Hello fellow members,

First, let me express what an honor it is to serve as President of the New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association. I follow in a long line of intelligent and committed individuals all of whom have had a positive impact on the Association during their tenure. My hope is to continue in their footsteps in keeping this organization strong and supportive.

Within my tenure on the Board, there has been some change and more of the same. The website was updated and made more user friendly. The Legislative Affairs Committee, as a co-sponsor with NEWEA, started an annual breakfast to allow our elected representatives the opportunity to find out more about what we do. In 2007, we looked back on the organization’s history. Plus, as a Board member, I had the chance to be a part of the continued efforts of our outreach programs like the Poster Contest and Wild NH Day. These have been a huge success, and I’ve enjoyed playing a part in them.

Being on the Board of Directors has allowed me to re-examine what an important role the Association plays to everyone in this industry. It offers valuable training enabling us to stay current with our certification and to work safely. It also allows us to witness new designs and technologies through quarterly meetings and special events.

I encourage every member to become a more integral part of this organization. It will broaden your perspective and give you greater awareness of how our industry functions as a whole. Plus, you’ll get the opportunity to meet new people while helping to (in the words of my predecessor) “keep the bus moving forward.”

Here’s to a productive and eventful 2011!

Gerry
Thank you to all of this years Trade Fair and Newsletter Sponsors
If you would like to become a Newsletter Sponsor contact Steve Clifton at wsclifton@underwoodengineers.com for more information

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
Steve Clifton, Mary Jane Meier, Chris Hipkiss, Stephanie Rochefort, Todd Gianotti, Dave Michelsen, and Joseph Laliberte. 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 Steve Clifton via email at wsclifton@underwoodengineers.com
Editor - Steve Clifton Publisher - Todd Gianotti “THE COLLECTOR” is the Official Newsletter of the NHWPCA

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Pg. 13 - Wastewater Manger Candidate School
Pg. 14 - Can you Guess What This Is?

UP COMING EVENTS
April 5th - NWPCA’s Annual Trade Fair at the Margate Resort in Laconia
April 20th - Legislative Breakfast at the Holiday Inn in Concord.
April 30th - Discover Wild NH Day, 10 am to 3 pm at the NH Fish & Game headquarters in Concord.
August 4th - NHWPCA Golf Tournament at Beaver Meadows Golf Course in Concord.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THIS ISSUE ARTICAL WRITERS
Mitchell Locker
Steve Clifton
Chris Hipkiss
Stephanie Rochefort

Spring Wastewater Training Class Schedule
The Spring 2011 wastewater operator training program of classes is now posted to the NH DES web site. Please copy and paste this link into your browser to find the Application for Certification exam, the License Renewal form and the June 8, 2011 exam announcement:
The Spring 2011 Training Announcement and Course Descriptions and Course Enrollment Form can be found at :
Chris Hipkiss Retires from NHDES Winnipesaukee River Basin WWTF

By Newsletter Staff

It is with best wishes and much happiness that the New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association says congratulations to Chris Hipkiss upon his retirement from the Franklin Wastewater Treatment Facility. Chris officially retired from his position as pretreatment coordinator at the Franklin WWTF on February 28th, 2011.

Chris has been a very active member of our association for over 30 years. In 1990 he was elected President of the Association after spending several years on the board as a director and vice president. Chris has been a consistent contributor to the NHWPCA Newsletter “The Collector” since 1985! His first article was on GFI circuits and James Bond frying the bad guy in “Goldfinger”. There will be a big gap to fill once Chris gears down into full retirement mode. For now he has offered to write a few more articles.

Chris has had a long and varied career. He started out by attending University of California at Davis studying Agricultural Engineering from 1960-1962. He then attended the US Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, receiving his BS in Engineering in 1966. After the Academy, he spent two years aboard Coast Guard Ice Breakers operating in the Arctic and Antarctic. This included a tour of two years spent in Juneau, Alaska as the Assistant Chief of the Communications Branch. His duty included one year as Operations Officer of a High Endurance Cutter in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

In 1973, he earned an MSEE degree in Communication from the US Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California. He served 3 years as the Assistant Chief of the Communications Division in San Francisco, California. Duties included long range communication planning and station inspection and inter-coordination of five district offices. In June 1976, he received an Honorable Discharge from the US Coast Guard.

