

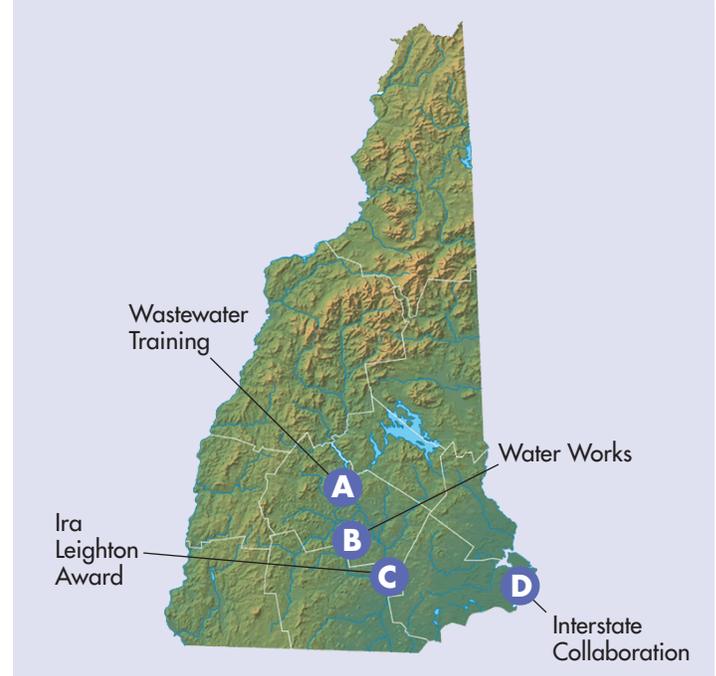
Since 1951, New Hampshire has coordinated its water-protection efforts with neighboring states through its membership in the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. Starting in 1947, when Congress chartered NEIWPCC, the Commission has added member states, professional staff, and workgroups such as the New England Biological Assessment of Wetlands Workgroup.

In the Northeast, watersheds cross many political borders. From the Saco River to the Merrimack, from the Seacoast to the Connecticut River, New Hampshire shares its waters with other states. NEIWPCC has long been the means by which its member states pull together to protect their water resources. Many of the Commission's activities span several states, or address problems and needs that all the states share. NEIWPCC coordinates forums and events that encourage cooperation among the states, develops resources that foster progress on water issues, represents the region in matters of federal policy, trains environmental professionals, manages programs and grants, initiates and oversees scientific research, educates the public, and provides overall leadership in water management and protection. The Commission's representation of its member states to agencies and officials in Washington amplifies New Hampshire's voice on water-protection issues.

Apart from the Commission's formal meetings, perhaps no single part of NEIWPCC embodies better this mission of regional collaboration and state-federal engagement than the Commission's nineteen active workgroups on such critical topics as harmful algal blooms, climate change, underground storage tanks, and nonpoint source pollution. At meetings, typically twice annually, the state-agency staff members who are tasked with these issues sit down with their peers from other states in the region and with federal officials, NEIWPCC staff members, and other practitioners to grapple with the ongoing and latest issues and trends in the field.

Each year, NEIWPCC coordinates, funds, and assists dozens of research efforts useful to its member states. This includes field research performed by NEIWPCC staff, research coordinated by NEIWPCC but performed by others, and research performed by the recipients of grants awarded or administered by NEIWPCC. Even very local research may have regional implications.

The agency is led by its seven member states (the six New England states and New York). State governors each appoint five of the Commission's thirty-five members. New Hampshire's delegation comprises the head of the state's environmental-services agency supplemented by four highly experienced individuals from



inside and outside state government, providing New Hampshire with diverse expert representation. As a member state, New Hampshire appropriates funds to support the Commission's work; the Commission sets state dues every five years. In fiscal 2017 the combined contribution from our states was \$153,833 or 0.6 percent of the total monies directed to NEIWPCC during the year (\$25,949,094). While the majority of the Commission's funding, therefore, comes from other sources—primarily federal grants, state contracts, and fees generated by our training and certification programs—the dues paid by states are indispensable to NEIWPCC's ability to serve New Hampshire and the other member states. The following highlights are just a few of the achievements in 2017 that illustrate the significant return on New Hampshire's contribution to NEIWPCC.

### 2017 Selected Highlights: New Hampshire

**A** On May 18, NEIWPCC offered an industrial controls and data acquisition class in Franklin featuring a hands-on demonstration of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system software. The class, "Instrumentation Measurement and Control with Use of SCADA for Process Efficiency," was held at the New Hampshire Department of

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Environmental Services' Franklin Training Center. Operators rely on sophisticated systems such as SCADA to optimize a wastewater plant's performance.

