services.

2024 Month	Energy Use (kWh)	Total Demand (kW)	Demand Cost	Monthly Cost	Delivery Energy kWh Cost	Total Supply	Total Delivery	Total
Jan	175,200	299	\$5,561	\$242	\$4,081	\$17,380	\$9,885	\$27,265
Feb	167,200	303	\$5,718	\$242	\$4,518	\$16,586	\$10,478	\$27,064
Mar	156,000	292	\$5,525	\$242	\$4,237	\$15,475	\$10,003	\$25,479
Apr	180,400	284	\$5,373	\$242	\$4,931	\$17,896	\$10,546	\$28,442
May	122,400	280	\$5,298	\$242	\$3,386	\$12,142	\$8,925	\$21,067
Jun	126,400	272	\$5,252	\$242	\$3,403	\$12,539	\$8,897	\$21,436
Jul	135,200	263	\$5,079	\$242	\$3,876	\$13,412	\$9,197	\$22,608
Aug	124,400	257	\$5,107	\$242	\$3,705	\$12,340	\$9,054	\$21,394
Sep	134,000	261	\$5,661	\$242	\$3,514	\$13,293	\$9,417	\$22,710
Oct	124,000	275	\$6,127	\$242	\$3,545	\$12,301	\$9,914	\$22,215
Nov	125,200	279	\$6,166	\$242	\$3,223	\$12,420	\$9,631	\$22,051
Dec	144,400	274	\$6,055	\$242	\$3,734	\$14,324	\$10,032	\$24,356
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,714,800</b>	<b>3,339</b>	<b>\$66,921</b>	<b>\$2,904</b>	<b>\$46,154</b>	<b>\$170,108</b>	<b>\$115,979</b>	<b>\$286,087</b>
<b>Unit Cost</b>			<b>\$20.04</b>				<b>\$0.126</b>	

PES will assemble a breakdown of energy use and costs compared to last year (NHDES has historical energy use/process data for all NH wastewater plants and some NH drinking water plants). This will include benchmarking energy use based on process data and provide insight into what potentially caused costs to increase. PES can also teach the plant superintendents or their designee to do this evaluation on their own. This is a no-cost service that can help discover all of the following:

- A breakdown of electric energy use (in kilowatt hours (kWh)) and demand (in kilowatts (kW)) charges,
- Benchmarking the energy data to see if energy use increased due to higher flows or higher biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) loads,
- Identifying seasonal energy use to see how much heating equipment contributed to the cost, and
- Reviewing the supply portion of the bill to see how it compares with competitive rates other municipalities have negotiated.

The data from this initiative can give a plant superintendent a simple overview to help explain to town officials/commissioners why the energy budget may be higher and what, if anything, can be done about the higher energy costs. If this step does not provide enough answers, it's time to dig a little deeper.

**Copy SCADA Screens/Process Data**

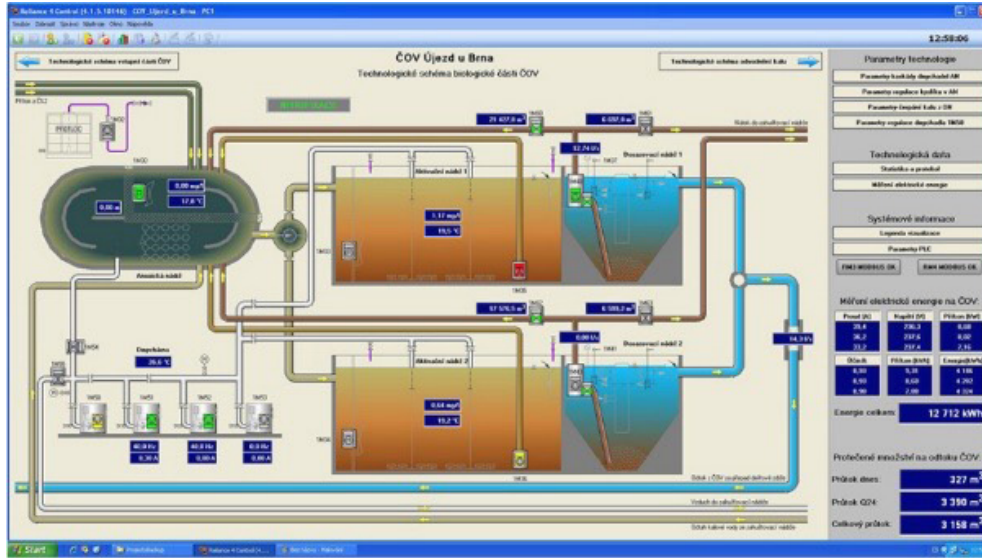
*Initial Time Required: 10 minutes to copy and send data to NHDES/PES*