It was at this point in his life that he turned towards an environmental career. Chris earned his NH wastewater operator license in 1980. He spent 20 years working as the chief operator for the Pittsfield, NH WWTF and 10 years at the Franklin WWTF as the industrial pretreatment coordinator.

Chris is happy to be able to spend more time at home working on his New England farmhouse in Barnstead, New Hampshire. He will stay active as a scout master, having a life-long devotion to scouting and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout during his youthful years. In addition to his scout work, Chris is eager to point out how retirement would allow him to do more hiking, something that he has done a lot of. Chris has also been active in his local government serving on the Budget committee in the past and currently serves as Town and School Moderator in Barnstead. We also expect that he will continue to plan and take a trip for a few days during the summer with his wife, as he religiously did during his tenure with the NHDES WRBP.

I know that I speak for our entire profession in thanking Chris for his devotion to his job, his willingness to help out and donate his time and energy over the past thirty years. Chris, good luck and Godspeed.
WASTEWATER REUSE – OPPORTUNITY FOR DISPOSAL
By Mitchell Locker, NHDES Groundwater Permits Coordinator

Cities and towns across New Hampshire and New England are facing escalating costs to provide both clean water to consumers, and treat and dispose of wastewater. To satisfy demand and protect water supplies, publicly operated treatment works (POTWs) and utilities must look for ways to reduce potable water usage and assure surface water and groundwater remains clean and available to the public.

Although commonly considered “Water Rich,” water in the northeast is not unlimited. The rising demand on water resources, more stringent requirements for wastewater discharges to surface water, and growing public concern have spurred cities, towns, and utilities to find alternative and beneficial methods to dispose of wastewater.

In NH, many POTWs are permitted to discharge treated wastewater directly to surface water for disposal. As the criteria for wastewater quality increases, many facilities face expensive up-grades or new facility costs to meet these requirements. In many cases, a large proportion of those treatment costs are due to nutrient removal and/or advanced filtration.

Reclaimed water that is adequately disinfected can be employed for commercial or institutional gray water systems, rain gardens, industrial cooling water, irrigation, and man-made wetlands and impoundments. This reuse can be just as beneficial, and often more economical, to use than treated potable water. Nutrient rich reclaimed wastewater is specifically useful to certain consumers that have a need to irrigate land and apply chemical fertilizers and other amendments. Examples of reuse of reclaimed wastewater that are permitted in NH include 8 sites for spray irrigation, including 3 golf courses and one site authorized to use reclaimed wastewater to make snow. Irrigation of golf courses, crops, parks, and athletic fields benefit from adequately treated wastewater rich in nitrogen and phosphorus by reducing their fertilizer needs and use. This reuse also results in an overall reduction in the nutrient load that would otherwise enter the surface waters of the state.

New Hampshire encourages the beneficial reuse of reclaimed wastewater in that it can result in a net reduction of pressure on groundwater resources that provide potable water supplies, and decrease degradation of state surface waters. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) has developed guidance identifying the various methods that can be used in NH to reuse reclaimed wastewater and the criteria for treatment to protect public health and the environment. The guidance document is available at the DES web site at the following link: http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-05-31.pdf. Forward-thinking design of future POTWs (and upgrade projects) should include an assessment of potential reclaimed wastewater users and be built to direct wastewater at various points in the treatment process to a beneficial use when feasible.

As wastewater treatment professionals, you can support the use of reclaimed water by understanding the specific treatment capabilities of the POTW, and identifying those potential consumers that demand large amounts of water for activities that could be met by reclaimed water.

As a green initiative to help reduce water usage, wastewater reuse can provide a solution to mitigate stress on drinking water supplies and provide an alternative disposal method to reduce pollution to sensitive surface waters. By diverting adequately treated wastewater for beneficial purposes, it can become an asset rather than a liability.

For additional information on wastewater reuse in NH contact Mitchell Locker, Groundwater Permits Coordinator at (603) 271-2858 or by e-mail at Mitchell.Locker@des.nh.gov
New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association
Annual Trade Fair
Tuesday, April 5, 2011
Margate Resort on Paugus Bay
76 Lake St. Laconia, NH 03246 (603)-524-5210

Agenda

8:30 am - 1:00 pm  Exhibits open 0.2 CEU for all NHWPCA members attending.

