NEIWPCC
New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New York
Rhode Island
Vermont

Assisting its member states
individually and collectively by
providing coordination, public
education, training and leadership in
the management and protection of
water quality in the New York and
New England Region.

ANNUAL REPORT 2000
Dear Friends,

As the nation prepares to welcome a new administration in Washington, we have the obligation and opportunity to define the territory for the newcomers. For example, during the last decade, US EPA's priorities have leaned toward emerging issues like nonpoint source, CAFOs, stormwater and watershed assessment and restoration—very often at the expense of the core water programs.

While we all agree on the importance of the new initiatives, the core programs of monitoring, permitting, compliance, and enforcement are the foundation for the monumental progress of the last 30 years. It is critical that additional funds are made available for new initiatives, so that states can sustain hard-earned water quality improvements as well as take on new challenges. We must continue to push for sufficient resources to protect our gains and to continue our forward momentum.

NEIWPCG's participation, along with others, in the ongoing gap analysis of state programs helped persuade Congress to significantly increase, for the first time in a decade, funding for our core programs. The 50 percent increase will allow states to fill the gaps that developed in the core programs over the last decade of focusing on ambitious initiatives. As a nationally recognized voice of reason, NEIWPCG must continue to speak up, provide Congress and USEPA with input, and work with them in developing programs to solve the remaining water quality problems.

Here at home, NEIWPCG has strengthened its organizational structure with the development of a strategic plan that examines its role and its benefit to the member states. This operational plan will guide NEIWPCG in the years to come.

In addition, NEIWPCG and its member states together reviewed ongoing programs to ensure consistency with state priorities. We established an ad hoc committee to better input state needs into the annual budget process. These steps enable NEIWPCG to better coordinate the needs of its member states in addressing water quality priorities.

We can also be proud of:
- Initiating a report to the New England governors on alternatives to MtBE as a gasoline additive
- Finalizing a source water protection manual
- Completing the Long Island Sound TMDL
- Designing a process to maximize nitrogen removal in Rhode Island treatment plants
- Initiating a fish tissue sampling project in the Connecticut River
- Partnering with New York State on a multi-year watershed protection effort for the Hudson River.

Bob Smith of Connecticut follows me as Chairman, and I am certain he will make sure that national policymaking reflects the reality of life in the northeast. We must continue to encourage USEPA to listen to the states, to help us solve our remaining water quality problems, and to not make our work harder than it needs to be. A difficult task, but I know Bob is up to it!

Lastly, I want to acknowledge all the NEIWPCG staff for their efforts and to thank all of you for continuing to work together to make NEIWPCG strong and effective. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your chairperson.

Sincerely,

N.G. Kaul
Chairman
NEIWPC Mission

The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC), a non-profit interstate agency established by an Act of Congress, serves and assists its member states individually and collectively by providing coordination, public education, training and leadership in the management and protection of water quality in the New York and New England Region.

NEIWPC Vision

The NEIWPC will, in consultation with the states, take a proactive leadership role on regional and national issues while developing and implementing water programs complementary to and supportive of Member State, EPA and other federal statutes, goals and programs. Relative to:

Water Quality  High levels of water quality will have been established and member states are achieving the goals of all relevant statutes in balance with a healthy economy.

Coordination  Strong coordination among those with water quality, public health and environmental interests will be regularly accepted as commonplace.

Communication  All concerned will recognize that NEIWPC provides a perspective on national and regional issues that individual states cannot easily obtain and in which they can have confidence is in their collective best interest.

Relationships  States, EPA and other organizations will recognize NEIWPC as being complementary to state programs, value NEIWPC for what it is and accomplishes and solicit NEIWPC participation in their initiatives.

Staff  NEIWPC staff will be universally recognized and respected by their peers and the public as being professional, knowledgeable, committed, articulate and responsive.

Training Programs  NEIWPC will regularly conduct a full range of broad-based training programs that add value for participants and their employers.

NEIWPC Core Values

At NEIWPC we seek to accomplish our mission with an intense focus on three functional areas: regional coordination, service to our member states, training, education and public information. We base all of our decisions and day-to-day work on the following core values:

Regional Coordination  We believe the benefits from coordination among our member states are significant and accrue to the states both collectively and individually. We conduct activities that enhance opportunities for communication and coordination among our member states, EPA and other federal, state and local entities.

Serve and Assist Member States  The Commission’s very reason for existence is to serve and assist its member states in their work of protecting and enhancing their waters. We seek to do this proactively rather than merely reactively. We maintain an extensive communication network with our states and with others who impact their programs in order to assure that we accurately assess, anticipate and respond to state needs.

