

Share Your Thoughts

A Message from the President

Aaron Costa, President, Board of Directors

It was great seeing everyone at the Winter Meeting, and I hope everyone had a good holiday season celebrating with friends and family. A big shoutout to Merrimack for hosting the 2024 Winter Meeting and providing tours of their facility! It takes a lot of planning and effort to prepare for a big crowd and thank you to the businesses that sponsored the event and donated prizes for the raffle, together it helped make the event a success.

2025 will be another busy year for the Association, there are many activities and events scheduled throughout the year. For more information and the schedule of upcoming events please check out the Association's website and follow us on social media. Also, just a friendly reminder, if you haven't done so already, it's not too late to renew your 2025 membership. There are many different membership options to choose from and maintaining a strong membership is essential to the Association.

NHWPCA is comprised of a variety of different groups within the wastewater community: Operators, Consultants, Vendors and members from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). Participating in Association events, committees or on the Board is a great way to meet fellow wastewater professionals, help build connections and foster relationships.

The Association is always looking for new Board Members or volunteers for its many different committees. There are many committees to choose from based upon your specific interests, whether it's the Government Affairs, Permits, Education or Newsletter committees, just to name a few. The Association is always in need of volunteer support.

In addition, if your facility is interested in hosting the Fall or Winter meeting, please reach out, it's a great way to highlight and educate folks on any recent upgrades, show off your plant and the hard work you do every day.

The Board and Association are working on many different objectives, one that comes to mind and is discussed frequently is work force development. My hope is to convey a message that we need more members and volunteers to work on these issues and it would be great for some new folks to step in and carry the Association into the future.

Finally, I want to take the time to thank all our members for everything you do to provide water and wastewater services to the communities of New Hampshire. I hope everyone can get outside and enjoy the many activities New Hampshire has to offer. Stay healthy and safe.



NHWPCA Board

- Aaron Costa, President*
- Nate Brown, Vice President*
- Patty Chesebrough, Secretary*
- Mario Leclerc, Treasurer*
- David Webber, 1st Director*
- Phil Boisvert, 2nd Director*
- April Sargent, 3rd Director*
- Justin Durant, 1st Director-at-Large*
- Ariel Wright, 2nd Director-at-Large*
- Tracy Wood, NEWEA Director*

Editor's Words



Stephanie, Somersworth WWTF

I'm writing for the SPRING edition of the newsletter even though Punxsutawney Phil has predicted 6 more weeks of winter and it's snowing outside my window. My daughter took the extra step of looking up results from some less famous groundhogs and told me it was a 50-50 split. I suppose that's what you get with a knock-off brand...lol. My daughter actually had some real winter weather in the low country of South Carolina this year. They had to cancel schools because the municipalities don't own snow plows that they'd only use once per decade. She asked parents to send in photos of their kids playing in the snow because she knew that would be all they'd be talking about when they got back to class. Unfortunately, they'll have to make up a couple of the days because they'd already used up their allotment of virtual days during hurricane season. She'll have the photos to remind them of why when they complain about it.

My new plow guy at home is working out just fine. I haven't actually met him in person. We've talked on the phone and texted and I Venmo him money after he plows. I just love it when my neighbors do all the work and I can reap the benefits! That's similar to how I found my new tree guy. A house a few down from me was having a lot of trees taken down so I walked my dogs in that direction, thought it looked good, and took a photo of the truck. I could have just waited for them to put up their sign afterwards. That sign was soon in my yard and then shortly after in the yard of another house. The trees in my neighborhood are getting to the end of their lifespan and so it makes sense to take them down before they fall down.

I've been talking about my neighborhood networking, but please take advantage of networking with others in our association! You can go to an event, join a committee, follow on whichever social media you prefer – the links are all on the back of the newsletter. Networking works best if everyone will...SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

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Upcoming Events

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

Save the Dates

- | | |
|---|--|
| Feb. 14 - Board Meeting | Apr. 10 - NHWPCA's Annual Trade Fair
Sheraton Nashua, 11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH |
| Mar. 6 - Legislative Breakfast | |
| Mar. 13 - 16 th Annual Ski Day | Jun. 27 - NHWPCA's Summer Outing
Ellacoya State Park, 280 Scenic Drive
Gilford, NH |
| Mar. 14 - Board Meeting | |

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.