Displays of the latest environmental products and professional services in the Wastewater Treatment Industry will be open for viewing. There will be no charge for entry into the exhibit hall. Complimentary coffee will be served in the exhibit hall until 11:00 am, at which time a cash bar opens.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS: 0.1 CEU awarded for each session to any NHWPCA member who attends.

9:30 am - 10:30 am  Nutrient Testing for Process Control
Presented by Bob Dabkowski of the Hach Company

This session will provide an introduction to nutrients, nutrient removal methods for nitrogen and phosphorus, test methods, and advanced plant control.

11:00 am  Cash bar opens.

12:00 pm  A raffle to benefit your Operations Challenge Team and Scholarship Recipients will Held in the exhibit area.

1:00 pm  Formal Luncheon - Please complete registration form and return with payment. Featuring: a hot lunch buffet.

1:30 pm  Awards Ceremony.

Clean Water Week Poster Contest Awards.
The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, Thomas Burack will present these awards.

Presented by Roger Jansen - President - New England Water Environment Association
SAFETY CORNER
EMERGENCY GENERATOR SAFETY
BY CHRIS HIPKISS, FRANKLIN WWTF (RETIRED)

First a true experience. While operating a small wastewater treatment facility I was driving by one of my lift stations one day, which was a 30 foot deep air ejector facility and I noticed that the emergency generator was running. All of the local traffic flashers were operating so it appeared that the power was on. I opened the gate to the station and opened the lid to the tube going down to the ejectors and the lights were on and a compressor was running so everything seemed fine. There was a 100 amp circuit breaker just below the electric meter for the station and I checked that and it had tripped. In most cases at a small plant when a circuit breaker trips you reset it and hope for the best which is what I did. Bad move! On resetting the breaker there followed a loud bang from the generator; the breaker tripped again and light blue smoke was rising up out of the tube leading to the ejectors. This was not a good day.

What happened? This particular emergency generator set up had a transfer switch that had two magnetic contactors with one to connect the station to the utility and the other to connect the station the emergency generator. There was a mechanical interlock between the two to prevent both being engaged at the same time. The interlock failed and both contactors were, for whatever reason, in the closed position so when I reset the tripped breaker my stations emergency generator was going up against Seabrook Station and Seabrook won. The lesson learned is that if an emergency generator is running and the breaker has tripped between the station and the power utility; don’t reset that breaker with the generator running until you know for sure why the breaker tripped.

With the last several ice storms and the resulting loss of power many home owners have bought emergency generators and hopefully all have been installed properly. But if they were not installed properly, look out!

The quickest and most dangerous improper installation is to plug the generator into a wall socket and back feed power to the whole house. The real danger in this set up is that if the main breaker to the house is not turned off, when the power comes back on the little homeowners’ generator is going up against Seabrook Station and we all know who the winner will be. This also is dangerous for workers trying to fix the power out in the system, as it can back feed into the mains.

The proper way is to take power from the main distribution panel and feed that into a DTDP transfer switch that is connected to the emergency generator and to an emergency distribution sub panel (the sub panel would have circuits such as lights, well, refrigerator/freezer, and furnace) (DPDT means double-pole double-throw and there are three position in this switch; 1: utility power on, generator power off; 2: both off; and 3: generator power on, utility power off) Note: If the transfer switch at my wastewater lift station was so equipped that mishap would not have happened since none of the positions allows for both the generator and the utility to be interconnected.

The emergency generator set up described above usually cannot be accomplished after the lights have gone out so home openers need to plan ahead. Do some researching ahead and calculate the amount of power you need for the circuits you want keep power to and then install the system during the summer according to local code and you will be prepared for the next winter ice storm.

The next important safety aspect with emergency generators is the placement of the generator. The exhaust from the generator contains carbon monoxide gas that is colorless, odorless and poisonous. Therefore generators must be operated outdoors away from any open windows or areas where harmful vapors may be trapped. The use of attached garages even with the doors open can be very dangerous since carbon monoxide gas is heavier than air and can sink to the lowest point in the adjoining building.

(Continue on page 10)
There are a lot of good reasons for having a computer in the lab. One of my favorite uses of my lab computer is writing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). I like the security of knowing that if I was unable to come to work for an extended period of time other staff could simply pull the SOP book from the shelf and follow step-by-step directions for each of the tests. We have some seasonal limits in our NPDES permit, so I can review the SOPs for those tests that are only done “in-season”. And, if QA/QC problems rear up, the first step is always to review the SOP to make sure that the test is being done exactly right.