Training, Education, Public Information  We believe that our mission is most effectively accomplished by delivering, supporting and encouraging training, education and public information.
NEIWPCC 2000 ACTIVITIES

WORKGROUPS

Interstate workgroups are organized by NEIWPCC staff for three primary reasons:

- To provide a structured forum for the exchange of information and ideas
- To encourage a cooperative approach to addressing issues of regional importance
- To develop recommendations for regional policies.

NEIWPCC personnel provide staff support, coordinate meetings, and serve as an information clearinghouse for these workgroups.

DRINKING WATER

Water supply and water quality issues go hand-in-hand in terms of protecting the public health. In New England, drinking water issues and implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) are regionally addressed by the states through coordination with the NEIWPCC Drinking Water Program.

Funded by the six New England states, the program functions to bring state administrators together through workgroup sessions. In these sessions issues such as meeting the needs of small water systems, addressing MiBE contamination, electronically transferring laboratory data and planning emergency responses are discussed.

Program priorities for FY-00 included commenting on the Proposed Ground Water Rule, coordinating air and water staff to address the Proposed Radon Rule, interpreting the results of the New England Groundwater Viral Study, and conducting state/NEIWPCC/EPA conference calls on new regulations such as the Capacity Development Rule and the Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule.

NEIWPCC drinking water staff also participated in various conferences and meetings. These included the annual conference of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, the New Hampshire Drinking Water Expo, the Massachusetts Drinking Water Education Partnership meetings in preparation for Drinking Water Week, monthly meetings of the New England Water Works Association (NEWWA) Filtration Committee, the NEWWA Annual Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the NEWWA Surface Water Committee meetings, the New England Radon Committee meetings, and the policy and annual meetings of the Groundwater Protection Council.

Specific FY-00 initiatives and projects overseen by the program included:

Radon Rule: As required by the 1996 SDWA Amendments, EPA released the Proposed Radon Rule on November 2, 1999, establishing a maximum contaminant level and an alternate maximum contaminant level for radon in drinking water. The proposed regulation is complex due to provisions in the Amendments that address both the greater health risks from exposure to radon by inhalation of indoor air and the lesser risks associated with radon ingested through drinking water.

To promote communication between water and air staff in addressing the rule, NEIWPCC attended meetings of the New England Radon Committee to educate air program personnel on water program activities. In February 2000, NEIWPCC prepared and submitted formal comments on the Proposed Radon Rule.

Groundwater Rule: Following publication of the Proposed Ground Water Rule in May 2000, NEIWPCC prepared a summary table listing each of the specific items in the rule for which EPA requested comments. States used the table to streamline the commenting process and submitted it directly to EPA. NEIWPCC prepared and presented a formal comment letter in August.

MiBE: NEIWPCC addressed the regulation of MiBE in state drinking water supplies by surveying states and summarizing current
recommended action levels applied in New England and New York. Staff also participated in various meetings conducted in the Northeast to remain abreast of studies evaluating alternatives to MIBE, discussions regarding banning the use of MIBE, and EPA plans to develop a secondary maximum contaminant level for MIBE in drinking water.

**New England Groundwater Viral Study:**
NEIWPCG continued its coordination of the New England Groundwater Viral Study. This study was initiated in 1997 to examine microbial pathogens and viral indicators in New England groundwater sources. Results will be used to identify characteristics of groundwater sources that could be used to assess the vulnerability of groundwater to fecal contamination. NEIWPCG participated in monthly progress conference calls and hosted a call with the states and the Massachusetts Wall Experiment Station to discuss how the results may be used to comment on the Proposed Ground Water Rule.

**Small Systems:** Small systems are plagued by compliance problems, limited resources, and threatening land uses in close proximity to public water supply wells. They are also a difficult audience for regulators to reach, rarely attending training sessions. For these reasons, EPA, the states and various water supply industry contacts have embarked on a Small Systems Initiative. NEIWPCG participated in the meeting to jump-start this effort.

During the later part of FY-00, NEIWPCG collaboratively began discussions of forming a Regional Drinking Water Advisory Board to work with the University of New Hampshire to advance drinking water technologies available for small systems as well as promote technical exchange among the drinking water community.

**Capacity Development:** The development and implementation of the 1996 SDWA Capacity Development Rule is well underway. In FY-00 NEIWPCG provided regional assistance and coordination on capacity development issues as states developed and prepared for submittal of their new system programs and began work on their existing system strategies. NEIWPCG organized and facilitated one meeting and two conference calls of the capacity development coordinators for the New England states and New York and their counterparts at EPA Region 1. The calls focused on general programmatic issues as well as more specific topics such as technical assistance approaches, self-assessment materials, financial assessment, and rule reporting requirements.

**Identifying Safe Drinking Water Act Implementation Priorities:** With the passage of the Safe Drinking Water Amendments, the number of drinking water regulations that must be implemented by the states has grown significantly. To address the resulting strain on state resources, the State Drinking Water Administrators and EPA Region I set priorities for the FY-00. These priorities were outlined by rule in a document prepared by NEIWPCG, which was later modified by Region I and accepted by all the states.