This effort will also require a 20-minute phone call with PES after the data has been sent. The idea is to review each process and discuss how things may have changed since the previous year. Some potential

discoveries could include:

- Identifying how additional equipment added to the process increased energy use,
- Higher setpoint values (aeration, mixers with variable frequency drives (VFDs), recirculation pumping flow, etc.), and
- Maintenance issues that could have impacted energy use.

A follow up task may require getting specific equipment nameplate data/specification data for PES to provide a more detailed review.



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## Perform Energy Evaluation

*Time Required: 1-to-2-day site visit and follow up data collection*

This task is the full evaluation to review equipment operation with an operator, take field measurements, calculate equipment efficiency, and compare data with the original specifications and how it is matched to process requirements. The evaluation also includes a preliminary review of potential renewable energy projects.

For facilities that have already undertaken a full evaluation, a follow up/update evaluation may still be appropriate following significant changes to the facility, either through upgrades or changes in operations.

When a facility chooses to perform a full energy evaluation, they also qualify to apply for the NHDES Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program that provides principal forgiveness to encourage implementation of the energy evaluation findings. Principal forgiveness is in addition to any incentives offered by the electric utility. Please note that the CWSRF energy audit measure implementation

(EAMI) principal forgiveness program deadline for annual pre-applications is typically at the end of May each year.

If you are ready to proceed with the PES recommendations in this article, please reach out to Sharon Nall or Christina Rambo at [wiep@des.nh.gov](mailto:wiep@des.nh.gov) Energy evaluations are funded by CWSRF and DWSRF monies are provided at no cost to the facilities.

## Couples Who Work for Water

By Mary Jane Meier

*The Collector has entered its 42nd year in publication in 2025. Our 2025 theme reflects the industry-wide call to honor existing workers and attract new workers into our industry. This year we will feature couples from around New England who both work in the water and wastewater industry. Our next couple work in York, ME. We thank Phil and Theresa Tucker for their participation and their commitment to 'Work for Water - For Communities; For the Environment; For our Future.' Both Phil and Theresa were among the 2024 NEWEA/WEF/EPA Award Recipients honored at the 2025 Annual Conference in Boston. Phil provided responses to our questionnaire.*

### Information on their current place of employment and years of service:

Phil Tucker, Superintendent, York Sewer District, 25 years in wastewater, 8 in York. Phil Received the Quarter Century Operator Award, and the Alfred E. Peloquin Award. Theresa Tucker, Compliance Officer, York Sewer District, 4 years in drinking water, 6 years in Wastewater. Theresa received the Industrial Pretreatment Program of the Year Award.

### Where/How did you meet?

In 2010 I was Theresa's martial arts instructor. I am a third-degree black belt in Taekwondo and Theresa is a second-degree black belt. We are also both trained in Krav Maga.

### Are there commonalities in your work duties?

As superintendent I try not to get more involved than I need to with day-to-day operations. There are times when I need to be involved such as enforcement action or inspections for certain entities.

### Are there any overlapping duties between your job functions?

Not that I can think of

### What are your common recreation interests? How you spend your 'personal time'?

We both love spending time outdoors and do pretty much everything together except for hunting. We get together with a very close-knit group of friends to play darts almost every Friday night.

### Most memorable conversations at dinner:

Usually about how we met, or the time I knocked her out by accident while teaching a martial arts class.

