



Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Division of Health Engineering, Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program Autumn 2000 Newsletter Volume 23, Issue 6

Internet: <http://www.state.me.us/dhs/eng/plumb/plumb.htm>

Personnel Changes

As many of you may know, Heidi Caswell, Data Control Clerk for the Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program, has accepted a position with another agency in the Department of Human Services. Although efforts are underway to fill the position, it is vacant at this writing. For now, please direct inquiries about permit labels and so forth to Dina LaFlamme.

Heidi extends her heartfelt thanks to all of the Local Plumbing Inspectors, Town Clerks, and Site Evaluators with whom she has worked over the past few years.

Update on Potential Relocation to Department of Environmental Protection

Pursuant to "An Act to Improve Public Water Supply Protection" a consultant has been hired to review the relative merit, or lack of same, in moving the Drinking Water Program and the Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program to the Department of Environmental Protection by July 1, 2001. A report is due before the Legislature by February 1, 2001. The consultant will be meeting with Stakeholder groups in the near future.

Training and Seminars

The Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee, in association with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and various County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, presents *On-site Wastewater System Installer's Workshops* each winter. The workshops are soon to be in the initial planning stages. Contact J.E.T.C.C. for information about other training they provide, or for next year's workshops.

Alert

It has come to the Division's attention that a device and process called "Terralift" is in use in Maine. According to their website, the process uses "a long, narrow probe and an integral pneumatic hammer to penetrate soil to depths of three to six feet, depending upon the depth of

your drainfield. It then forces air into the soil...using a...high-pressure compressor, creating a network of fissures and cracks which breaks up the biomat that has formed on the walls of the trenches, and loosens compacted soil in the drainfield." The obvious concern is that these fissures and cracks, and possibly the probe itself when inserted through disposal areas, will create direct conduits from the disposal areas to seasonal and/or permanent water tables. This would directly result in pollution of ground water supplies. After consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, the Division will soon contact Terralift's parent company to discuss our concerns and other regulatory issues. *In the meantime, the Division recommends against use of the Terralift process in onsite sewage disposal systems.*

2001 Rules Changes Public Hearing

The Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program will hold a public hearing for proposed changes to the Rules for Appointment and Administration of Local Plumbing Inspectors (CMR 240), Subsurface Waste Water Disposal Rules (CMR 241), Rules for Conversion of Seasonal Dwelling Units into Year-Round Residences in the Shoreland Zone (CMR 242), Minimum Lot Size Rules (CMR 243), and Rules for Site Evaluators of Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Systems (CMR 245). If you have proposed changes to suggest to any of these Rules, please forward them in writing to Linda Robinson at the address below, or by e-mail at: linda.robinson@state.me.us

Helpful Hints for Timely Variance Reviews

The Division cannot perform a formal variance review until we have received a complete application. This means the variance request has been signed by all parties, except of course, the Division; an HHE-200 is attached; and if required, the easement and/or well release form has been obtained and a copy included with the paperwork.

Here are some helpful hints to speed up the variance review process and cut down on

For Information about the program call: Telephone: 287-5689, TTY: 287-2070, FAX: (207) 287-4172; Or write to us at: Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program, 10 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0010



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number of phone calls or letters generated to get a variance completed.

1. Check the HHE-200 form to make sure that all pertinent information has been completed. This includes lot size, zoning, type of water supply, slopes, ERP, TP within disposal field, etc.
2. Clearly instruct the property owner to check the variance request form to assure that all the pertinent signatures (SE, LPI, Property Owner, and when applicable Municipal Officers, Pumper) have been obtained before mailing or hand-carrying the variance to the Division. If you, as the LPI or SE, submit the variance to the Division on behalf of the property owner, please be sure that all signatures have been obtained.
3. If the site evaluator indicates that an easement or well setback release is necessary, be sure that a copy of the document is included with the variance request paperwork.
4. If a variance is faxed to the office for preview, follow-up by mailing a clean copy. Ordinarily fax copies are not acceptable for formal review.

If a variance is mailed to the office for preview, please include a cover note indicating this and follow-up with a complete application as soon as possible.

Recently Approved Products

The following products have been approved for use in Maine since the March 2000 newsletter was issued. Listing of these products does not represent Division preference or recommendation for these products over similar products.

16 Inch High Capacity BioDiffuser

PSA, Inc.
Attn.: Dick Bachelder

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71 Orchard Street
York, Maine 03909

Aeration Systems, OXYMAX 2000

Sweet Associates
Attn.: Richard A. Sweet
155 Gray Road
Falmouth, Maine 04105

Zabel A100 and A300 series filters

Zabel Environmental Technology
Attn.: Theo B. Terry III, RS
P. O. Box 1520
Crestwood, KY 40014

Mighty Mac ATU

H. E. McGrew, Inc.
Attn.: James O. Ricks, Jr.
3508 Industrial Drive
Bossier City, Louisiana 71112

Alliance 500 ATU

Alliance Wastewater Treatment Systems
Attn.: Dane Wactor, VP Marketing
2835 Hollywood Avenue, Suite 420
Shreveport, Louisiana 71108

Annual Site Evaluator Exam

The annual Site Evaluator exams were held earlier this year. Four applicants sat for the written exam, of whom one passed. The field exam was held September 13, 2000 in Gray. One applicant took the exam, and failed.

Staff Roster

[James Jacobsen](#), Program Manager & Plans Review 207-287-5695

[Jay Hardcastle](#), Site Evaluation Licensing Program 207-287-5688

[Linda Robinson](#), Variances 207-287-5687

[Brent Lawson](#), State Plumbing Inspector & Municipal Performance Review 207-287-5670

[Dina Laflamme](#), Secretary 207-287-5689

VACANT, Plumbing Permits & Data Entry