**Maine Drinking Water Program:** NEIWPCG staff assisted the Maine Department of Human Services Drinking Water Program in various aspects of Maine’s Public Water Supply System program, the State Revolving Loan Fund program, and other areas of need as required by the recent amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

**Connecticut Drinking Water Program:** NEIWPCG staff assisted the Connecticut Department of Public Health with their Non-Community Water Supply Program developments. Staff reviewed and updated the inventory of transient, non-community water systems, revised the inventory as necessary, and provided public education materials. The staff also conducted site visits to non-transient, non-community water systems and assisted them with the completion of their sanitary surveys.
GROUNDWATER & SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Increasing incidents of contaminated groundwater and source water have alerted the nation’s policymakers that this irreplaceable resource has to be protected.

Through the workgroup medium, NEIWPCCC works with state and EPA groundwater staff to facilitate the exchange of technical information and the discussion of groundwater management strategies. Topics of workgroup meetings in FY-00 included the Groundwater Rule, Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) development and implementation, the National Source Protection Strategy, Consumer Confidence Reports, Underground Injection Control/Class V Regulations, and arsenic in groundwater.

SWAP-Focused Risk Communication Workshop: NEIWPCCC conducted a Risk Communication workshop with a focus on issues related to SWAP tailored to New England, New York, and EPA Region I staff facing risk communication challenges. The day-long session provided professional instruction in risk communication principles and message development involving varied audiences. Attendees learned the importance of determining a specific communication goal, establishing credibility, delivering a clear message, and avoiding comparisons.

National Source Protection Manual: To incorporate changes brought about by the 1996 re-authorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), NEIWPCCC undertook to revise the Source Protection Manual. The revised manual, "Source Protection: A National Guidance Manual for Surface Water Supplies," with its national focus includes new SDWA requirements, information on microbial and disinfection rules, case studies from across the country, funding and implementation assistance information, and an expanded chapter on source protection, planning, and implementation. The manual has been distributed to states and EPA and is available for download on NEIWPCCC’s website.

SWAP Interstate Data Gathering Grant: In 1996, NEIWPCCC received an EPA grant to assist the New England states and New York with assessments of interstate source waters by gathering information on various aspects of their SWAPs.

In FY-00, NEIWPCCC moved forward with the development of a document summarizing the New England states’ wellhead protection programs. NEIWPCCC also compiled information on local efforts that protect interstate sources of drinking water. Both documents are meant to serve as handy guides for state source protection coordinators to understand and compare state and local source protection efforts. These documents will be completed in early FY-01.

SWAP Technical Assistance: To facilitate the transfer of information between the states during development and implementation of their SWAPs, NEIWPCCC, working jointly with the Groundwater Protection Council and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, distributed a technical assistance document, maintained a source protection website (www.gwpc.site.net/sourcewater), distributed a SWAP newsletter, and developed a source protection list server.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technology & Data Management Document: NEIWPCCC developed a technical assistance document that addresses states’ data quality, coordination, management, and distribution issues and concerns. This document, titled The Application of GIS Technology and Data Management in States’ Source Water Assessment Programs, highlights the approaches of five states to utilizing GIS and incorporating data management in their SWAPs. The intent of this document is to spark ideas and potential solutions for other states with similar issues.

National Source Water Protection List Server: In FY-00, NEIWPCCC launched the National Source Water Protection List Server, a forum dedicated to facilitating communication and technical information exchange concerning...
drinking water source protection. To date there are over 160 subscribers representing state and EPA staff from across the country.

NONPOINT SOURCE

According to the US EPA, Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution constitutes the nation's largest source of water quality problems. NPS pollution causes beach closures, fish kills, habitat destruction, and unsafe drinking water. Unlike point sources (e.g., discharge pipes from facilities), nonpoint sources are diffuse. This makes them difficult to trace and control.

Nonpoint source pollution occurs when runoff (rainwater or snowmelt) moves over the land picking up pollutants, then deposits them into lakes, rivers, coastal waters, and even groundwater. There are many opportunities for runoff to pick up contaminants as it runs off driveways, crops, industrial sites, or malfunctioning septic systems. Additional nonpoint contaminants can come from the rain itself as airborne particles get captured in precipitation, fall to earth, and flow into surface waters.

Everyone contributes to nonpoint source pollution in one way or another. Land uses such as agriculture, forestry, construction, and septic systems are all potential sources of nonpoint contaminants. Household contributors include improperly disposed pet waste, lawn fertilizer, paints, and motor oil. Automobiles, factories, wood stoves, and power plants emit airborne contaminants that return to the earth in the form of rain or snow. The rate at which these contaminants reach water sources is accelerated by impermeable surfaces like roofs and pavement, which keep the soil from naturally filtering stormwater.