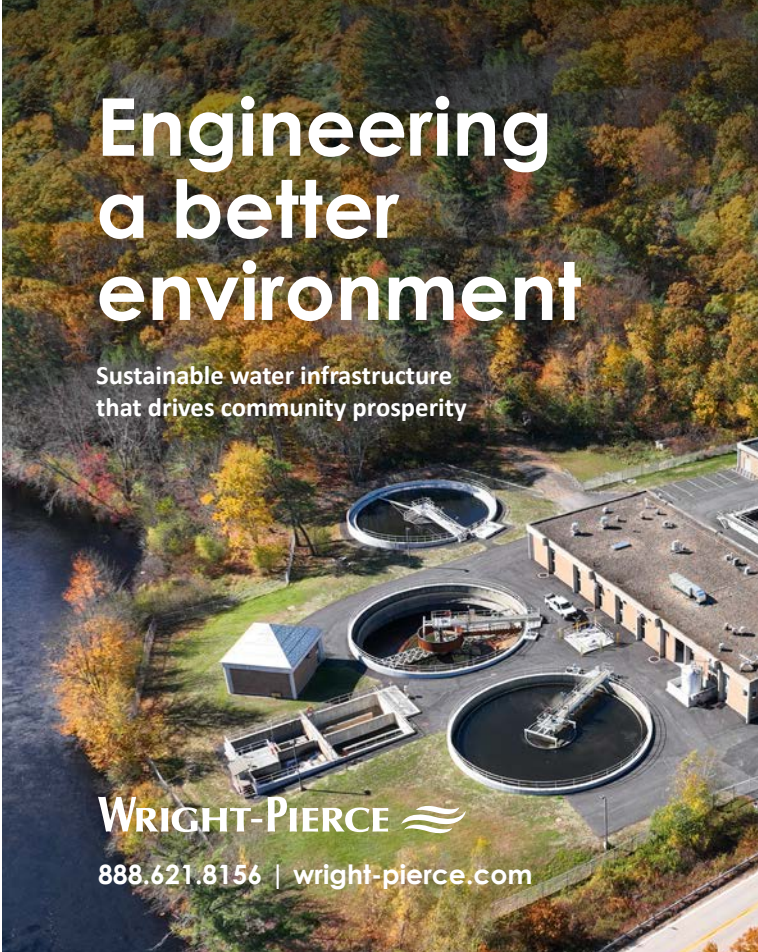
### What you like most about your profession?

We both have a clear passion for the environment and clean water.

### How do you manage stress levels and work life pressures?


We have a great way of being able to balance out our personal and professional lives. We know when to talk about work and when to not talk about work.

### What do you see as the best motivator to bring new people into this profession?



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If someone truly enjoys the outdoors and would like to contribute to keeping Maine's environment pristine then this is a great career. You won't get rich, but the pay is decent, the benefits are incredible, and you can make a difference.

### **Describe any challenge you encounter in the workplace.**

I (Theresa) have to constantly remind myself that I am at work and I need to remember that Phil is my boss. At home, I (Phil) constantly have to remind myself that I am not the boss.

*Continued on next page*

### **Any other info you would like to share about yourselves?**

I was president of MEWEA in 2021 and Theresa is the current president of MEWEA. To my knowledge, this makes us the first couple to have both held that position.

### **Testimonial from Wright-Pierce, Faye DeMoura about working with the Tuckers:**

*"The Tuckers embark on each day with unmatched passion for what they do not only for the York Sewer District but for the state of Maine and New England as a whole. Both are involved in numerous associations and committees dedicating their time and talent to keeping our waterways safe and teaching the next generation. Just one of many examples is that they worked together to launch a youth education program as well as an intern program in York – because they saw a need and wanted to do all they could to address it. Phil and Terry are absolute treasures of our industry and I feel very fortunate to know and be inspired by them."*

### **Who's The Boss: The Wastewater Love Story of Phil & Terry Tucker**

*Travis Jones - Assistant Operations Manager, Olver Associates Inc.*

In the spirit of full disclosure, I must confess that writing this article about Phil and Terry Tucker required some serious investigative journalism. I spent two and a half years living with the Tuckers and working alongside Phil at the York Sewer District. All in preparation for this very piece.



