



## Maine Department of Environmental Protection

### Bureau of Land & Water Quality

O&M Newsletter  
February 2009

A monthly newsletter for wastewater discharge licensees, treatment facility operators, and associated persons

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#### *Spring Exam*

Applications for the May 13, 2009 Spring Exam will be due in to the JETCC office by March 27, 2009 or postmarked by March 25, 2009.

#### *For Practice*

- Short circuiting in clarifiers may be caused by
  - density differences
  - high pH levels
  - nutrient deficiency
  - solids loading
- What is the best first aid for a first degree burn?
  - Bandage the wound tightly.
  - Spread a greasy salve on the wound.
  - immerse the wound in cool water.
  - submerge the wound in warm water.
- Your unseeded dilution water samples in a BOD test show an oxygen depletion of more than 0.2 mg/L in five days. What is the most likely cause of the problem?
  - The initial D.O. was less than 9.0 mg/L
  - The buffers are contaminated.
  - Not enough seed is being used.
  - Toxic substances are present.
- Why should sludge be digested or treated before land spreading?
  - To reduce odors and BOD.
  - To disinfect the sludge and return the supernatant for additional treatment.
  - To reduce the bacterial population and produce gas.
  - To reduce the volume of solids and stabilize the solids for odor and vector control.



## **Approved Training**

February 10 & 11, 2009 in Portland, ME

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MWUA Annual Conference –  
Sponsored by MWUA – Approved for  
various hours

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February 12, 2009 in Bangor, ME -  
Instrumentation Measurement & Control  
with Use of SCADA for Process  
Efficiency – Sponsored by  
JETCC/NEIWPC – Approved for 6  
hours

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February 12, 2009 in Farmington, ME -  
Budgeting For Maximum Information -  
sponsored by MRWA – Approved for 4  
hours

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February 12, 2009 in Thomaston, ME -  
Chemical Issues - sponsored by MRWA  
– Approved for 4 hours

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February 24, 2009 in Lewiston, ME -  
Chemical Handling, Reporting And  
Overview of WARN – Sponsored by  
JETCC – Approved for 6 hours

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February 26, 2009 in Presque Isle, ME -  
Chemical Handling, Reporting And  
Overview of WARN – Sponsored by  
JETCC – Approved for 6 hours

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February 26, 2009 in Berwick, ME –  
Confined Space Entry – Sponsored by  
JETCC – Approved for 6 safety hours

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March 3, 2009 in Yarmouth, ME - Asset  
Management Applications – Sponsored  
by JETCC – Approved for 6 hours

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March 3, 2009 in Lincoln, ME – ICS &  
NIMS – Sponsored by MRWA –  
Approved for 4 hours

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March 4, 2009 in Fairfield, ME – BOD  
and TSS Review – Sponsored by JETCC  
– Approved for 6 hours

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March 11, 2009 in Bangor, ME – Basic  
Math for Operators – Sponsored by  
MRWA – Approved for 6 hours

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March 12, 2009 in Orono, ME - PVC  
Valves, Connections & Joining –  
Sponsored by JETCC – Approved for 6  
hours

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March 18, 2009 in Augusta, ME - DEP  
Issues Briefing – Sponsored by JETCC –  
Approved for 6 hours

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March 19, 2009 in Jay, ME - Hands-On  
Applications to Minimize Pump &  
Facility Maintenance – Sponsored by  
JETCC – Approved for 6 hours

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March 24, 2009 in Wells, ME – BOD  
and TSS Review – Sponsored by JETCC  
– Approved for 6 hours

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March 25, 2009 in Various Locations in  
ME - True Confessions of a  
Water/Wastewater Operator – Sponsored  
by MRWA – Approved for 4 hours

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March 25, 2009 in Orono, ME - PVC  
Valves, Connections & Joining –  
Sponsored by JETCC – Approved for 6  
hours

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March 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5,  
2009 in Biddeford, ME – Basic  
Wastewater - Sponsored by JETCC –  
Approved for 24 hours

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April 16, 2009 in Portland, ME – Using PowerPoint to Make Your Point – Sponsored by JETCC – Approved for 6 hours

April 28, 2009 in Augusta, ME - FOG Management Overview - Controlling Collection System Impacts & Disposal Options - Sponsored by JETCC/NEIWPC – Approved for 6 hours

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Note: JETCC stands for Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee – PO Box 487 – Scarborough, ME 04070-0487 – Tel (207) 253-8020

MRWA stands for Maine Rural Water Association - 14 Maine Street, Box 36 - Brunswick, ME 04011 – Tel (207) 729-6569

NEIWPC stands for New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission – 116 John St. – Lowell, MA 01852-1124 – Tel (978) 323-7929

## Answers to *For Practice*

1. a. The mixed liquor entering the stilling well of the clarifier is more dense than the “clean” water in the clarifier and will sink to the bottom. This can set up a density current that sweeps sludge from the bottom of the clarifier up along the outer wall and over the effluent weirs.
2. c. The best first aid for a 1<sup>st</sup> degree burn is to run cool water over the burned area.
3. b. Contaminated buffers can contain materials that will cause an oxygen depletion of more than 0.2 mg/L.
4. d. The main reason for digesting or treating sludge is to remove water to reduce the cost of trucking the sludge to the disposal site and make the sludge easier to handle.

