THE COLLECTOR

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS Published Quarterly—Issue #2 June 1996

Observe, take notes, be amazed. This is the “Synergetics” working their way through the Collection System event at the Operations Challenge held recently at the Franklin Training Center.

The Challenge Begins

On Saturday, May 18th, an Operations Challenge Event for NH, ME and VT teams was held at the Franklin Training Center. After a full day of competition the teams placed as follows:

1st  NH Synergetics  •  2nd  ME Breakers  •  3rd  VT Maple Men

Congratulations to these three teams and in particular to our own Synergetics for winning all events.

The next competition will be in Portland, ME at the N.E.W.E.A. Spring Meeting on Tuesday, June 4th.

The New England Challenge results will send 1st and 2nd place winning teams to the Nationals in Dallas, TX in October.

Thanks to all teams and Judges who organized, practiced long hours and had the savvy to compete in this great event.

President’s Address

To the members of the NHWPCA:

As a member you should know every year the Association votes in a new President to guide and direct the course of the Association. Because of the high standards set by the past presidents and forever changing issues in the field, this is not an easy job.

I have chosen to be an active member and work in the wastewater field because I truly care about water quality. Some of the things I would like to see happen in the year to come are to increase the membership base and increase the input from the members. The Association has many helpful committees that play a large part in public awareness as well as benefiting the members. Without active membership we are nothing but another lame duck association.

There are many ways to be heard within the Association such as an article in “The Collector”, directly calling an Association Director, request time at a Director’s Meeting, contacting a committee member or sending a letter to me. The Association holds many membership functions throughout the year which are a good place to make contacts. You need to get out there and participate to get the most for your membership dollars. This is your opportunity to play a part in the direction the Association takes. The Association needs your help to keep it a strong viable tool for members to get information and be involved with their communities and state.

We are the protectors of the water!

David R. Brennan
President
**NHWPCA OFFICERS**

President Dave Brennan  
Vice President Moe Gauthier  
Secretary George Neill  
Treasurer Rich Roy  
State Director George Laney  
Past President Keith Gilbert  

Director Doug Steele  
Director Mary Dowse  
Director Charlie, Richard  
Director Bill Hall  
Director Mike Sullivan  

**Newsletter Committee:** John Currie, Dana Clement, Beverly Drouin, Harvey King, Greg Nason, Sharon Ostrander, Charlie Richard, Editor—Tom White

Send articles to: State of New Hampshire  
Department of Environmental Services  
P.O. Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095  
Att: Tom White

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**NHWPCA Directors’ Meeting**  
April 25, 1996

**Attendees:** Mr. Keith Gilbert, Moe Gauthier, Dave Brennan, George Laney, Mary Dowse, George Neill, Charlie Richard and Dave Brennan, presiding.

1.) Now President Dave Brennan welcomed new Director Charlie Richard of Turnkey-Waste Management in Rochester.

2.) **Trade Fair:** Dave Brennan reported that the set-up went quite smoothly. The Awards Presentation and meeting went fine and the guest speaker did a very good job. However, many people left during the speaker’s talk which upset the directors. Discussion ensued about perhaps holding off on the raffle until the end of the meeting so as to not cut into vendor’s show time.

- It appears that membership participation was low this year and it was a topic for discussion as to how to boost interest.
- The two available dates for next year’s trade fair are April 1 and April 10, 1997. It was voted by the board to have it on Thursday, April 10, 1997. Moe will contact the Center of New Hampshire to confirm this.

- The Treasurer sent information regarding the Trade Fair costs and finances. We were in the black once more.

3.) **NEWEA:** George Laney, NH Director, reported that we will be exchanging operators with Maine this Fall. He attended the Congressional Breakfast in Washington, D.C., representing NEWEA. The Operators Challenge — Northern Division is being held on Saturday, May 18. So far, each state is sending only one team a piece. The NEWEA Spring Meeting is to be held in Portland on June 2–5, 1996, with the Operators Challenge being held on June 1.

4.) **September Meeting:** The Board discussed the possibility of meeting places for the September meeting. Merrimack POTW, the award-winning facility, may be asked to host. Charlie Richard will be helped by George Neill to arrange this.