*The Tuckers and the Joneses*

That statement can be described as truth-adjacent, but it does highlight how close our friendship and professional journeys have been. Phil and I go way back, over 21 years, to our early days at the Bar Harbor Wastewater Department. Since then, we have both grown significantly in the industry, and our paths have crossed in more ways than one. I had the honor of being the best man at Phil and Terry's wedding, which speaks volumes about the bond we share.

Phil was the Assistant Superintendent during my time at the York Sewer District. His management style and the way he handled situations were pivotal in shaping my own approach to leadership. He is exactly the kind of person you hope to run into when you need advice. He carries years of experience with zero ego. He is just as quick with a story about a lesson learned the hard way as he is with a solution to the problem you may be facing. My time at YSD was invaluable to me as I developed my own management style and I owe a significant part of that to Philip.

And while Phil may now hold the title of Superintendent at the York Sewer District, let's be very clear; Terry is the CEO of their marriage. No vote. No appeal. Board meeting adjourned.

Terry and I did not overlap at YSD, but as fate would have it (and, let's be honest, to qualify for this article) she ended up taking over my position as Regulatory Compliance Manager. Since stepping into that role, she has achieved impressive feats, bringing several accolades to the District and raising the bar for regulatory compliance across the board.

What has always stood out to me about Terry is her willingness to be part of the solution. No matter

the issue, big or small, she shows up ready to work through it. She has a super approachable demeanor that makes her easy to work with, even in situations that are anything but easy. It is no surprise to anyone who knows her that she has become a fantastic voice for the industry and an essential figure in advancing the District's relationship with its users and commercial community.

And frankly, if that was not impressive enough, her threshold for pain and patience is obviously off the charts. I mean she has been married to Phil and continues to tolerate his gregarious, questionably charming buddy from Bar Harbor for all these years.

Terry currently serves as the President of MEWEA, making them the only couple to both serve in that role (feel free to fact check that & if it isn't true take it up with the publisher). Their impact, however, goes far beyond York or even MEWEA. Both Phil and Terry are heavily involved in a clean water alphabet soup of organizations at the State, Regional, and National level. Whether it's representing Maine operators, shaping regulations, or advancing clean water initiatives, if there is important work being done for our profession, there is a good chance one of the Tuckers is in the room helping move the conversation forward.

To me, one of their greatest accomplishments is their shared commitment to the community. As part of the team at the York Sewer District, they have been instrumental in engaging the town of York, including the local elementary school system, in understanding the vital role of the Sewer District in keeping the waters and beaches pristine. Working alongside a dedicated staff, they have helped oversee major community events such as Imagine a Day Without Water and even created a coloring book for kids highlighting the importance of clean water; all in an effort to promote engagement and awareness.

Most recently, they have collaborated with York High School to create an accredited internship program, giving an interested student the opportunity to work alongside both the Water and Sewer Districts. This kind of forward-thinking approach sparks interest in the next generation and helps bring prospective new operators into the field. It's a model every utility in the region should be paying attention to.

Beyond their professional achievements, knowing the Tuckers means countless fun times. We have

shared stories, laughs, and tons of memorable moments. Some that can be told, some better left to the imagination, and some that have grown into the stuff of legend. One particularly unforgettable trip was to Key West, where all three of those boxes can be checked.

And if that wasn't proof enough of our friendship, I think we've helped move each other no less than a half a dozen times over the years. I'm not sure there's any greater test of true friendship than willingly showing up with a truck over and over again.

In short, Phil and Terry are not just a wastewater power couple. They are two people who bring out the best in each other and in those around them. They lead by example, care deeply about the environment, and have a knack for making even the toughest jobs look easy. Even marriage.

I am truly grateful for the Tuckers; both for everything they have meant and given to me personally, and for everything they continue to represent and accomplish in & for our profession.

And just for the record; New Hampshire, you can't have them.

But Terry would definitely loan Phil out on the weekends for some peace and quiet.