NEIWPCC's NPS Workgroup, made up of state NPS program managers and EPA regional staff, is designed to coordinate and strengthen NPS protection efforts in New England, New York, and New Jersey. The workgroup acts as a forum on national policy issues, a clearinghouse for information, and a coordinating agency that develops issue-specific technology transfer programs.

Jim Riordan, RI DEM, lecturing at Annual Nonpoint Source Meeting.

Demonstration of stormwater mitigation methods at Annual Nonpoint Source Meeting.
NEIWPCG 2000 ACTIVITIES
WORKGROUPS

In FY-00, the workgroup met twice and held one conference call. Discussions covered such topics as atmospheric deposition, smart growth, the Clean Water Needs Survey, and TMDLs.

NEIWPCG attended the National Nonpoint Source Program Managers Meeting in Riverside, California, in April. The meeting, titled "Supporting State Programs and Strengthening the State/EPA Partnership," focused on the future direction of the NPS program nationally.

The 11th Annual Nonpoint Source Meeting was held in Narragansett, Rhode Island, in May. Topics included coastal management issues, alternative onsite wastewater technologies, smart growth, Stormwater Phase 2, Best Management Practices, pollution abatement, and tools for water management.

In September, NEIWPCG organized Innovative Tools for Nonpoint Source Protection, a two-day workshop in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. This workshop focused on the resources available to local communities for onsite wastewater and stormwater treatment. Presentations included "Decentralized Wastewater Management: A Case Study," "The Massachusetts Title V Program," and "Stormwater Phase II Rule."

ON-SITE WASTEWATER

Nearly one-quarter of the nation’s population is served by septic systems. Each year these systems discharge about one trillion gallons of water into the nation’s soils and groundwater. Besides the important role they play in household sanitation, septic systems also influence community growth and economic development.

Improperly designed, installed, or maintained on-site sewage disposal systems, however, are often the root of serious environmental and public health concerns. Poorly treated or untreated effluent can contaminate groundwater and surface water—often important drinking water sources and/or recreational resources. Too often, this contaminated water has been responsible for water-related disease outbreaks.

NEIWPCG’s On-site Wastewater Task Force, comprised of state on-site wastewater disposal directors, was formed to identify and respond to the need for more effective on-site wastewater programs at the state level.

Workgroup meetings covered topics such as the National Regulators conference, the EPA Design Manual, the EPA Management Guidelines, the alternative technology trade shows, the Innovative/Alternative Technology Review Project, and the percolation test video.

Innovative/Alternative On-site Wastewater Technologies: In FY-97, NEIWPCG began the Interstate Regulatory Cooperation Project for the Evaluation of Innovative/Alternative On-site Wastewater Technologies. The goal of the project is to assist in the evaluation of technologies for individual state approval of innovative/alternative on-site wastewater technologies.

The Interstate Regulatory Cooperation Project brings together the interests of federal and state regulators with potential end users of the technologies to facilitate independent verification of technology performance. A Technical Review Committee consisting of New England state regulators and advisors judge each technology based on performance data and render an advisory opinion. This provides state regulatory staff with the information they need to review a new technology application.

In FY-00, NEIWPCG met with vendor applicants to the Interstate Regulatory Cooperation Project and issued advisory opinions for the second round of the project. The advisory opinions were also posted on NEIWPCG’s web site. NEIWPCG gave a presentation on the Interstate Regulatory Cooperation Project at the 2nd Annual National On-site Regulators Conference.
Massachusetts DEP Percolation Test Video: Working with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, NEIWPCG produced a video for local boards of health in Massachusetts. The video details the proper procedure for conducting a percolation test.

RESIDUALS

NEIWPCG’s Residuals Workgroup was created to enhance interstate communication on issues associated with residuals such as wastewater treatment, on-site sewage disposal, and drinking water treatment. NEIWPCG has worked to promote compatibility among state and federal sludge and septage management programs. It has done so by acting as a forum for interstate discussions, as a clearinghouse for information, and as a distributor of Sludge Fact Sheets.

Workgroup meetings included discussions on state and federal regulations, public acceptance and education, and the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP). Also, explorations were made into performing a regional risk assessment.

NEIWPCG staff participated on the NBP steering committee as the state regulator representative. As part of its work with the NBP, NEIWPCG assisted with the development of a communications strategy, the establishment of a Quick Response Task Force, and the development of a Third Party Verification program.

In January 2000, NEIWPCG accepted a 3-year commitment to chair the New England Water Environment Association Residuals Management Committee. It also assisted in FY-00 with the State/EPA Biosolids Coordinators’ conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, and in the planning of the NEWEA Residuals Specialty Seminar held in Nashua, New Hampshire, in November 2000.