5.) **Membership:** A letter was recently sent out, along with our membership brochure, to all former members (within the last 6-7 years), asking them to reconsider getting involved with the Association again. We hope this will encourage a rekindling of interest. As of today, we have approximately 20 members renewing. Some new members were signed up the day of the Trade Fair, so we may have a director set up a membership table at all future meetings, making it easy for people to sign up on the spot.

6.) **Science Teachers Program:** George Neill reminded the Board that this program is on for May 16 at the Keene WWTF. There is still room for additional participants. Copies of the announcement were distributed to all Board members who were asked to spread the word.

7.) **The next Directors’ Meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 1996 at the DES Training Center in Franklin, NH. Committee Chairs will be invited to attend this meeting.

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**Job Opportunity**

Town of Newport, NH is accepting applications for a full time operator position at the WWTF. Applicant must possess a Grade I State of NH WW Operators license. Obtain applications from or send resume to:

- **PW Garage**  
  Rt. 10 South  
  Newport, NH 03773

Inquiries call: (603) 863-3650

Newport is an equal opportunity employer.

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**New Faces in New Places**

Kristen Hultberg has transferred from Rochester’s water treatment plant to Rochester’s wastewater treatment plant, as an operator. Welcome aboard, and good luck, Kris.

Steve Stankus has left Plymouth to accept the challenge as Superintendent at Ashland WWTF.

We wish good fortune to these operators who have left their facilities — Clara Reed and Doug Parker.

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**Retirement**

At the end of May, **Harold Randall**, chief operator of the Rochester WWTP will be celebrating two very important milestones: first, he will celebrate his tenth year of service; second, he will celebrate his retirement.

Over the past ten years Harold has never compromised his commitment to quality and professionalism. He has always put the residents of Rochester and his employees first on his list. Harold’s devotion to duty and superb job knowledge will surely be missed. Harold has not only been an outstanding supervisor, but also a great friend.

We would like to wish Harold an extremely Happy and Healthy retirement.

Best Wishes & Good Luck!!  
*“The Maple Street Gang”*
Woodsville Wastewater Treatment Facility

by Ron Langdon, Superintendent

Phragmites

Are water plants similar in nature to bamboo, as they are segmented stalks? They are native to Europe and to North America. Are found in salt marshes, wetlands, and have been cultivated.

Uses:

In Canada, they have been used as a means to treat septic tank effluent, while providing an aesthetically acceptable foliage for the individual homeowner. Phragmites are used to treat wastewater, sewage, wastewater sludges, as well as industrial slimes and iron oxide sludges from water works.

They are also sold in flower shops as dried ornamentals.

How the plant works:

By growing up through the sludge, the needs break up the surface area of the beds and provide a means for evaporation of the water trapped under the surface of the dried sludge. Water is used by the reeds for their metabolism, and water is released through transpiration. The reeds use a lot of nutrients and water for their growth. The rhizomes or, if you will, the root system, provides oxygen to the sludge, helping the process of decomposition be aerating the microbes in the sludge. About fifteen minutes from the time loading has started, the dewatering process begins with water filtering through the sludge into the under drain system. As much as forty percent of the loading passes through in the first six hours, with the volume of the liquid being reduced as much as eighty percent over three days. During the growing season, the evapo-transpiration can release as much as forty percent of the volume of liquid loaded. (at 2000 gals. this equals 800 gals. given off through the leaves.)

O & M:

Loading is recommended at 2.5 gal./square foot per loading cycle, every two weeks during most of the year. During the winter months it is recommended to load every three weeks. The rhizomes continue to grow during the winter, as much as 18”. The plants should be harvested as soon as the sludge is firm enough to walk on in the fall. The plants can be composted.

Here, at Woodsville, we compost the plants as they add carbon for the bacteria to metabolize in the compost pile. By raking the leaves off the beds, we can increase drainage by preventing “blinding” of the reed bed. In the spring we clean the snow off from the beds with a snow blower. There has been a significant improvement in growth, the shoots will push up through the ice. Loading the beds helps as the sun heats the sludge and melts the ice. We load lighter so that the sludge doesn’t make a blanket for the ice. In the summer we don’t have a mosquito problem but we do have Aphids that seem to appear around July. While we load, there is very little odor. The solids in the beds smell “earthy”, with a texture similar to a rich humus soil.