Editor: Stephanie Rochefort

THE COLLECTOR is the Official Newsletter of the NHWPCA
For more information about the NHWPCA visit our website at www.nhwPCA.org

Printed by **EVANSprinting**
155 River Rd. Unit 15, Bow, NH 03304 | 603-225-5529 | evans1@evansprint.com



Blurbs, Blurbs, & More Blurbs

2025 NH Drinking Water & Wastewater Managers School

By Wade Pelham, NHDES

Every other year the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), the NH Water Pollution Control Association (NHWPCA) and the NH Water Works Association (NHWWA) partner to offer the NH Drinking Water & Wastewater Managers School. Application to the program is open to drinking water and to wastewater professionals preparing for future management or supervisory positions, as well as current managers and supervisors who wish to improve their management skills. Course topics include municipal and utilities legal concepts, budgeting, personnel management/human resources, communication skills, education and outreach, public information and messaging, and instruction by current NH water and wastewater utility managers. This year’s candidate class is the largest in the history of the program, with candidates from Berlin, NH to Newburyport, MA. Please welcome me in recognizing the candidate class for the 2025 NH Drinking Water & Wastewater Managers School:

- Bob Bishop – Keene WWTF
- Jimmy Casey – Dover WWTF
- Matthew Collins – Durham WWTF
- Dean Costello – Milford WWTF
- Ethan Davio – Bristol WWTF
- Dylan Delisle – Concord WWTF
- Sean Donohoe – Concord WTP
- Jeremiah Haynes – Charlestown WWTF
- Curtis Hodgdon – North Conway WWTF
- Darwin Hurlbert – H2O Innovation
- Arik Jones – Rye Water
- Rich Loughton – Secondwind Water
- Nathan Limric – Peterborough WWTF
- Nathaniel Martin – Manchester WWTF
- Jeffrey O’Neil – Berlin WWTF
- Daniel Perry – Concord WTP
- Michael Scarpetti – Manchester WTP
- Anthony Shea – Epping W&S
- Matthew Solazzo – Newburyport, MA WWTF
- Bradley Swan – Hampton WWTF
- Seth Thompson – City of Dover

Charles Tiffany – Town of Farmington
 Albert Vanasse – Hanover WWTF
 Samuel Wood – WRBP

Env-Wq 304 - NHDES Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Rules: Friendly Reminders.

1. Certification Renewal Requirements (**Every two years**).
 - a. Renew certification by completing and submitting a renewal application, no later than one state business day before expiration (certifications expire every other year on either June 30 or December 31) at: <https://onlineforms.nh.gov/?formtag=NHDES-W-09-004> (check box – certification renewal)



- b. Completed renewal application requires:
 - i. Submission of certificates of attendance equaling at least 20 hours of Continuing Education (TCHs) with >50% directly related to WW treatment processes or maintenance of those processes, and the remaining in a relevant field.
 - ii. Payment of \$100 renewal fee.
 - iii. Digitally signed application (attestation of submittal).
 2. Certified Operator Notification and Reporting Responsibilities.
 - a. **Maintain current** contact information by completing and submitting: <https://onlineforms.nh.gov/?formtag=NHDES-W-09-004> (check box – update contact information)



- b. Notify the department in writing (email: des.wwe.operations@des.nh.gov) **upon**

being designated as an Operator-In-Responsible-Charge (OIRC), Back-Up, or upon termination from such a position.

- c. The OIRC shall **annually** complete and submit electronically **by February 15**, the "Operator-In-Responsible-Charge Verification Form": <https://onlineforms.nh.gov/?formtag=NHDES-W-09-055>



3. Multi-Plant Certified Operator Endorsement.
 - a. Any certified operator seeking to operate more than one plant shall **request prior** approval for a multi-plant operator endorsement by completing and submitting: <https://onlineforms.nh.gov/?formtag=NHDES-W-09-065>



- b. A certified operator that was issued an approved multi-plant endorsement shall file an updated "Wastewater Operator Multi-Plant Endorsement: form **within 10 days of any change** in the information that was previously provided.
4. Wastewater Treatment Plant Owner Responsibilities.
 - a. Ensure that only certified wastewater operators are operating the plant.
 - b. Designate **annually, by February 15**, the responsible individuals (Authorized Representative, OIRC, and Back-Up) by completing and submitting: <https://onlineforms.nh.gov/?formtag=NHDES-W-09-067>



- c. Notify the department in writing (email: des.wwe.operations@des.nh.gov) **within**

24-hours of the termination of the OIRC or Back-Up.

Remembering Mike Serard and Doug Starr

The Collector staff shares sad news with our NHWPCA community of members regarding the recent deaths of Mike Serard and Doug Starr. In their own right, and through their life works, each of them made valuable contributions to advance the science and practices of making clean water. They shared their knowledge with wastewater and water treatment operators and laboratory professionals through their daily work, with each class and lecture given, and in how they lived their lives. We are thankful for the time we had to share with them and offer our condolences to all who miss them.

Michael O. Serard of Bow, NH passed away after a brief illness at Concord Hospital on December 3, 2024, at the age of 68.

He was born in Plymouth, NH and graduated from Concord High School in 1974 and then went to the University of Maine Orono to receive a Civil Engineering degree. He also became a Phi Eta Kappa Brotherhood. He later went to Franklin Pierce University to complete his bachelor's degree in business administration.

Mike worked for the State of NH, TSI, Eastern Analytical Incorporated, and Aquarian Analytical. He spent his career working for many years as a Chemist, Analyst and Customer Service Manager. Mike and his team at Eastern Analytical provided expert training for the NH wastewater operators and laboratory technicians for over 20 years. Mike was one of the most generous people you could ever meet. He gave his time and shared his knowledge so willingly. He provided hands on instruction and easily explained complex subjects & truly made a difference for many operators and technicians. He will be missed.