## A Message from NEWEA's NH State Director

*Tracy Wood, PE*

As I start as New Hampshire's state director, I first want to thank Mike Trainque, who completed his three-year term as New Hampshire state director at the 2025 NEWEA



Annual Conference in January. Mike stated he was both privileged and honored to serve the dedicated, committed, wonderful people of both NEWEA and the NHWPCA, and was grateful for the many friendships he developed over his tenure. Thank you, Mike!

Just a very little about me, I started my career as a consulting engineer with Whitman & Howard in Wellesley, MA in 1993 after graduating from

Northeastern University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. After taking many night classes while working full-time I achieved my M.S. in Civil Engineering from UMass Lowell. After over a decade in consulting, I made the shift to public service when I joined NHDES in November 2007 and have been there ever since. My current position is as the Administrator of the Wastewater Engineering Bureau in NHDES' Water Division. It is hard to believe that I have been in this field for over 30 years. I love the work we do, and the positive impacts we can make for New Hampshire's communities.

I am excited to take on this new role which serves as the liaison between NEWEA and NHWPCA. Being a member of NHWPCA allows us to engage with our fellow New Hampshire wastewater professionals, while being a member of NEWEA allows us to engage with our regional states on the many issues facing our industry. There is comfort in knowing that all states are faced with similar challenges. On April 8th and 9th, I had the opportunity to attend the National Water Policy Fly-in in Washington DC with several other NHWPCA and NHHWA members. It is a wonderful opportunity to engage with our New Hampshire Senators and Congressmen. The five issues we concentrated on were sustained and adequate funding, support for the Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act (WIPPES Act), support of Bill HR 1267 Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act which will hold polluters responsible for the associated costs of PFAS rather than the rate payers, cybersecurity and workforce development. We are lucky in New Hampshire to have engaged and knowledgeable representation in DC.

I want to extend an open invitation for anyone to reach out to me discuss any issue or topic you feel you would like me to address as your NEWEA state director. I am here to assist as best I can. One topic I would like to push is Education & Outreach. As an industry I think we need to do a much better job of educating the public and our community leaders on the valuable work each one of you does every day. Wastewater operators are dedicated and hardworking and are instrumental in protecting public health and the environment. Without the work you all do, we would not have such a beautiful state to call home. Please do not sell yourself short, as humility has not served us well. We need to shout from the rooftops the important work we do, and

make sure our pay is commensurate with that work. So, shout loud and proud. You deserve it!

To promote education and outreach, NHWPCA has a wonderful Education & Outreach Committee co-chaired by Krista Larsen and Wade Pelham. One annual event we would like to see established in New Hampshire is Clean Water Week each April. We will be asking for WWTPs across NH to open their doors during this week to promote and show off our WWTPs, and the work you all do to ensure Clean Water. Stay tuned for more information!

Another opportunity to celebrate the work we do is through awards. NHDES & NHWPCA are now accepting nominations for their Joint Public Education and Outreach Award. This award recognizes wastewater operators and community leaders for significant accomplishments in promoting public awareness and the understanding of water environment issues. These issues include the importance of wastewater treatment plants and their role in protecting public health and the environment through the development and implementation of outreach, education and/or communication programs that others can follow and build upon. Applications are due by June 30, 2025, and the award will be presented at the NHWPCA Annual Winter Meeting held in December. NHWPCA membership is required to submit a nomination, but membership is not required to win an award. Questions can be directed to Krista Larsen, NHDES at [krista.p.larsen@des.nh.gov](mailto:krista.p.larsen@des.nh.gov) or (603) 848-8269.

## Water Bears are Everywhere!!!

*By Mary Jane Meier*

Recently I travelled to Chamonix, France to enjoy the snow-covered Alps known as "Vallee Blanche" glacier run from Mont Blanc. Among the highlights and majestic beauty is the 13-mile slope known as Mer De Glace, or sea of ice glacier. An enormous ice cave has formed at the end of the glacier at 6,276 ft altitude. The photos below show the interpretive placards and man-made features where the public can enter and walk along the cavernous ice cave to learn all about glacier formation, movement, and folklore. While that was fun and educational, the real surprise was the presence of WATER BEARS within the glacial ice formation!