Speaking of QA/QC, another great use of the computer is for tracking those QA/QC results. With our QA/QC spreadsheet, an analyst can know immediately if the pH standard is “in” before continuing with NPDES tests. We can also graph results and look at trends.

Since my lab computer can go on-line, I’m open to a whole world of information that I can use to research any problems in the lab. My best example was when I researched what micro-organisms are resistant to chlorine and would show up as positive on my e-coli test method. I researched this because we were using more than enough chlorine to kill e-coli and still getting positive results. So, there had to be some sort of mutant bacteria causing these results. I couldn’t possibly be doing anything wrong in my lab to cause this.

When I was a teenager, my Girl Scout leader taught me the KISS rule. Keep It Simple, Stupid. The lesson at the time was supposed to be applied to menu-planning for a camping trip. But, I’ve come to learn that the KISS rule can be applied to lots more. Maybe I was making this whole false-positive problem more difficult that it really was and I truly was doing something wrong. You think?

So, I decided to trouble-shoot my e-coli method. I realized that the KISS rule could also mean Keep It Sterile, Stupid in a laboratory setting. The first thing to keep sterile is the sample during collection. Is the bottle sterile? Well, bottles can be purchased pre-sterilized or you can sterilize your own. Either way, it’s easy enough to throw some sterile water and tryptic soy broth into a bottle, incubate and see if anything grows. Speaking of sterilizing, is the autoclave passing all its checks? I had an incubator that I used the steri-tape daily in and the black lines that were supposed to indicate sterility would start to get lighter and lighter black which indicated that it was not sterilizing completely. Is the sample-collector wearing disposable gloves and following sterile sampling techniques? Black grease or sludge marks on the outside of the sample bottle are a bad sign!

My next question was whether or not all my apparatus and media were sterile. Again, this is easy enough to check and rule out. Then, I needed to review whether I was using sterile techniques throughout the analysis process. This involved wiping down the bench with alcohol, wearing gloves, handling everything properly, etc. I even checked more frequently than the twice-daily thermometer check to make sure that my incubator was working properly and made sure that I was not cheating on either end of the required incubation time.

The end of the story is that after I had gone detail by detail through my test method, the treatment plant stopped growing those mutant bacteria and we were back to the kind of results that we liked to see. In the years since, I’ve continued to be diligent with my e-coli test method and I’ve never managed to grow those mutants again. I guess that means that the operators are doing a good job!
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In closing

This has been a very brief run down on emergency generator safety and if you plan to install a system do your research. I got some of my information from an on line document put out by the New York State Electric and Gas Corporation at www.nyseg.com. The document is titled “Emergency Generator Safety” and at the end is a table to help determine the amount of emergency power wattage you would need to operate different appliances in a home.

If you have a safety area that you would like to see covered in the safety corner give me a call. You can reach me at (603)-269-3221 or e-mail me at chipkiss@tds.net
2010 NEWEA, WEF, EPA, AWARD RECIPIENTS from NH

EPA 2010 Regional Pretreatment Excellence Award
Roger Descoteaux, Pretreatment Coordinator - Merrimack, NH

NEWEA Recognition - NBP EMS Certification
Shelagh Connelly - Resource Management

William D. Harford Award
Dana Clement - Town of Allenstown WWTF

WEF Operations Challenge National Competition

WEF Life Membership
Terrance Campbell - Weston & Sampson

NEWEA/NHWPCA Operator Award
Todd Gianotti - Town of Newmarket WWTF

Not pictured - NEWEA Alfred E. Peloquin Award - Harry Baldoumas - City of Manchester
Board of Directors Support New Hampshire Public Works Employee Memorial

On June 15, 2009, Governor Lynch signed into law RSA 4:9 establishing a committee to oversee the design, construction and maintenance of a memorial to public works employees who have died in the course of performing public works duties on behalf of a municipality, a county or the state. Directors Gerry Curran and Peter Goodwin volunteered to participate for the designated committee. Since August of 2009, the 13 member Committee selected the grounds of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation Building as the memorial location. From September 2010 to December of 2010, high school and college students were invited to submit designs. On December 7, 2011, designs were reviewed by the committee and students gave presentations. The Committee subsequently met and selected the winning conceptual design entry. Next steps for the Committee are to meet with the conceptual design winner and progress the design forward for the site. The Committee is considering utilizing a Professional Landscape Architect to work on finalizing the design concept which may include a rendering to facilitate fundraising.