Cost:

In 1987, the cost was $3,000.00 per bed. In 1991, the cost was $2925.00 per bed. This may seem inexpensive, but this was a retrofit of sand drying beds, the actual cost of installing the reeds will include an under drain system, piping, and pumps. Labor costs are low as there is little to do to them for most of the time. It takes about three hours to cut and remove the plants, per bed. And if you clean the snow off them in the spring, the time would depend upon whether there was much of a snowfall.

Disposal:

In March, we cleaned out three beds, two of which were planted in May, 1987. After composting, there was 130 yards of solids — after eight years of loading. And that’s high as the mix for composting was four of the amendment to one solid. This equals roughly eight and one half yards of solids per bed after eight years.

PRESS:

Roediger Model 07.4 Tower Press – Capacity 45 GPM – Lime Post Treatment Module Model RM150 – Recycle, Booster Pump.

Operation:

Waste Activated Sludge is pumped to the press via a Moyno variable speed progressive capacity pump. Polymer is added before the pump to aid in mixing and to increase contact time so that a cost savings is achieved through less use of polymer while getting the desired thickening for proper dewatering in the dewatering drum. From the dewatering drum it goes into the dosing tray where the thickness of the sludge can be controlled. After going through the belt and rollers, the solids are dropped into a chute where the solids may be either Lime Processed or left untreated. The conveyor carries the solids up into a hopper which is pumped into a pile for mixing into compost. If it is Lime processed it then goes for disposal at an approved site. Lime Post Treatment is not used here anymore as the odors from the solids are not appreciated by anyone.

Disposal:

There are some who will tell you that you can make money form selling compost. I don’t believe them. It’s hard enough to give compost away. Even though the solids are of the EQ grade, no one will use it around here. I tried to suggest that it could be used along the road side on main street where the railroad tracks used to be but my commissioners didn’t think that people would like the smell. And a lot of people “walk” their dogs right where I’m talking about. So I give the compost away to anyone who will take it. At this time I have given some compost to a local nursery for their shrubs and to an approved site where it is used as cover and as part of a mixture for loam.

Maintenance:

The most time consuming part of maintenance is the cleaning of the press. It takes about one hour to wash down the press and drain back the feed line, maybe forty-five minutes if it’s made a mess on the floor. Once a month before start up, the press is greased, this takes about five minutes.

Costs:

Engineering Fees: None.

Roediger was asked to “Design and Build”

Tower Press: $117,500.00

(included LPT, Recycle Pump, Conveyor)

(Woodsville WWTF — continued on page 6)
Edward A. Kowsz Memorial Scholarship Award Criteria

1. Must be a member of New England Water Environment Association (NEWA, formerly NEWPCA) and/or a State Association for at least two years to be eligible for consideration.

2. Must be actively employed in the field of wastewater treatment or a related field. As competition for this award is growing a priority system of selection criteria is established as follows, in descending order of importance.
   a. Operators, laboratory analysts and others, private and public, who are directly involved in the operation of wastewater treatment facilities.
   b. Persons working for non-profit organizations who routinely provide training and/or technical assistance to wastewater personnel.
   c. Persons working for profit making organizations who routinely provide training and/or technical assistance to wastewater personnel.

3. Must make an application for the scholarship to the Personnel Advancement Committee prior to attendance at the training program. Application periods will be from July to January (closing January 1 with awards being made by February 1) and February to June (closing June 1 with award being made by July 1).

4. Must submit application to the Personnel Advancement Committee via the Executive Director. The Executive Director will confirm applicants membership in NEWA (NEWPCA) for the minimum two years.

5. A scholarship sub-committee consisting of 3 members of the Personnel Advancement Committee (PAC) will review, rank, and recommend applicants and the scholarship monetary award amount for each successful applicant. A response to the applicants will be provided within 30 days following the application closing dates in #3. The recommendations shall be made to the PAC at the Winter and Spring NEWA meetings.

