



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



GERALD D. REID
COMMISSIONER

April 6, 2020

To: All retired, or otherwise not currently working, wastewater operators

RE: Request for wastewater operators to assist during COVID-19 pandemic

Dear Wastewater Professional,

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Department, in conjunction with MeWEA, MRWA, MWUA and JETCC, is assisting wastewater treatment facilities and satellite collection systems (facilities) with emergency planning in case of significant staffing shortages. This includes the potential for mutual aid from neighboring facilities and the use of contract operators.

One other option is requesting retired, or otherwise not currently working, wastewater operators to be placed on a contact list that the Department would maintain. Placement on the list would indicate you may be willing to assist facilities in some fashion if needed. Depending on need, and your comfort level, this may range from hands on operation, onsite consultation, to phone or video consultation with facility staff. Department staff would use the list to facilitate connections between facilities in need and the operators on the list. Details of assistance would be finalized between the facility and the operator, again, based on your comfort level. This is worst case scenario planning and I envision it would only be used if no other options were available.

If you are willing to assist, please contact Department technical assistance engineer:

Judy Bruenjes
287-7806
Judy.K.Bruenjes@maine.gov

If your wastewater operator certification is not current, that is not a problem. As noted in the Department's March 24, 2020, COVID-19 Guidance (see link below), during the pandemic the Department is considering wastewater operators who are not currently certified, but were previously certified, to be certified at their previous certificate level for the duration of the State emergency as declared by the Governor. <https://www.maine.gov/dep/coronavirus.html#water>

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me at 287-7700, or brian.w.kavanah@maine.gov if you have any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

BRIAN KAVANAH
Director, Bureau of Water Quality

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