Douglas H. Starr, 70, of Merrimack, NH died suddenly at St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua, NH on December 16, 2024.

He was born in White Plains, NY and was raised in Mamaroneck, NY where he was a decorated tennis player and attended Rye Neck High School where he played football. He attended Bucknell University

when he began volunteering as a firefighter and would return to Mamaroneck to become captain of the Mamaroneck Village Fire Department. He received a master's degree in environmental engineering from Manhattan College.

Doug moved to Merrimack, NH in 1986. He was currently the Environmental Permits and Program Coordinator for the City of Nashua, NH and he was also the former Public Works Director for the town of Merrimack and served as Town Engineer for Jaffery, NH. He worked on the Merrimack Conservation Commission and coached Merrimack Youth Association basketball and baseball for many years. He never gave up his love of firefighting, always had a fire and police scanner near him.

Doug's passing hits the Industrial Pretreatment Coordinators community particularly hard. He shared his knowledge at the recent annual conference in a common-sense way that we all learned from, both while presenting and during networking times. He will be missed.

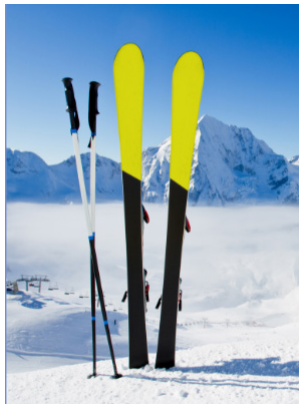


Announcements

NHWPCA Ski Day

March 13, 2025

Join New Hampshire Water Pollution Control and Maine Water Environment Association at Attitash Mountain Resort on March 13 for the 16th Annual Ski Day.



Registration includes a fun day of skiing/snowboarding, lunch, après skiing hors d'oeuvres, and networking.

Fees:

- \$100 per person/ticket (Thursday only).
*\$75 for under 17 or over 65.
- \$175 per person/ticket (Thursday and Friday).
*\$160 for under 17 or over 65
- \$35 per person/no ticket (registration required)

No onsite registrations will be accepted. Register before March 3.

<https://mewea.org/Events/meweas-16th-annual-ski-day>



NHWPCA "Plant of the Year" Award

John Adie – NHDES OPS Unit

The co-sponsored NHWPCA/NHDES POTY Award is a prestigious award because it is a true demonstration on our New Hampshire wastewater communities and staff working together to provide the best possible protection of public health and our environment. This award recognizes the hard work, dedication and commitment of the community and its wastewater staff. This year's winner was the fine Town of Peterborough and their amazing plant. Congratulations Peterborough! Runner up was Nashua and should be recognized for their submission and dedication to public health and the environment.

Every year an effort is made by NHWPCA and NHDES to make sure the POTY award recognizes a deserving community and plant. The award recognizes such categories as Compliance, Safety, Employee education, Public outreach, Professional participation, and a Site visit to confirm the eligibility and accuracy of the application. Just to touch a point- the most difficult and intensive requirement, Compliance, which requires the past years DMRs and justification for any violations. The justification is important, it may shine a better light on the violations reducing their weight in the overall evaluation. Other than the heavy lift for DMRs, the application has been deemed easy to fill out and submit.

Any plant can submit an application and this is strongly encouraged! If you feel that your community and wastewater staff deserve recognition for their dedication to public health and the environment, please use this link to this year's POTY Award.

Link: https://nhwpc.org/POTY_Award

Best to all that apply!





Safety Corner

A Near Miss

Be Sure to Consider Safety in Every Area of the Facility and in Every Aspect of the Operation

Brought to you by the NHWPCA Safety Committee

We received a Near Miss report that seems somewhat silly at first read but highlights the importance of considering safety in every area of the facility and in every aspect of its operation, no matter how insignificant it may seem.

The Incident: A new audio-visual (A/V) system was purchased and installed in the conference room to improve the quality of virtual meetings and training for facility staff. The system included a new flat screen television, speakers, and camera. To protect the lens and for security/privacy reasons, staff were told to replace the camera lens cover after each use of the new A/V system. Following these instructions, a vertically challenged staff member climbed onto a chair to reach the camera lens and replace the cover. Unfortunately, the staff member fell from the chair while trying to replace the cover. Luckily, this being a Near Miss article, the staff member was not seriously injured. The incident was submitted through the facility's Near Miss reporting system, and a recommendation was made to purchase and place a stepstool near the A/V system that can be used to safely replace the cover.

The Lessons Learned: This seemingly insignificant Near Miss actually has numerous important safety lessons for us, including but not limited to:

1. Accidents can happen **anywhere** in the facility, not just in high-hazard areas that are typically included in safety programs.
2. Supplying and using appropriate tools for the job – in this case a step stool or ladder instead of a chair – is a critical component of a safe operation.
3. Improving our facilities is critical to long-term success, but safety needs to be considered with every improvement implemented, even the seemingly harmless ones.

4. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) can have unintended consequences. When developing any new SOP, even one as simple as telling staff to “replace the lens cover after each use”, safety needs to be considered.

So, keep improving your facility at every chance you get, but don't forget to consider the risks associated with those improvements, even if those improvements are in non-hazard areas and are doing seemingly insignificant tasks. Everyone please be safe everywhere and doing everything!

This article is brought to you by the NHWPCA Safety Committee. We are always seeking Near Miss ideas. If you or someone you know have had a Near Miss, please let us know by sending the incident to Patty Chesebrough at 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

I just couldn't think of anything to write about this quarter...perhaps I need a vacation...you think? Oh, I have a really nice vacation planned for May – I'll tell you all about it the next time I see you! For now, here's some lab-themed WEF Skills Builder questions.

Question 1 of 10

Why are BOD samples stored in the dark?

- a. because the light in the incubator generates heat
- b. to prevent the photosynthetic production of DO by algae
- c. to prevent ferric chloride from degrading
- d. to duplicate treatment conditions

Reference:

Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater (5210B)

Question 2 of 10

Why was the BOD test standardized to be conducted over a 5-day period?

- the test bottles run out of oxygen after 5 days
- after 5 days, all of the organic material has been consumed
- for the convenience of the analyst to set up on Monday and take the reading on Friday
- it takes the Thames River 5 days to reach the ocean from London

Reference:

Activated Sludge and Nutrient Removal, Chapter 6, Process Control Tests

Question 3 of 10

The purpose of analyzing a laboratory duplicate is to perform a

- precision check
- contamination check
- accuracy check
- reagent check

Reference:

Activated Sludge and Nutrient Removal, Chapter 6, Process Control Tests

Question 4 of 10

For most pH meters, an accuracy (drift) of _____ph unit is acceptable

- ± 0.1
- ± 1.0
- ± 0.001
- ± 0.01

Reference:

Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater (4500-H+)

Question 5 of 10

Where should you sample for a settlometer test?

- throughout the basin
- middle of basin
- end of basin
- start of basin

Reference:

Activated Sludge and Nutrient Removal, Chapter 6, Process Control Tests

Question 6 of 10

What temperature are solids dried at when determining total suspended solids?

- 550 °F
- 103 °F
- 103 °C
- 550 °C

Reference:

Activated Sludge and Nutrient Removal, MOP OM-9, Chapter 6, Process Control Tests

Question 7 of 10

When collecting samples for the settleometer test, _____.

- preserve with acid
- cool to 4 °C
- shake vigorously
- minimize agitation

Reference:

Activated Sludge and Nutrient Removal, MOP OM-9, Chapter 6, Process Control Tests

Question 8 of 10

While the BOD test takes 5 days to complete, the COD test only takes

- 2 hours plus setup time
- 8 hours
- 12 hours
- 24 hours

Reference:

Activated Sludge and Nutrient Removal, Chapter 6, Process Control Tests

Question 9 of 10

For the total suspended solids test, the amount of material allowed to accumulate on the filter paper should not exceed 200 mg because

- the filter pores may become clogged
- a hydrophilic layer will form
- difficulty distinguishing between non-representative particles
- too many solids may overload the balance

Reference:

Activated Sludge and Nutrient Removal, Chapter 6, Process Control Tests

Question 10 of 10

If the filter papers for the total suspended solids test are not prewashed and dried before use, what may happen?

- results are biased high
- results may be biased low
- filters may curl up inside filtration apparatuses
- drying time will need to be increased

Reference:

Activated Sludge and Nutrient Removal, Chapter 6, Process Control Tests

ANSWERS: 1B, 2D, 3A, 4A, 5C, 6C, 7D, 8B, 9A, 10B



Residuals Report



New Hampshire's Other 603

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

Unfortunately, numerous things can impair the proper functioning of our wastewater collection systems. One of those culprits is the 'FOG' trio of fats, oils and grease. Uncontrolled discharge of FOG can impair collection systems, interfere with processes at wastewater treatment facilities and cause sewer backups which jeopardize public safety and require expensive cleanups. The pretreatment programs which wastewater utilities have in place to control FOG share many of the same elements, while many programs also have their own individual characteristics. These programs are at the front lines in protecting critical wastewater infrastructure and public health. In order to showcase some of the region's leading FOG programs, NHDES partnered

with NHWPCA to host a training in 'Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) for Wastewater Utilities' in 2024 (see accompanying photo). This training showcased the fine FOG programs of the York, Maine Sewer District; Merrimack Wastewater Department; City of Portsmouth; and City of Somersworth. This training session allowed attendees to learn about a variety of local FOG programs and included a wide audience, from wastewater utilities with established FOG programs to utilities just trying to get their programs off the ground. With the success of this training, NHDES and NHWPCA plan to offer similar sessions in the future, so please keep your eyes on the NHWPCA website for more information. And if your utility has a successful FOG program which you'd like to present on, or your program has had effective, new features implemented which you would like to share, please let us know at: wade.pelham@des.nh.gov.



