Managers Forum

Thomas Groves, Director of Wastewater and Onsite Programs
November 21, 2019
Hartford, CT
Outline

- Background
- Overview of existing NEIWPCC training activities
- Overview of NEIWPCC Management Program involvements
- Overview of existing NEIWPCC certification activities
- Benefits of Regional Training
Established in 1947 by act of Congress

One of 6 nationally recognized interstate agencies

Jurisdiction: ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, & NY

Quasi-government, non-regulatory agency

Receive funding from US EPA under CWA Section 106. Also receive many other federal grants and state contracts.
NEIWPCC Mission

Since 1947, the not-for-profit New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission has supported and coordinated the work of its seven member states for clean water: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

We work for clean water in every sphere. We coordinate policy and fund scientific research and public education. We even train and support individual wastewater and drinking-water plant operators.
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How NEIWPCCC Serves Our States

- Provide overall leadership in water management and protection
- Coordinate activities and forums that encourage cooperation among the states (i.e., workgroups)
- Represent the region in matters of federal policy
- Initiate, oversee, and share scientific research projects
How NEIWPCC Serves Our States

- Develop resources/guides on water and wastewater issues
- Educate the public
- Train environmental professionals
NEIWPCC Organization

- Full Commission - 5 designees per state (35)
- Executive Committee
  - Seven member board
  - Environmental Commissioner or their designee - Water Program Director
- Three Main Technical Divisions
  - Water Quality
  - Water Resource Protection
  - Wastewater and Onsite
## NEIWPCC Workgroups

<table>
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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Subtopic</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<td>Climate Change</td>
<td>Contaminants of Emerging Concern</td>
<td>Source Water Protection</td>
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<td>Harmful Algal Blooms</td>
<td>Long Island Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)</td>
<td>Mass. Wastewater Training Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>New England Biological Assessment of Wetlands</td>
<td>Nonpoint Source Pollution</td>
<td>Northeast Aquatic Biologists</td>
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<td>NPDES</td>
<td>Nutrient Criteria</td>
<td>Onsite Wastewater</td>
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<td>Stormwater</td>
<td>TMDL (Pollution Budgets)</td>
<td>Underground Storage Tanks (UST/LUST)</td>
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<td>Volunteer Monitoring</td>
<td>Wastewater Residuals</td>
<td>Wetlands</td>
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<td>Water Quality Standards</td>
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Wastewater & Onsite Division

- Onsite/Decentralized Wastewater
- Wastewater Collection Systems
- Residuals, NPDES, Aquatic Trash, SRF, UST/LUST
- New York state contracts – CSO, Sandy, NYC watershed
- Municipal & Industrial Wastewater
  - Technical Guidance Documents
  - Operator Training and Certification
NEIWPCC Training

- Training WW professionals since 1967 – 50+ years !!!!
- Many different names:
  - NERWI, NEIETC, NEIWPCC
- One full time trainer Lowell-based w/many specialized contract trainers
- Additional coordination & admin staff
- Fall and Winter/Spring semesters
Mobile Training Facility (MTF)
CWA 106 workplan - Training

- Promote coordination of training programs and exchange of information on wastewater treatment.
- Provide a variety of entry level and skills-upgrade training programs and resources to support the training activities of the Compact-member States.
- EPA Project Officer
- Min. of 30 training courses per year
NEI conducts approximately 25, CWA 106 training programs per semester (50/year)

Course content:
- Exam prep for all WW certification levels
- Collections Systems O & M – w/NEWEA voluntary certification
- Lab Procedures – w/NEWEA voluntary certification
- Professional development training programs or refreshers – nutrient removal, safety, pumps, emergency generators, CMOM, FOG, resiliency, etc.