Tardigrades (or water bears) are one of the most

resilient creatures on this planet. These creatures were first named 'Kleiner Wasserbar' by a German zoologist.<sup>1</sup>

You may know tardigrades by another name, whether it's water bear or even moss piglets!<sup>2</sup>

These animals range in size from 2 mm to 0.1 mm in length. And their hatchlings are comparable to the size of pollen at 0.05 mm.<sup>1</sup>

Water bears have eight legs with claws and a gait (head) that resembles a bear. Water bears vary in size and are one of the larger critters we see under the microscope in activated sludge processes. The mouth of a water bear has hard little stylets, which it uses to pierce its prey and suck the contents out. The skin of a water bear is transparent, and it is often possible to view the contents of what it has recently eaten.<sup>2</sup>

Their remarkable adaptability to their surroundings allowed them to survive all five major mass extinctions and may be nature's most durable creature. They are found in almost every habitat, ranging from scorching deserts to freezing glaciers. These microscopic water bears can go without food and water for up to thirty years!<sup>1</sup>

According to *Smithsonian* magazine, tardigrades can withstand environments as cold as minus 328 degrees F (minus 200 degrees C) or highs of more than 300 degrees F (148.9 degrees C). They can also survive radiation, boiling liquids and even massive amounts of pressure. Because of the resiliency of these organisms, it only seems appropriate they could also survive in activated sludge wastewater processes.<sup>2</sup>

1. *Animalfact.com*, last updated on 7th November 2024, <https://animalfact.com/tardigrade/> (accessed April 14th, 2024).

2. Hennessey Ryan, "Bug of the Month: Tardigrades, Smaller Than the Average Bear," *TPO Magazine*, October 15, 2020, [https://www.tpomag.com/online\\_exclusives/2020/10/bug-of-the-month-tardigrades-smaller-than-the-average-bear](https://www.tpomag.com/online_exclusives/2020/10/bug-of-the-month-tardigrades-smaller-than-the-average-bear) (accessed April 14th, 2024).



**The tardigrade (water bear or moss piglet).** There is life in the Mer de Glace. A microscopic animal (0.3 mm) the tardigrade is said to be an extremophile. It can withstand extreme habitats (cold, heat, spatial vacuum, radioactivity). It survives in the glacier by drying out in winter and re-soaking in water in summer.

*It was a fun surprise to see this educational information*



*All Hail the Water Bear!*



Such a COOL exhibit in the ice cave



A cool couch complete with two "Wild and Crazy Guys!"



PRESS RELEASE

## Let's get pumped for Earth Day

*By Robert Scott, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services*

One of my favorite days of the year is fast approaching. No, not Easter or even Memorial Day – Earth Day! Every April 22, the environment takes center stage for a day. While Earth Day is not a United States federal holiday, it is recognized internationally as a day for all of us to pause to appreciate the environment around us.

As I have done for several years in my official capacity

as Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, I have been thinking about what my Earth Day message would focus on this year. Would I encourage New Hampshire residents to plant trees or perhaps participate in a community clean-up? There are usually a variety of activities planned around Earth Day that you can participate in to give back to our environment, and they are all worthy endeavors. But this year, I want to highlight something most people wouldn't consider for Earth Day: I am encouraging New Hampshire residents to get pumped for Earth Day. No, I'm not looking to "pump you up" like Arnold Schwarzenegger and Hanz and Franz from Saturday Night Live; what I'm talking about is getting your septic tank pumped.

It may sound less exciting than other Earth Day activities, but I can tell you that it is just as important for our environment. Approximately 60% of New Hampshire homes rely on septic tanks for wastewater disposal. If your home has a septic system, the wastewater exits the system and seeps into the ground, where it joins the groundwater and then travels to our streams, rivers and lakes. It also travels to join the aquifer from which we get our drinking water.