Fourteen students representing both wastewater and drinking-water treatment operators from across the state, and two students from the bordering states of Maine and Massachusetts, participated in the day-long training. The course was taught by Jeff Murray, a well-respected SCADA system trainer for the wastewater and water industry.

This class was one of five offered in New Hampshire by NEIWPCC in fiscal 2017. There were 119 participants, 76 from across the state, attending these sessions in Concord and Portsmouth. A total of 780 credit hours were awarded.

Across the region, NEIWPCC offered 159 classes to 2,782 participants. More than 27,000 credit hours were awarded to operators attending training.

**B** The Commission is a sponsor of *Water Works*, a documentary about water issues that brings viewers behind the faucet to the water supply and demand infrastructure of the Granite State.

This half-hour broadcast from New Hampshire Public Television includes coverage of wells, pollution, and conservation efforts. Reporters interview Granite State residents and environmental professionals.

*Water Works* features appearances by NEIWPCC Commissioner Fred McNeill, Chief Engineer at the City of Manchester Department of Public Works' Environmental Protection Division. Another New Hampshire water spokesperson in the broadcast is Thomas Burack, who served as Commissioner of New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services from 2006 through 2016.

The show premiered April 17. It is available to view on N.H. Public Television's website.

**C** Last April, New Hampshire's Thomas Burack became the fourth recipient of the annual Ira Leighton in Service to States Award, honoring his long service to the Granite State and the region in the area of environmental quality. Burack was Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for more than a decade.

The award was created in memory of career EPA staff member Leighton. It comes jointly from NEIWPCC and its sister organizations, the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) and the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA), and the environmental commissioners of the New England states. Burack led the effort to develop the New Hampshire Climate Action Plan and was a founding member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. He is currently an attorney at Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green.

The Ira Leighton Award is one example of the role that NEIWPCC plays as an active representative of the water interests of New Hampshire and other member states in high-level meetings with state and federal leaders on environmental issues. NEIWPCC also meets quarterly with the NESCAUM and NEWMOA leadership to discuss such issues as the status of the federal budget and coordination of climate activities. NEIWPCC similarly presses actively for its members' interests through regional and national water organizations such as the New England Water Environment Association and the Water Environment Federation.

**D** On May 11 and 12, 2017, the Commission and its Executive Committee met in Portsmouth. One of the benefits of Commission meetings is that state officials can hear about, and benefit from, others' experiences.

At the May meetings, Commissioners representing both New Hampshire and Massachusetts described activity in their respective legislatures to request authority over federal discharge permits. Only four states nationally do not have this authority from the EPA, and two of them are in New England.

The process of requesting that the EPA delegate this role is complex and is under consideration in both states, with Massachusetts further along than New Hampshire. The EPA's requirements to consider delegation include legislative authorization, as well as a formal request by a state's Governor and a certification from the Attorney General. Both New Hampshire and Massachusetts had related bills in their legislatures in fiscal 2017, though the Granite State legislation was referred to a committee for further study.

The Commission is both a governing board for the interstate compact and a collegial body in the same spirit as NEIWPCC's workgroups. These groups typically meet several times a year around a common issue. Staff members from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services gave presentations at two of these in 2017. On March 22, the department explained the state's Green SnowPro training and certification program to members of the NEIWPCC's Total Maximum Daily Load Workgroup. The program promotes winter maintenance practices that reduce salt use without decreasing safety.

On May 11, DES told members of the Underground Storage Tanks Workgroup of the state's outreach and training efforts to promote compliance with a new requirement to install double-walled tanks. Through these and other collaborative meetings, states share the results of their experiences and support each other's work.

The full Commission and the Executive Committee each met four times in fiscal 2017, including the Portsmouth meetings.

## A Voice for New Hampshire

When the EPA announced plans to close its regional laboratory in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, the Commission responded with a unified statement of opposition from all seven member states. The Commission cited "financial consequences for the New England states and delay [in] the rapid response needed to safeguard human health and the environment in the region." The ability to bring the lab's mobile facilities to any New England location within five hours is especially important in emergencies.

NEIWPCC provides a united voice for its compact states on national and regional matters. In fiscal 2017, in addition to the issue of the Chelmsford lab, the Commission wrote comments about plans by the U.S. EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to scrap the Clean Water Rule and to restrict the scope of enforcement of the Clean Water Act. NEIWPCC also commented on the EPA's draft field-based methods for developing aquatic-life criteria for specific conductivity, a measure of salinity.

The Commission cannot guarantee that the views of the states will prevail in these and other matters. However, the states are stronger when we all speak together.