Course cost = $135 (1-day), $190 (2-day)
The 1st NEIWPCC Training Program

Course 1, March 11-15, 1968
Training Classes of Today
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th># Courses</th>
<th># Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>72 (not incl. JETCC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>945 (includes T5 and MWOT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>83 (cancellations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8 (cancellations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS:</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>1,684</td>
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Other NEIWPCC Training

- Contract to administer state training and certification programs:
  - Maine – JETCC (volunteer, host-based training)
  - Mass – wastewater operator training
  - Mass – Title 5 (subsurface) training and certification

- Contract/Custom training
  - Boston W&S, NYC DEP, MWRA, Engie (Distrigas), Lahey Clinic, Genzyme, UMass-Amherst, and many municipalities
NEI Roles with Wastewater Management Programs

- **CT** – financial administrator for course income and expenses working with CWPAA. Graduating today!

- **RI** – support with some speaker and/or meal costs. Taking a year off.

- **ME** – supports JETCC administration of program, support some speaker costs and course expenses. Graduated in Sep; Started Nov 20, 2019 in York.

- **MA** – lead the coordination of program including speaker costs, expenses, etc. Graduates in Spring 2020. Next course to start in 2021.
Maine Operator Certification

- Maine Operator Certification program is contracted with MeDEP to NEIWPCC through So. Portland office
- 5 year agreement w/MeDEP, first agreement in 2006
- Zero Dollar Contract – all revenue from program supports activities
- Review budget annually with DEP and recommend adjustments if needed
- Certification exams (all CBT now), training hour tracking, certification renewal
- Biannual renewal – 18 hours (max. 6 safety)
- Approximately 800 operators (approx. 400 per year renew)
NEIWPCC entered into our first 5-year contract with MassDEP in 2004 to administer:

- Training for Certification exam preparation
- Administer Certification exams
- Administer Certification renewal

- Approximately 5,000 operators who renew every 2 yrs
- Program was run by MassDEP but funds didn’t go back into the training/cert programs
MassDEP Agreement with NEIWPC C

- Zero dollar 5-year agreement with option to renew or start new contract for additional 5 years.
- Program to be self sustaining – supported by fees only from training, certification, and renewals.
- Annually review budget with MassDEP and recommend adjustments if needed.
- Establishment of Training Advisory Committee (TAC) to oversee the training program for MassDEP.
- Oversight by the existing MA Board of Certification for the certification program.
Why Does NEIWPCC Do Regional Training / What Are the Benefits?

- Develop and/or deliver low-cost, effective training programs – same programs in multiple states
- Deliver cross, multi-state, or regional training
- Provide core training for states w/o training programs
- Supplement training for states w/effective train programs
- Bring training programs to the operators
- Ability to facilitate trainer exchange within region
Benefits of Regional Training

- Flexible, can adjust schedule to focus on different states or renewal cycles
- Due to size of NE, easy access to any courses we offer
- Utilize contract trainers and/or national experts for multiple states – more cost effective
- Subsidize costs for state operators through 106 grant, state WW association, or other funds (former 104(g))
- Develop projects of regional interest (i.e., specialty conference, Staffing Guide, TR16 – Storm Resiliency)
Other Ways NEI Supports Training

- Administration and support for state programs (JETCC)
- Cover costs for some Management School courses
- Provide Basic WW & Exam prep classes – all levels
- Administer NEWEA voluntary certification exams
- Attend state trade shows – possible presentations
- Support state legislative events
- Offer subsidies for NEI training
Maine’s Management Candidate School (MCS)
Other Ways NEI Supports Training

- Develop and/or deliver new or different training:
  - Special small systems trainings/tech seminars (MA)
  - Train the Trainer courses (ME)
  - Facilitate multi-week/night basic training (RI)
  - Conduct annual Managers Forum class (CT)
  - Limited enrollment/hands-on training (MA)
  - Half class/half field session nutrients (CT)
Other Ways NEI Supports Training

Regulatory Trainings

- NPDES Permit Writers’ Course
- Whole Effluent Toxicity Course
- Water Quality Standards Training
Additional Initiatives

- Workforce Issues
  - NEWEA Veterans Initiative
  - Mass Community Colleges Online
  - National Water Sector
  - Youth and the Environment
Questions?
Computer-based Testing for Wastewater Certifications