Keeping your septic system properly functioning through regular maintenance – which includes getting it pumped every three to five years, depending on the household – will protect your home, your drinking water and your local ponds, lakes and rivers. A properly designed and functioning septic system treats the wastewater so that it doesn't carry harmful bacteria with it as it leaves your property. If there is a system failure, then wastewater can back up into your home or overwhelm your leach field, which could cause a mess in your yard. If the human waste in your tank ends up in your yard, it could run off into nearby surface water, preventing the recreational use of our lakes and streams and could potentially contaminate your drinking water.

Plus, pumping your septic tank makes good financial sense. While the average cost of getting your tank pumped is approximately \$350 to \$500 every three to five years, on the other hand it can cost about \$25,000 or more to replace a typical residential leach field. Home and septic inspections are part of most real estate transactions in New Hampshire, so regular septic system maintenance will help protect your investment.

Additionally, so there aren't any surprises when you get your septic tank pumped, make sure your family is septic smart and knows what's flushable in the first place. It's simple to remember. Basically, it's the "three P's," pee, poop and paper (toilet paper). Everything else should be considered not flushable, even if it says it on the packaging.

While your septic tank is probably not the first thing that will come to your mind this Earth Day, I want to encourage you to help me spread the word about getting pumped – getting your septic tank pumped, that is – this Earth Day.



## Congratulations to NH Ops Challenge Team

By Tracy Wood, NH NEWEA Director

Congratulations to NH Ops Challenge Team for placing 1st in Lab, 1st in Collections, 2nd in Process and 3rd Overall at NEWEAs Spring Conference in Portland, ME this week.

The NH Ops Challenge Team is made up of folks from NHDES including Andrew Carr, Joe Irving, and Sam Wood, all from the Winnepesaukee River Basin WWTF in Franklin. David Labombard also previously from WRBP was unable to participate after leaving WRBP for a position at the Bristol WWTF so Patty Chesebrough, co-coach with Dan Demers from the Water Division in Concord, stepped in.

Wow! I got to watch them in action for the Lab Challenge, and boy were they on fire. Some photos attached. Trying to perform a challenge under the pressure of time and multiple judges watching every move you make didn't phase these professionals. Well done!

Since the NH team placed third overall (out of 5 teams) they get to go to WEFTEC this fall to compete nationally!





## Committee & Board SPOTLIGHTS

### April Sargent

**Position on Board:** 3rd Director

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

I'm a Project Manager at Resource Management, Inc. (RMI), where I've worked for nearly five years.



**2. What is your favorite thing about your career?**

His industry is incredibly welcoming. I'm constantly inspired by how eager everyone is to collaborate and work toward a shared mission - clean water!

**3. What is special about the place you grew up?**

I grew up on a dairy farm in Minnesota, where I learned the value of hard work and the importance of community from an early age.

**4. What makes you laugh the most?**

The boat launch scene from Family Guy! It replays in my head and never fails to make me laugh when I am at a boat launch or horse show.

**5. What's your favorite series to binge-watch?**

I'm not much of a TV watcher, but I'll happily join a group binge if snacks are involved.

**6. For what song do you HAVE TO turn up the volume and sing along?**

Sweet Caroline—you can't help but belt it out, especially when the crowd joins in!

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

Salad! As long as I can mix up the ingredients, I'd be happy eating it for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

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

Boating on our hometown lake, riding my horse, and

most recently, flying drones—I just got my drone pilot license!

**9. Which is your favorite NHWPCA event or meeting?**

Definitely the Summer Outing, it's a great chance to relax, reconnect with friends and colleagues, and show everyone how bad I am at cornhole!

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

I'd love to help update the "About Us" page on our website. It's a great opportunity to tell our story better. Also, continuing to engage young professionals is critical. We've made great strides, but as the workforce ages, fresh energy and new perspectives are more important than ever.

### Patty Chesebrough

**Position on Board:** Secretary

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

The NHDES Wastewater Engineering Bureau. Since December 2023. Ironically enough, this is the same bureau where I started my wastewater career back in the late 1980s. Always planned to go back to NHDES; just never thought it would take me over 30 years to do it!

**2. What is your favorite thing about your career?**

Definitely the people. Wastewater folks are the best!