In conjunction with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, NEIWPCG began planning the Biosolids Land Application workshop, which will include hands-on classroom instruction. With the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, NEIWPCG organized the Septage Management Training workshop in Franklin, New Hampshire.
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS/LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

The 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments to the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act directed EPA to initiate a program to regulate the underground storage of petroleum products and hazardous substances. For more than a year prior to this federal mandate, NEIWPCC had begun coordinating meetings for its member states to exchange information and experiences pertaining to underground storage tank issues.

These Underground Storage Tanks/ Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (UST/LUST) Workgroup meetings have continued; as a result of this UST communication network, Northeast states have developed strong UST/LUST programs and have blazed many trails nationally.

Over the years, UST-related issues have evolved from developing regulations to finding better ways to implement regulations and administer programs. In the face of burgeoning numbers of LUST sites and dwindling funding for support staff, concepts of “streamlining” and risk-based corrective action have had appeal at both state and federal regulatory levels.

NEIWPCC undertook a comprehensive evaluation of the occurrence and remediation of MtBE in the United States. The evaluation centers on the development of a survey designed to ascertain the magnitude of the MtBE problem and the effectiveness of various technologies used to remediate MtBE-contaminated groundwater and surface water.

The survey gathered from each state the following information: total number of MtBE-impacted sites, number of MtBE remediation sites, and types of technology used at the sites. The responses from all fifty states will be available for review in FY-01.

At the request of the governors of the member states, NEIWPCC began preparation of an Alternative Fuels Report. As a consensus has been reached that ethanol will likely be more used in the northeast as an alternative to MtBE as an additive to gasoline, NEIWPCC initiated a focused evaluation of the potential effects of the release of ethanol and gasoline containing ethanol (gasohol).

The report concentrates on the potential groundwater impacts resultant from the use of ethanol as part of the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management’s (NESCAUM) overall effort to determine an environmentally compatible regional fuel alternative to MtBE.

At NEIWPCC’s three UST/LUST Workgroup meetings (co-chaired with EPA Region I) in FY-00, state program directors had the opportunity to discuss and exchange information on a host of UST, LUST, and state cleanup fund issues. Topics included enforcement and compliance issues, the Health and Safety Survey, and MtBE.

NEIWPCC organized three regional training programs in FY-00. A Veedol Root Training Program was offered in Simsbury, Connecticut, an Introductory UST Inspector Training Seminar was offered in East Concord, New Hampshire, and an Advanced UST Inspector Training Seminar was offered in South Portland, Maine. The seminars were very well attended and evaluations demonstrated that participants found the training excellent.

During FY-00, NEIWPCC co-sponsored 72 conferences and meetings across the nation. Staff also attended and participated in the State Fund Administrator’s Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. In addition, NEIWPCC published three issues of LUSTLine and an accompanying index.
WATER QUALITY

NEIWPC's Water Quality Workgroup provides a forum for states to discuss issues involving water quality standards, wet weather standards, monitoring, and national policy and regulation.

Workgroup discussions in FY-00 covered a range of issues, including comparability and consistency among the 305(b) reports of the New England states and New York, the federal EPA Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) strategy, water quality standards regulation changes, and the development of the water quality docket.

NEIWPC was very active in water quality matters in FY-00. NEIWPC staff produced comparisons of how states addressed mixing zones, antidegradation, and designated uses. They developed summaries on the flow standards and aquatic invasive species programs of the states. They identified interstate 303(d)-listed waters. They prepared a bacterial matrix and a dissolved oxygen in saline water summary. They coordinated an EPA briefing on bacterial standards and tracked the Wet Weather and BEACHES bills.

Other water quality activities NEIWPC participated in during FY-00 included:

305(b): Through a review of the member states' 305(b) reports and a series of conference calls hosted by NEIWPC, the 305(b) coordinators have had an opportunity to learn about each state's approach to water quality assessment and identify differing aspects of each approach.

In partnership with EPA, NEIWPC coordinated a Waterbody System Database workshop for the states on November 9-10, 1999, in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Ambient Nutrient Criteria: As part of the strategy described in Vice President Gore's Clean Water Action Plan, NEIWPC in conjunction with EPA established waterbody-specific assessment teams in order to coordinate the development of regional nutrient criteria. NEIWPC began this effort with a briefing to the states on the National Strategy. NEIWPC then selected ENSR as the contractor for the collection and evaluation of nutrient data. NEIWPC regularly coordinated meetings of the nutrient assessment teams to keep the states informed of the continuing work performed by ENSR as well as the development of technical guidance documents produced by EPA.

Biocriteria: NEIWPC is involved in an effort to assist New Hampshire improve and refine its biological data management system and to continue development towards biological criteria. Towards this end, NEIWPC provided support to fulfill the Geographic Information System (GIS) needs of the biological monitoring program. Work was also conducted delineating ecological sub-regions and classifying the various stream types found within the state. These efforts provided a more efficient methodology for targeting monitoring sites, selecting areas most representative of reference conditions, and establishing those waterbodies most sensitive to surrounding land-use practices and associated pollution inputs.