Operator Profile

An interview with a valued Water and WW Certified Operator from NH – In his own Words

By Brad Swan, Hampton NH WWTF

What is your background on how you got started in WW? What kicked off your interest?

What kicked off my interest to work in the field of wastewater begins where I was born and raised in Newport Beach, CA. The surfing, fishing and boating culture is very strong there. Also, Southern California is well known for its problems with water scarcity, pollution and quality. Due to that, community awareness to address these issues was always a part of my upbringing. In addition, the Orange County Sanitation Facility was near my home where I rode my bike past regularly when I was young. I always looked at it with curiosity as it was so massive and it looked more like an oil refinery rather than a WWTF. The daily average is 192 MGD which is an eye opener compared to the daily flows we have here in NH.

That was the seed, but what watered that seed was when I was living in Waterville Valley while I was

studying at Plymouth State University. Many class assignments required me to create research papers on environmental subjects. Just from curiosity I walked into the Waterville Valley wastewater treatment facility which was then run by Greg Campbell. He gave me a tour and showed me how the facility worked from the beginning to end. He retired at the end of 2019 and I am sure he had no idea that day was the genesis of my journey to a career in wastewater a decade later. I also asked him if there were any contacts in the industry that can help me obtain data to use for any of my papers. He suggested I contact Mary Jane Meier. I did so and she was very helpful with providing me contacts in the industry as I focused every project I did after that on water/wastewater.,

Provide the names of facilities and companies where you have worked

I am the laboratory technician at the Town of Hampton Wastewater Treatment Facility. I have been working there since December of 2023. Before I made this career change into wastewater, I worked as a logistics supervisor and area manager for Wayfair and Amazon in Germany since 2018.

What types of educational classes have you enjoyed- or any that you would like to see offered

I enjoyed the class Advanced Activated Sludge and Nutrient Removal provided by the NHDES that I attended last October as it was engaging and educational. Also, I believe that attending the WW math review with Richard Emberley and John Adie was essential to passing my grade 3 exam.

What is your favorite part of the job as it relates to preserving the environment, serving the community, etc

My favorite part of my job is performing laboratory tests to ensure that the pollution from the wastewater that comes from all our homes and businesses is kept to a minimum.

What are your ideas and plans or future aspirations, or things you might like to see change

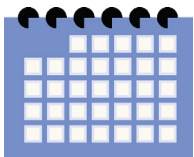
I am enrolled in The NH Drinking Water & Wastewater Managers School that starts March 2025. I am excited to be able to attend the same school which produced so many of our current wastewater treatment facility managers.



Please share ideas on the value of future outreach and education to rate payers, school kids, etc

I look forward to getting involved with community outreach to educate children and young adults to create a new generation that does not grow up unaware of what goes on behind the gates and walls of a WWTF except the smell like I did.

I believe that education in water/ wastewater is underrepresented in our university system. Most biology and chemistry students have their eyes on the more commonly known career paths like in the medical or pharmaceutical field which are highly competitive and have few prospects right out of college. With the current and projected lack of operators, students can enter the workforce immediately and start building their careers. There is a lot of job security in water/ wastewater and there is a critical need for more level 3 and 4 operators where the position requires a post-high school education in science.



Save the Dates!

NHWPCA's Annual Trade Fair

April 10, 2025

Sheraton Nashua, 11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH

NHWPCA's Summer Outing

June 27, 2025

Ellacoya State Park, 280 Scenic Drive, Gilford NH



History Class

The First Three EPA Administrators

For this edition's history class, we're going to take a look at the first three EPA administrators. Now you'll all be able to answer the trivia question: Who was EPA administrator when the NPDES program was first implemented?

William D. Ruckelshaus

December 4, 1970 – April 30, 1973

Administrator Ruckelshaus served as the first EPA agency administrator, from December 1970 to April 1973. During EPA's formative years, he concentrated on:



- developing the new agency's organizational structure,
- enforcing against severely polluted cities and industrial polluters,
- setting health-based standards for air pollutants and standards for automobile emissions,
- requiring states to submit new air quality plans, and
- banning the general use of the pesticide DDT.

Russell E. Train

September 13, 1973 – January 20, 1977

Administrator Train served as the second EPA administrator, from September 1973 to January 1977. During this time, he supported:



- EPA's expansion of interest in international affairs,
- the approval of the catalytic converter to achieve Clean Air Act automobile emission reductions,
- the implementation of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and
- EPA's work to balance the demands of the energy crisis with environmental issues.

Douglas M. Costle

March 7, 1977 – January 20, 1981

Administrator Costle served as EPA's third administrator from 1977-1981. During his administration:



- he was faced with both the Love Canal disaster and the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, and
- one of the greatest landmarks of his administration was the Congressional creation of the Superfund cleanup program.