6. The Executive Committee will establish the amount of the scholarship annually.

7. At the Winter and Spring meetings, the PAC will vote on the recommendations of the sub-committee. Award increments will be whatever is necessary as determined by the PAC, but not to exceed $300.00 per application. The $300.00 award cap may be waived based on availability of funds and by a vote of the PAC.

8. Award of the scholarship shall be made at the time of selection and vote of the PAC. The award shall be in the name of the applicant.

9. The applicant must return any unused portion of the scholarship. If the applicant leaves the Association after application, but prior to award, the applicant will no longer be eligible for the Award.

NEWA
Executive Director
255 Ballardvale Street
Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887
SHIPWRECKED
with NHWPCA
Annual Summer Outing
Ordaine State Park – June 21, 1996

Join the NHWPCA castaways for a fun filled day of food, music and games at the ship wreck of the S.S. Fathead Minnow at the Island lagoon at Ordaine State Park. Gilligan and all his little buddies will be there to feed and entertain you.

The castaway party is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. Island time and will last till 4:00 p.m.

The menu will include all of Gilligan’s favorites: Smoking volcano ribs, marinated bamboo chicken, wild beast sirloin tips, driftwood dogs, tropical salad, island potato salad, SS Fathead Minnow brews, coconut cream pie and other desert isle desserts.

Directions: Take Route I-A on the coast north past Rye Harbor to Ordaine Point State Park. Tell attendant at gate that you are with the NHWPCA. Ticket price includes entrance fee into the park.

Deadline: June 16, 1996. For more information, call Rick Seymour at (603) 594-3365. Pick up tickets at the outing. Orders guaranteed only with check or payment before event.

NOTE: NHWPCA is not responsible for any actions by any individuals that may cause personal injury or physical damage to any participant at this event. It is the responsibility of all participants to maintain a professional demeanor during the event. We strongly recommend that individuals limit alcohol intake to sensible levels and designated non-drinking drivers are used.

1996 NHWPCA CASTAWAY PARTY
Make check payable to: NHWPCA and mail to Rick Seymour c/o Nashua WEF, Sawmill Road, Nashua, NH 03060
Donations: $16.00 (members) $21.00 (non-members)
No. of Tickets —
Members: ______ Amount Enclosed: ______ Check No: ______
No. of Tickets —
Non-members: ______ Amount Enclosed: ______ Check No: ______
Name: __________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________
Phone: __________________________

Listening Techniques
Good Listening Requires Big Ears
• A desire to listen.
• Preparation for listening.
• A show of interest and being interested.
• Being respectful and maintaining appropriate boundaries.
• Focusing attention.
• Waiting—thinking—responding when ready and/or appropriate.
• Repeating or paraphrasing:
• Giving advice only when appropriate.
• Giving hope truthfully.
• Being honest.
• Observing physical energy, body language.
• Observing incongruency.
• Suspending one’s frame of reference or judgment.
• Sharing of self but only when appropriate.
• Empathizing and showing warmth.
• Offering a calm response.
• Listening carefully: Active Listening.

W.O.W. — Women of Wastewater
That is Sharon Ostrander, Mary Dourse and Vicki Abbey (left to right) at the Seacoast Century Ride for Diabetes. Word is they are looking for something more challenging.

Coming Soon to “The Collector”

A series of articles on the subject about which Benjamin Franklin (founder and first operator of the facility which bears his name) said: “If it didn’t exist, we should invent it as the best way of doing business.”

What is it? Honesty. Not only the best policy: it’s the only policy.

As wastewater professionals, the health of our State’s waterways depends on the integrity of our performance and the honesty of our reporting.

Join your host, Vinnie Veritas, for the exploration of how living in a culture of lies can make it difficult to be truthful, and how the pathway of honesty can lead to individual health and bring about change in a diseased system.

New England Environmental Assistance Team (NEEATeam)

As a non-regulatory program, the NEEATeam provides companies and small municipalities in New England with the information they need to fulfill their environmental responsibilities. In the first year of this new program, EPA is working to help three industries:
• electronics/computers
• printing
• metal finishing, plus
• small municipalities

1-800-90-NEEAT
1-800-900-3328
Sewer Operator Liable to Landowner for Contamination from Leaking Sewer

By Kenneth F. Gray of Pierce, Atwood, Scribner, Allen, Smith & Lancaster

Suppose you are a property owner and you discover your property is contaminated, but the only source appears to be a sewer pipe from the municipal sewer system which runs by the property. Suppose also, that you discover a trace of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) in the groundwater on your property. Would the operator of the sewer system be legally responsible?