To assist Rhode Island's efforts to enhance its bio-assessment program and facilitate the development of biocriteria, NEIWPC contracted with Tetratech to modify the Ecological Database Application System (EDAS) to manage and manipulate Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (RI DEM) biological data sets.

In March 2000, NEIWPC and EPA organized a Freshwater Oligochaetes of North America
workshop in Jackson, New Hampshire. This workshop provided an opportunity for public agencies and private organizations to learn how to identify freshwater Oligochaetes (worms).

**Interstate Water Quality Standards Uniformity and Classification of Interstate Waters:** This workgroup ensures that the states assign compatible use classifications and standards to all interstate waters, including groundwater and wetlands. The workgroup provides a forum for the resolution of potential or apparent conflicts within interstate river basins that would impact downstream or neighboring states. In FY-00, NEIWPCC completed and distributed updates to the Water Quality Standards and Classification Matrix.

**Marine Engines:** The Marine Engines Workgroup held four meetings in FY-00. Topics for these meetings included state updates, manufacturer updates, Lake Tahoe research, and California Board regulations.

**Monitoring:** In FY-00, the Monitoring Workgroup prepared a needs survey and a summary of the United States Geological Survey stream gages. It also began a volunteer monitoring report. The report identifies ways that states can expand their use of volunteers and also summarizes each state's monitoring program. The workgroup meeting focused on establishing monitoring networks.

**Outfall Monitoring Science Advisory Panel:** In cooperation with EPA Region I and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, NEIWPCC continued to support the Outfall Monitoring Science Advisory Panel (OMSAP). The panel is comprised of scientists and engineers knowledgeable with the oceanography of coastal Massachusetts waters and the Gulf of Maine. OMSAP advises EPA and the state on scientific and technical matters related to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA) newly constructed outfall and any potential impacts of the discharge on the receiving waters in Massachusetts Bay, Boston Harbor, and Cape Cod Bay.

On September 6, 2000, the long-awaited Massachusetts Bay outfall went on-line. This tunnel is designed to transport an average of 370 million gallons a day, and up to 1.2 billion gallons a day of secondarily treated wastewater, 9.5 miles out into Massachusetts Bay where it is discharged along 1.25 miles of diffusers. In December 2000, the third and final battery of secondary treatment went on-line, thus completing the major construction elements of MWRA's Boston Harbor Project.

Throughout this project, OMSAP (and its predecessor group) provided an important forum for scientists, agency representatives, and environmental groups. OMSAP's accomplishments of the past year include:

- Providing advice on revisions to MWRA's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Contingency Plan effluent, water quality, and seafloor community limits/thresholds.
- Reviewing, commenting on, and approving MWRA's food web model scope of work, as required by MWRA's NPDES permit.
- Forming a focus group of modeling experts that reviewed and recommended modifications to the Massachusetts Bays Eutrophication Model.

OMSAP continues to ensure that as Boston Harbor recovers from its polluted past, it does not come at the cost of degrading the waters in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays.

**Stormwater:** On December 1, 1999, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, NEIWPCC co-hosted a workshop on Phase II for municipalities. NEIWPCC also participated in monthly conference calls with EPA to discuss sanitary sewer overflow. On December 22, NEIWPCC hosted a meeting of state and EPA
stormwater coordinators to discuss implementation of Phase II regulations.

**TMDL:** NEIWPCG organized a public briefing on EPA's proposed TMDL regulations on December 14, 2000, in Concord, New Hampshire. NEIWPCG coordinated the completion and submittal of the regional comment response on the TMDL regulations. As part of the regional comment effort, NEIWPCG submitted comments to EPA on the 2000 303(d) list regulations.

Other TMDL activities by NEIWPCG in FY-00 include participating in the national Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology effort; assisting EPA in the development of lake TMDL guidance; beginning development of a regional 303(d) listing/305(b) assessment methodology; and preparing a comparison of the 303(d) lists of the New England states and New York to identify similarities and differences in development.

**WETLANDS**

Wetlands are vital to the environmental and economic health of New England. These ecologically unique areas provide habitat essential to our fish and wildlife populations. Wetlands also purify water through the uptake and control of sediment and pollutants, protect lives and property by controlling floods, and buffer coastal areas from storm damage and erosion.

Wetlands help to maintain stream and river flows during dry periods, thereby replenishing water supplies and maintaining aquatic habitat. Some of our most popular recreational activities, such as hunting, canoeing and fishing, occur in wetlands. Moreover, wetlands provide open space, an important but increasingly scarce commodity in New England.

Unfortunately, throughout past years extensive development has resulted in the degradation of a significant percentage of our nation's wetland resources, including many rare or commercially important species.