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Wastewater Operator Certification Exam Results in New England

State	NH	ME	VT	MA	CT	RI	NY
Number of Municipal WWTFs	100	125	91	120	85	19	620
Number of Certified Operators	583	627	344	5036	847	525	1847
Recent Overall Exam Pass Rate	83%	64%	45%	47%	46%	26%	43%
Recent Average Exam Score	78%	74%			64%	64%	68%

December 2024 Wastewater Certification Exam Results for New Hampshire

Grade I – 87% pass rate – 78% average score.
 Grade II – 80% pass rate - 79% average score.
 Grade III – 100% pass rate - 78% average score.
 Grade IV – 67% pass rate - 72% average score.
 OVERALL – 83% pass rate – 78% average score.

Congratulations to the following NH Wastewater Operators:

GRADE I

Emily M. Antoni
 Robert J. Cinelli
 Robert A. Clark
 John Crowley
 Jason S. Fiske II
 Jeremiah Haynes
 Louis J. Houle IV
 Ian Howes
 Joseph A. Irving
 Matthew R. Kalina
 Nick Keane
 Dennis Labby
 Patrick J. Mackey
 Kristofer M. Maclean
 Bart T. Merriam
 Matthew B. Morwell
 Russell L. Sargent
 Shane C. Szilagyi

Bradley L. Tallent
 Ryan Yakis

GRADE II

Robert A. Barrows Jr
 Kevin S. Costigan
 Cody R. Daigneault
 Natalie Deshaies
 Christian Haskell
 Nash G. Hebert
 Zach F. Hunnewell
 Timothy Jarest
 Kevin S. Leblanc
 Genevievre A. Lemay
 Scott P. Mcglynn
 Blakely V. Miner
 Andrew N. Myers
 Ocean A. O'brien
 Scott W. Pike
 Chris Posten
 Gregory J. Vaillancourt
 Brent C. Willette
 Michael Worters
 Derek C. Wyskiel

GRADE III

Jonathan H. Forbes
 Daniel T. Rydel
 Bradley K. Swan
 Albert J. Vanassee

GRADE IV

Robert Bishop
 Edward Davies
 Jamie C. Jarest
 Andrew D. Keyser



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- Kyle Kovach (II-oit)
- Andrew Rheäume (II-oit)
- James Waddington (III)
- Michael Herbert (III)
- Keith Herbert (III)
- Bruce Bain (III)
- Edward Mitchell (I-oit)
- Andrew Marshall (III)

Congratulations to NEWEA/ WEF/EPA Awardees!

NEWEA is pleased to announce the 2024 NEWEA/ WEF/EPA Award Recipients, who were honored at the Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on January 29, 2025 during the 2025 Annual Conference & Exhibit in Boston, Massachusetts.

Congratulations to all!

NEWEA Recognitions

Stockholm Junior Water Prize

- Justin Bernstein, Greenwich, CT
- Minchae Kim, Fryeburg, ME
- Dylan Striek, Hopkinton, MA
- Mihir Garimella, Nashua, NH
- Alaina Zhang, Portsmouth, RI

NEWEA Scholarship

- Environmental Major*
- Caleb Hagner, Northeastern University
- Environmental Major*
- Jacob McCoy, University of Vermont

NEWEA Kate Biedron Memorial Scholarship

- Sarah Long, University of Massachusetts
- Isabelle Garand, University of Massachusetts

NEWEA Awards

Alfred E. Peloquin Award

- Jeff LeMay, South Windsor, CT
- Howard Carter, Saco, ME
- Karla Sangrey, Millbury, MA
- Timothy Vadney, Portsmouth, NH
- Kathryn Kelly, Providence, RI
- Thomas Elwood, Milton, VT

Asset Management Award

John Jackman, Somersworth, NH

Biosolids Management Award

Janine Burke-Wells, Hope, RI

Clair N. Sawyer Award

Eddie Davies, Providence, RI

Committee Service Award

Faye DeMoura, Burlington, MA

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Leadership Award

Joanna Sullivan, Boston, MA

E. Sherman Chase Award

Paul Dombrowski, Northampton, MA

Elizabeth A. Cutone Executive Leadership Award

David Michelsen, Salem, MA

Founders Award

Phyllis Arnold Rand, Lewiston, ME

James J. Courchaine Collection Systems Award

Michael Collins, Beverly, MA

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Operator Award

Graydon Stewart, Farmington, CT
 Dan Laflamme, Wells, ME
 Thomas Kapnis, Salem, MA
 David Bailey, Sunapee, NH
 Dave Bruno, North Kingstown, RI
 Carrie LaFond, Fairhaven, VT