**3. What is special about the place you grew up?**

I grew up in Gilford NH. Gilford is a perfect NH location, with its proximity to the lakes, mountains, and coast. Gilford is also a beautiful rural town but is never boring because of the tourism draw from Lake Winnepesaukee in summer and Gunstock ski area in winter.

**4. What makes you laugh the most?**

The laughter of others. It's contagious!

**5. What's your favorite series to binge-watch?**

Ooh, that's a tough one. I don't sit idle often, so when I do, there are so many things I've never watched. Lately, I've really enjoyed the super strange/intrigue

ones that my kids have suggested to me ... Breaking Bad, Fallout, Jack Ryan, Reacher, etc.

**6. For what song do you HAVE TO turn up the volume and sing along?**

There's not enough room in the Collector to even begin listing them. I LOVE music and from almost any genre!!

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

Steak, potato, and salad. There are so many ways to prepare these that it could last a lifetime.

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

Skiing, boating, working in my yard, riding my Harley, and spending time with family/friends.

**9. Which is your favorite NHWPCA event or meeting?**

The Summer Outing, followed closely by Ski Day.

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

I would like to increase committee membership/participation. We have a lot of members who show up at events, but the health of the Association depends on members willing to roll up their sleeves and contribute. There are currently too few members doing too much of the work.

**Justin Durant**

**Position on Board:** 1st Director At Large

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

Wright-Pierce, 4 years

**2. What is your favorite thing about your career?**

My favorite aspect of my job is having the opportunity to work on a variety of tasks with different challenges but all share a common goal of assisting communities within the state I've spent most of my life in.

**3. Where did you grow up?**

Hopkinton, New Hampshire

**4. What makes you laugh the most?**

An elaborate prank

**5. What's your favorite series to binge-watch?**

Top Gear (UK)

**6. For what song do you HAVE TO turn up the volume and sing along?**

American Pie

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

Pasta of any kind

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

During the school year I coach the UNH Rowing Team. In other free time I spend time on a couple vintage cars and attend shows/meet ups. I also set aside time to travel and get outdoors.

**9. Which is your favorite NHWPCA event or meeting?**

Summer Outing

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

I'm interested in getting young professionals and members in the industry more aware and involved with the Association.

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# Photo Gallery

## 2025 Trade Fair





# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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ARD-EHP-38

2025

## Surface Water Foams with PFAS

Surface water foam can be found on New Hampshire lakes, rivers and estuaries, floating on the surface or collecting at the water's edge. Foam can occur naturally or be caused or enhanced by environmental pollution. Some water bodies in New Hampshire have been impacted by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). In those areas, the surface water foam may contain PFAS. PFAS are human-made chemicals used in industry and consumer products to make water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics, some firefighting foams and more. This fact sheet explains the main types of surface water foams seen in New Hampshire waters, including those with PFAS, how you can be exposed to foam with PFAS and ways you can reduce your exposure.

### Do all foams contain PFAS?

**No, not all foams contain PFAS.** Foams can develop in surface waters due to natural processes (natural), chemical discharges (synthetic) or a combination of the two. In all cases, the color can vary from white to brown. The foam could also contain algae, cyanobacteria, parasites, viruses, bacteria, PFAS or other contaminants that could pose a health risk to people and pets if they are exposed.


- **Natural foams:** These are created when plants or other natural materials break down in the water and release organic substances (similar to compounds that produce bubbles in soap) and rise to the surface. When these substances in the water mix with air, bubbles or foam can form. In some instances, decaying cyanobacterial blooms can be mixed into these foams. Naturally occurring foams typically:
  - Have an off-white or brown color.
  - Collect in bays, eddies or near dams.
  - Have an earthy or fishy odor.
- **Synthetic foams:** Spills, discharges or runoff containing cleaning agents, nutrients, PFAS or other chemicals can cause foaming that is not naturally occurring. Synthetic foams typically:
  - Have a bright white color.
  - Are lightweight and tend to pile up like shaving cream.
  - Can have a perfume-like odor.

While there may be some identifiable differences between natural and synthetic foams, it is not recommended to try to determine the type of foam by smelling or touching it. Also, you can't always tell if surface water foam is natural or synthetic just by looking at it.

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