The Wetlands Workgroup provides a forum for member states to exchange information on wetland protection strategies, regulatory policies/procedures, research, and technical issues. Workgroup members from EPA provide updates on federal regulations and regional issues.
NEIWPCC 2000 Activities Workgroups

Workgroup discussion in FY-00 included *Guiding Principles for Constructed Treatment Wetlands*, an EPA document on using wetlands for the treatment of municipal and industrial wastewater. Other topics were stormwater detention, permitting processes, outreach projects, and the use of “in-lieu” fees for compensatory mitigation. In addition, NEIWPCC organized a TEA-21/Wildlife Habitat workshop.

New England Biological Assessment of Wetlands Workgroup: This workgroup focuses on using biological indicators as a method to assess the quality of wetlands systems. In support of this workgroup, NEIWPCC hosted workshops relevant to biological assessment of wetlands. In addition, NEIWPCC has sponsored the attendance of state wetland staff to national conferences.

The Biological Assessment of Wetlands Workgroup meeting in Washington, DC, spurred the development of guidance modules relevant to the biological assessment of wetlands. NEIWPCC participated in this meeting, particularly the session that focused on program implementation. NEIWPCC has since remained active in the development of that module.

Rare Turtles: NEIWPCC staff finished conducting its Rare Turtle Identification Study in the Great Bay Region and the Lamprey River in New Hampshire. There are three species of wetland-dependent rare turtles that are especially hard to find and are under a great deal of threat in New Hampshire: wood turtles, spotted turtles, and Blanding's turtles. Unlike many species, which can be found by listening for their specific calls or by checking vernal pools during specific times of the year, turtles are very difficult to locate even for trained biologists.

In his final report, biologist David Carroll assessed the status of the three turtle species, evaluated their habitats, and recommended protective measures for ensuring their continued viability.

Vernal Pool Symposium: In conjunction with EPA, NEIWPCC sponsored and organized a Vernal Pool symposium at the University of Rhode Island. Five hundred people attended the 2-day symposium, which covered many aspects of vernal pools, including ecology, biology, land use, conservation, and educational outreach.
NEIWPC 2000 Activities
Watersheds

Watersheds

Throughout the year, NEIWPC addressed the specific concerns and needs of the watersheds of member states. This role entailed managing various projects as well as providing technical assistance. In addition, NEIWPC provided information to the public regarding their local watershed.

Blackstone River

The Blackstone River flows from Worcester, Massachusetts, to the Seekonk River in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. The river is the second largest freshwater tributary to the Narragansett Bay. Its watershed encompasses 24 communities and more than 350,000 acres. In 1986, Congress established the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor along portions of the river in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In FY-00, NEIWPC assisted in the development of the final Blackstone River Initiative Report.

Charles River

The Charles River is a resource of great recreational and ecological value to the Boston Metropolitan Region and to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is also a priority waterbody for EPA Region I and a focus of EPA's Clean Charles 2005 Task Force.

Achieving “fishable and swimmable” conditions in the lower Charles River will require continued progress in addressing a range of contaminant sources now degrading water quality. These sources include mainstem streamflow that passes over the Watertown Dam under both dry and wet weather conditions; Boston and Cambridge CSOs that impact the river during rainstorms; non-CSO stormwater that enters the river during rainstorms and snowmelt events; illicit discharges to separate storm sewers in lower Charles River communities; and bottom sediments, especially beneath the density-stratified water column in the Charles River Basin.

In FY-00, NEIWPC continued to assist Massachusetts and EPA Region I in defining the spatial distribution of sediment contaminants in the lower Charles River, with a special focus on high-use areas where restoration of public wading and swimming is being considered. NEIWPC also assisted in defining the spatial...
extent, temporal dynamics, and chemistry of the high-salinity bottom layer in the basin, which may be a major source of phosphorous and other contaminants to the water column. The study extends and complements a regional scale study of the Charles River sediment and water column quality conducted in 1996, as well as the ongoing water column monitoring efforts of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and the Charles River Watershed Association.

NEIWPC is coordinating the above work with the United States Geological Survey. The EPA Laboratory in Lexington, Massachusetts, is providing for the review and approval of the Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan. The survey work is expected to continue over a span of two years.

As part of the effort to improve the water clarity of the lower Charles River so that it meets Massachusetts Department of Public Health provisions for swimming beaches, NEIWPC initiated a demonstration test of Gundaroo Inc.'s "filter barrier technology." This technology controls migration of particulates and associated microbes utilizing a non-woven/polypropylene fiber material suspended in a water column with a flotation system incorporated in a boom.