Concurrently, the Committee is accepting nominations for individuals that may qualify for the Memorial. If you know of a loved one or friend who was a public works employee that died in the course of performing public duties and you would like to submit their name for consideration to the committee for the memorial please complete an application and forward it to the committee for review. Please visit the following website for more information. [http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/operations/highwaymaintenance/memorial.htm](http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/operations/highwaymaintenance/memorial.htm)
Preventing for the Future - Wastewater Manager Candidate School kicks off in New Hampshire

By: Ray Gordon, NHDES Septage Coordinator

In January the Department of Environmental Services (DES) began a one year Wastewater Manager Candidate School (WMCS) program with 16 wastewater treatment operators. Each registrant is from NH and each was chosen by his/her respective facility to attend the WMCS, also affectionately known as Wastewater Manager Boot Camp. The program is sponsored by the Department along with the US EPA, NEIWPCC and the NH Water Pollution Control Association. Each monthly class will be held at the DES offices located on Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.

The training program will provide intensive training, networking, and skill-development course work to help groom the next generation of wastewater management leaders and enhance the skill of current managers. The majority of wastewater managers in NH are over 45 years old. The WMCS training will prepare individuals to continue the necessary work of managing the state's critical wastewater treatment infrastructure.

The New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission are taking an active role assisting DES with the program. The program includes about 100 hours over the next year with management courses, technical courses such as engineering basics and process control, skill training in the areas of media relations, working with regulatory agencies, and budget preparation. NH joins ME, RI, CT and MA in offering this focused program to cultivate wastewater managers. The program is funded with federal training grants, so participation in this program comes at a low cost to the individuals or their communities.

The NH program has received endorsement from The New England Water Environment Association, Inc. (NEWEA). In the endorsement the NEWEA President wrote “...Especially now, when the number of experienced operators is declining and the level of complexity of facility operations is increasing, this type of training program that combines technical skills with management and leadership skills is more important than ever. Your approach of working closely with the state trade associations and regulatory agencies allows you to tailor the program to meet your state’s needs, while encompassing issues neighboring states face as well. Importantly, it provides a valuable resource to the entire New England area.” Participants submitted applications on a voluntary basis; many were nominated by their superintendent. Applicants were reviewed and the top 16 candidates were accepted for entrance into the initial program.

The first training segment, on January 18, featured a full-day introduction to wastewater treatment management. The class was taught by Dennis T. Martino, M. Ed, Program Director for the New Hampshire Bureau of Education and training. The second session held on February 15 featured a variety of speakers from the Regulatory and Water Quality Planning groups at DES. Future classes will address issues such as personality in the workplace, labor laws, dealing with unions and progressive discipline.

(Continued on page 14)
A variety of experts from the Local Government Center, Primex and the state of New Hampshire are scheduled to present these topics. In addition students will receive technical training related to wastewater from nationally renown experts including Auralene ‘Toni’ Glymph, Wastewater Microbiologist and Michael Cherniak of Woodard & Curran, Inc. Mr. Cherniak co-authored the text book students will use, entitled ‘Manage for Success -Effective Utility Leadership Practices’. This textbook is issued by the nationally recognized training program in The Office of Water Programs, California State University at Sacramento. At the end of the program students will be issued a certification of complication at the NHWPCA annual Trade Fair in April 2012.

Attendees include: Standing -Kevin Maclean- Hanover; Mark Corliss- Franklin; Scott Kilmer- Manchester; Todd Gianotti-Newmarket; Ray Vermette- Dover; Ken Conaty- Merrimack; Jeff Backman- Allenstown; Nate Brown- Peterborough. Seated - John Clark- Hooksett; John Baron- Manchester; Andrea Martel- Allenstown; Roxanna Chomas- Portsmouth/Pease; Kristin Noel- Concord; Paul “Chip” Collins- Nashua; Patrick Sheehan- Nashua. Missing from photo Kurt Robichaud- Henniker.
ANSWER TO “CAN YOU GUESS WHAT THIS IS?” ON PAGE 14.
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