Past President's Plaque and Pin

Robert Fischer, South Burlington, VT

Paul Keough Award

Greater Augusta Utility District, Augusta, ME

Green Steps Award

Town of Ipswich, Ipswich, MA

Wastewater Utility Management Award

City of Framingham, MA

Youth Educator Award

Annette Slone, York, ME

Young Professional Award

Justin Sannicandro, Goshen, CT

WEF-MA Awards

Arthur Sidney Bedell Award

Jennifer Kelly Lachmayr, Wakefield, MA

Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award

Thomas Hoad, Agawam, MA

**WEF Operations Challenge Process Event
 Division I, Second Place***

Rising Sludge

William D. Hatfield Award

Frederick McNeill, Manchester, NH

Quarter Century Operator Award*

Vincent Melendez, Plymouth, NH
 Philip Tucker, York, ME
 WEF Operator Scholarship*
 Carrie LaFond, Fairhaven, VT
 Stacy Thompson, Saco, ME

George W. Burke, Jr. Award

Plymouth, MA WWTP

WEF Fellow*

John Esler, Enfield, NH

WEF Delegate-at-Large Award

Peter Garvey, Boston, MA

WEF Delegate Award

Raymond Vermette, Dover, NH

*Presented at WEFTEC 2024

**US EPA - Region 1 New England
 Awards**

**Wastewater Treatment Plant O&M
 Excellence Award**

Village of Orleans Wastewater Treatment Facility
 John Morely, Orleans Village Manager

Newington Wastewater Treatment Plant
 Ariel Wright, Project Manager

Cranston Water Pollution Control Facility
 Earl Salisbury, Superintendent

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator of
 the Year Excellence Award**

Rian Savage, University of Connecticut Water
 Resource Recovery Facility

Ernest Smalley, Hinsdale, NH WWTF

Jose Peralta-Monzon, Smithfield, RI WWTF

Thomas McGee, Smithfield, RI WWTF

Tristan MacGregor-Stewart, Plainfield, VT WWTF

Wastewater Trainer of the Year

Gary Bartlett, New Hampshire Department of
 Transportation

Patrick Wiley, Southern Maine Community College

**Industrial Pretreatment Program of the
 Year**

York, Maine Sewer District

Theresa Tucker, Compliance Officer

MFN (Mansfield, Foxboro, Norton) Wastewater
 District

James Boliver, IPP Coordinator



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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 first couple is Jackson and Meredith Hoyt of NH's seacoast area. We thank them for supplying their story as they 'Work for Water- For Communities; For the Environment; For our Future'

The Hoyts' Story

By Meredith Hoyt

Jackson is currently working at the Rollinsford Water and Sewer District, he has been there for almost a year but spent 22 years with the Newington WWTF. Meredith is currently with The Durham WWTF and has been there for 5 years and was formally with the Rollinsford Water and Sewer District for 4 years. (Funny how things work out!) Jackson has been the mechanic for both facilities and has been responsible for keeping those plants operating from beginning to end. Meredith has a Grade 1 WW Laboratory

License and a WWTF Operator's License Grade 2. I am the Laboratory Technician and Operator.

Jackson and I just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in January and have been together for 28 years. We met when I was working at the restaurant attached to the marina where I was working full time. He rode in on his Harley and walked in the door and it was love at first sight for me. It took me a little work to win him over. His proposal was "We can get married if you want."

Jackson has an incredible mechanical mind and loves the challenges of repairing and creating almost anything. In Newington he was responsible for the entire plant's operations as well as rotating on-call laboratory weekends. We have the laboratory work in common as I work in the lab all day every day. We both have now worked in Rollinsford where I was once honored by being called "the workhorse of the plant" - I mean I was the grit chamber with a shovel and 5 gallon buckets I drilled holes in for drainage! I shoveled a lot of \$*#! ... well, you all know.

I first thought about getting into this career when I spent so many late nights and early mornings going out on emergency calls with Jackson and loved it. I had to ask myself if I loved it so much why wasn't I doing it? So began my journey.

We enjoy motorcycling together and we ride our own Harleys. We love boating here in Newington on the Great Bay Estuary and out to the Shoals. We spent many years lobster fishing on the "Lady Martha" with God Father of Lobstering! In fact, we were married on the trowel board of that vessel! We both love to read and arguing over movies to watch (all in fun!) I listen to books on disc at home, in my truck and at work. The men I work with like to tease me about knowing all the ways to kill as I listen most to murder mystery books!

The most memorable after dinner conversation we ever had was when I said "Well, I'm going to beddie-byes and Jackson asked me "What are you doing with dead guys?" That's when we knew he needed hearing aids!

Jackson's favorite part of his profession is creating solutions to mechanical problems and brain-storming with his Superintendent, Ray McNeil. I love to come up with accurate lab results to ensure optimal plant operations. My very favorite is our "Outfall" testing

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so I know we have put clean water into our receiving waters that both my and Jackson’s plants directly impact on the Great Bay Estuary. It’s fun to come home and talk about our days and bounce ideas off of each other. A brilliant Laboratory Analyst once commented on the importance of those in our field to get together to share our stories and have fun. Because when you try talking to other people about your work, they can only nod and smile because they have no idea what you’re talking about! So funny yet so true!

We love to see new young people come into our profession because of the fresh ideas and the chance to teach them what we know. It’s great to share the joy of going home at night knowing that you’ve done something wonderful for the planet, the environment and downstream users. Summer help is essential to every plant not just because someone has to mow the lawn, but because some of these young people go on to find positions in the industry.