Westfarm Associates of Maryland found itself considering these questions. After establishing that PCE came from leaks in the sewer (which had been connected to a nearby dry cleaning facility) and after cleaning up its property, Westfarm sued the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, which operated the sewer system, as well as the operator of the dry cleaning facility. Westfarm sued (1) under Superfund to recover its costs of study and cleanup and (2) under negligence theory for economic damages.

From 1983 on, the sewer operator set a total toxic limit of no more than 2.13 mg/l, but the testimony indicated that the dry cleaner was not in compliance from 1983 to 1989. Further, the manager of the sewer district stated that he was aware that facilities discharged small amounts of chemicals into the sewer system.

Before the case was tried, the dry cleaning facility settled the lawsuit. The sewer operator contested the case.

The lower court held the sewer operator liable. The sewer operator then appealed the judgment against it, arguing that Superfund was not intended to impose liability on publicly-owned treatment works, such as the sewer line. However, the appeals court rejected that argument, finding that Superfund, taken as a whole, did not exclude pipes leading into sewers or POTWs from definition of “facilities” from which Superfund releases could occur. The court had no difficulty finding that leaks from the sewer were a “release.”

The sewer operator also argued that it should not be held liable because Superfund provides an “innocent landowner defense.” This defense is available if a defendant can show, by a preponderance of the evidence, that (1) another party was the “sole cause” of the release, (2) the other party did not cause the release in connection with a contractual relationship with the defendant, and (3) that the defendant (here, the sewer operator) exercised due care and guarded against foreseeable acts or omissions of the responsible party.

The appeals court rejected the sewer operator’s innocent landowner defense. The court found that the sewer operator knew the dry cleaner used PCE and that the dry cleaner discharged hazardous substances into the sewer. In fact, the sewer operator’s regulation permitted discharges of limited quantities of toxic organics and other hazardous substances (just like the vast majority of other publicly-owned treatment works). The sewer operator was also aware that cracks were present in its sewer, but did not take precautions “such as mending the pipes or banning the discharge of toxic organics.”

The appeals court also rejected the sewer owner’s argument that it did not have a duty to the adjacent landowner. Under Maryland law, the sewer owner could be held liable for negligent construction, maintenance, and operation of its sewer system.

The court held that although the sewer operator had no duty to enact or enforce regulations which might have prevented users from putting chemicals into the sewer, it was still responsible for exercising due care in the maintenance and operation of the sewer.

Although the holdings under Superfund and the law of negligence are not particularly surprising, the implications of the case are significant. In Maine, a number of sewer systems are “old” and potentially in need of repair or upgrade. Further, the court’s suggestion that the appropriate precautions might include repairing all pipes or banning the discharge of hazardous substances to the sewer are expensive and drastic solutions, respectively. We suspect it may be difficult to get the public excited about sewer repair until after problems appear. However, decisions like this one could cause sewer districts and sewer systems to consider carefully their maintenance and capital improvement budgets.

If you would like a copy of this decision, please feel free to call Ken.

Earn Management Continuing Education Unit Credits as Approved by The State of New Hampshire

This internationally known management certification program, which has been used by many thousands of water and wastewater treatment plant operators is now available in a new 3rd edition. It was awarded the prestigious National University Continuing Education Meritorious Course Award.

Whether you are a manager, or soon will be, you need this down-to-earth management program, which is offered through correspondence. These courses teach over 2000 management and supervision topics related to how to work with people. These textbooks clearly demonstrate practical procedures and techniques using case studies and situations most likely to occur in these areas. Each textbook is uniformly set up with nine chapters and each chapter is a self contained lesson including chapter outline, learning objectives, fundamental management information, practice exercises, self-testing, and case problems.

The topics include: leadership, planning, organizing, morale, motivation, communications, performance ratings, special problems, disciplinary actions, etc.

To obtain the textbooks, Management and Supervision for Working Professionals Vol. I and Vol. II, 3rd edition, Dr. Herman Koren, contact:

Lewis/CRC Press
2000 Corporate Blvd. NW, Boca Raton, FL 33431
1-800-272-7737 • Fax: 1-800-374-3401
Internet: orders@crcpress.com
Cost: $54.95 per textbook

To enroll in the management program though correspondence for CEU credit, contact:

Office of Independent Study
Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809
1-800-234-1639 • Fax: 812-237-3495
Internet: asrwiars@ruby.indstate.edu
Cost: $50.00 per course
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(603) 253-8418

WRIGHT-PIERCE ENGINEERS
Charles J. Martin
(207) 725-8721

Environmental Management Issues
for
Local Officials

Who Should Attend

This seminar is designed for municipal officials responsible for environmental programs. The intended audience is public works directors, town managers, selectmen and other elected officials, and code enforcement officers.

Focus

To provide municipal managers and elected officials with the information necessary to make decisions on achieving environmental protection and meeting environmental obligations.

Speakers

Speakers will be from federal, state, and local agencies.

Locations

The July 16, 1996 seminar is located at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 401 Winchester St., NH Route 10, Keene, NH 03537-3038.

The July 17, 1996 seminar is located at the Cold Regions Research & Engineering Laboratory, 72 Lyme Road, Hanover, NH 03646-4100.

Agenda

8:00-8:30 am Registration
8:30-8:45 Welcome and Logistics
8:45-9:30 Drinking Water
- Surface water treatment rule
9:30-10:30 Subsurface Wastewater Systems
- Failed systems
- Alternative systems
10:30-10:45 Break
10:45-12:30 Waste Management
- Landfill closure
- State grant program
- Recycling
- Household Hazardous Waste
12:30-2:00 pm Information Exchange Session
- lunch provided
2:00-2:30 Energy Conservation
- saving $ through energy efficiency
- Green Lights/Enery Star Program
2:30-3:00 Financial Issues
- Financial Model
3:00-3:15 Pollution Prevention Tips
3:15-3:30 Closing Remarks

Registration Form

Environmental Management Issues for Local Officials

*Pre-registration is required

*Fee for the seminar, including lunch, is $15

Please tear off this section of the brochure and mail with payment (payable to NEIWPCG) to:

New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
255 Ballardvale Street, 2nd Floor
Wilmington, MA 01887

Name______________________________
Title______________________________
Address____________________________
Phone________________ Fax_____________

Special Dietary Needs, please explain:

Dates and Locations
please circle one

July 16, 1996    July 17, 1996
Keene, NH        Hanover, NH
Operator Exchange Training

The New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association (NHWPCA) Education Committee is considering an innovative and proven approach for alternative wastewater operator training. In order to gauge interest we request that you review and complete the questionnaire below and return it to the NHWPCA Education Committee by June 30, 1996.

The program goals will be similar to the annual New England operator exchange program. We envision the Education Committee will coordinate participating wastewater treatment plant personnel and assign them to other participating NH wastewater facilities. The goal is for participants to spend one or more days at a facility which employs a different treatment process than the operator's "home" facility. While on site, the individual will get hands-on training by working alongside a full time operator at the "exchange" facility. The goal is to enhance treatment facility personnel skill levels and provide an opportunity to view other treatment processes first hand. The Education Committee is currently reviewing CEU award levels with the NH DES Certification Committee for this program.

1. Your Name: ____________________________
2. Your current job title: ____________________________
3. Superintendent's Name: ____________________________
4. Facility where you are employed: ____________________________
5. Type of treatment process and design flow: ____________________________
6. Would you participate in an operator exchange program? ____________________________
7. What type of "exchange" facility interests you? ____________________________
8. How do you currently earn training CEU's? ____________________________
9. How many days per year do you devote to training? ____________________________
10. How far are you able to travel (12, 25, 50 mile radius)? ____________________________

RETURN TO: NHWPCA Education Committee
 c/o: NH DES WS&PCD
 Wastewater Engineering Bureau
 P.O. Box 95
 Concord, NH 03302-0095
 Attn: Joe Ducharme, Jr., P.E., Chairman
 or
 FAX: 603-271-2867