Challenges in our chosen careers are many and complicated. From safety hazards to those who don’t really care about doing the job not just right but to the best of their abilities. There’s appearance and there’s making that appearance real. There’s nothing more important than safety and training, training, training! We both love getting up in the morning, saving the environment and it takes truly loving what you do. We both enjoy training new people to do what we do, sharing of information is crucial to the future of our work. Jackson feels honored for having spent several years training a young man who may be the next Superintendent of the Berlin WWTF. I adore giving tours of the facility to young people and old who never really thought about what we do.

It’s difficult to say all that you want to say . . . there’s always more to do, more to learn and more to share. No matter what, it is a challenging and fulfilling career.

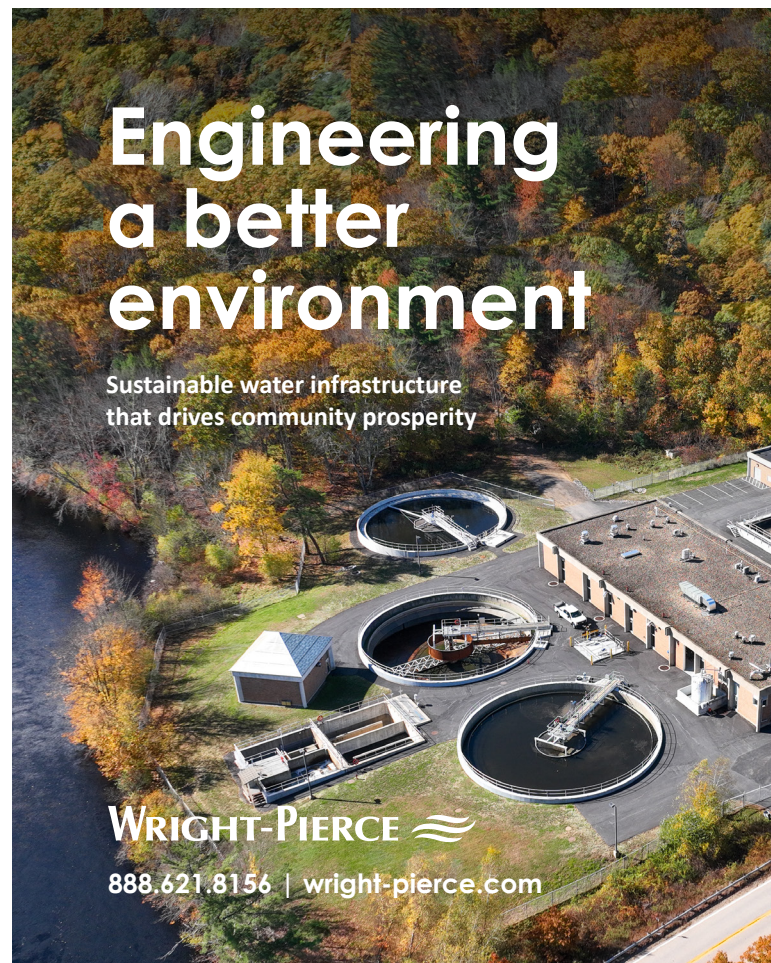
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING YEARS OF SERVICE, JACKSON & MEREDITH !

Meredith and Jack Hoyt – Wastewater Partners in Crime

A Message from Dan Peterson- Durham WWTF Superintendent

In the early 90s I had my first experience meeting Jack Hoyt. I needed some influent samples for seeding my BOD samples due to the weak influent at the time at the Pease Trade Port Wastewater Facility. I stopped at the Newington Treatment Plant where I first met Jack. Like anyone that knows him, he is larger than life. He was very friendly and accommodating to help out. He also gave me a tour of the facility. As I spoke with other colleagues in the wastewater field that knew him, there was nothing but high praises on what this man could do and his generosity.

Fast forward 20 years later. Hearing from a past coworker at the Pease WWTF, I was told there was a new up and coming individual that was interning at the facility to learn all about the wastewater field and laboratory techniques. There was nothing but high praise for her willingness to want to learn anything she could about the field. Her name was Meredith Hoyt. A short time later in 2019, I had a



job opening for a replacement lab technician. Upon seeing Meredith's resume and recommendations from respected colleagues, it was an easy decision to hire her for the position. It was not until she was hired that I had learned that Jack Hoyt was her husband.

It is easily understandable that these two individuals love the wastewater field. What is even more evident is their love and commitment to each other, as I personally witness it on daily basis. What's great is when Jack stops by occasionally bringing Meredith her lunch and sitting down with the crew for lunch. And of course, the conversations revolve around wastewater.

Words of thanks from The Town of Newington, NH - Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen Chair Brandon Arsenault:

"We have been honored to work with Jack all of his many years in Newington. His dedication to the wastewater treatment plant is unwavering!" Brandon Arsenault, Chair, Newington Board of Selectmen





Photo Gallery



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