The demonstration test was designed to determine whether Gundaroo technologies might provide a water quality management system that could be used on the Charles River, or any other under-used urban rivers in New England, to provide safe recreational opportunities. The test consisted of two Gundaroo deployments. The analyzed data will be available in FY-01.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Chittenden County is located in northwestern Vermont. The county crosses four major drainages: the Winooski River, LaPlatte River, Lamoille River and Malletts Bay/Lake Champlain. Protecting the local watersheds from the influx of untreated stormwater is the main priority of the Urban Watershed Management Program for Chittenden County. By coordinating with developing towns, NEIWPC encourages protective water resource strategies such as stormwater management and stream buffers for the county waterways and Lake Champlain. Through ambient monitoring and watershed modeling, NEIWPC aims to provide the important data necessary for calculating TMDLs.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

The Connecticut River, known as "the backbone of New England," begins in the Connecticut Lakes region of New Hampshire (near the Canadian border), forms the border between New Hampshire and Vermont, flows through Massachusetts and Connecticut, and finally empties into Long Island Sound. It drains an area of 11,560 square miles.

Comprised of representatives from NEIWPC, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, EPA, and watershed groups, the Connecticut River Forum has been working since 1993 to restore water quality in the Connecticut River watershed.

In FY-00, NEIWPC conducted a fish tissue study on the Connecticut River. The study was done in cooperation with EPA, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, the Environmental Research Institute at the University of Connecticut, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The objective of the study was to perform a watershed-wide fish tissue monitoring program with regard to contaminant concentrations of representative fishes from the mainstem of the Connecticut River. The program allows for subsequent sampling at regular intervals to monitor trends in Connecticut River fish tissue contaminant concentrations. In addition, necessary
information will be obtained to revise human health risk assessments for the Connecticut River.

Fish collection continued through August 2000. The Environmental Research Institute will prepare a final data analysis report in FY-01.

HUDSON RIVER

The Hudson River extends from The Battery on Manhattan Island to Lake Tear of the Clouds in the High Peaks Region of the Adirondacks. As both a freshwater and estuarine environment, this American Heritage River is host to a range of native plants and animals that have become threatened by pollution and development.

In FY-00, the first full year of partnership between New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program and NEIWPCC, NEIWPCC staff supported the implementation of the Hudson River Estuary Action Plan.

Since its release by Governor George E. Pataki in May 1996, The Hudson River Estuary Action Plan has served as a blueprint for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and partnering agencies' implementation of management actions along the estuary. The Hudson River Estuary Action Program is a unique regional partnership leading the restoration of the Hudson River. The principal purposes are to protect and conserve natural resources and ecosystem health, clean up pollution, and promote public use and enjoyment of the river.

The Hudson River Estuary Program was established in 1987 under the Hudson River Estuary Management Act, Section 11-0306 of the Environmental Conservation Law. The law directs the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to develop a management program for the Hudson River Estuarine District and its associated shorelands: the estuary from the Troy dam south to the Verrazano Narrows, including tidal portions of tributaries.

NEIWPCC actively supports the management objectives defined in the Estuary Action Plan in a variety of fields: water quality monitoring, coordinating river bottom (benthic) mapping, education and interpretation, administrative support, contract management, tidal wetland mapping, fisheries research, and habitat restoration. In addition, contractual support for the Hudson River Almanac and an interpretive signage project are also underway.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN

In 1991, as mandated by Congress, EPA convened the Lake Champlain Management Conference (LCMC) for the purpose of developing a comprehensive pollution prevention, control, and restoration plan for the lake and its 8,234-square mile basin, which includes the states of New York and Vermont. NEIWPCC assisted EPA in organizing the convening of the LCMC, supports staff in the LCBP (Lake Champlain Basin Program), and serves as fiscal agent for the program.

Under the LCBP, NEIWPCC manages a comprehensive plan for restoring and protecting the beautiful natural resource of
Lake Champlain and its basin. Not only does the program provide for scientific analysis, but it also keeps the public informed and involved in the process through its web page and publications.

**LONG ISLAND SOUND**

The Long Island Sound Study (LISS) is one of the National Estuary Programs funded by EPA under §320 of the Clean Water Act. Long Island Sound serves the commercial and recreational needs of thousands of New York and Connecticut residents every year. Involving the public in protecting and restoring this important resource is one of the main goals of NEIWPCC's participation in the study.

The study began in 1985 and by 1994 the LISS Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan was completed. NEIWPCC continues to serve as fiscal agent for portions of the LISS.

**MERRIMACK RIVER INITIATIVE**

The Merrimack River Initiative (MRI) is a far-reaching program created to examine the Merrimack River watershed as a whole and to restore and maintain a water quality/water use balance. The initiative began in 1988 with the signing of an agreement between EPA, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and NEIWPCC. The MRI builds a constituency through stakeholder involvement and develops new ways to collect, analyze and use information to generate more informed watershed management decisions in both the government and the private sector. The MRI has published various reports, available to the general public, to provide guidance in making environmentally sound decisions.

In FY-00, NEIWPCC hosted the *Mr. & Mrs. Fish* program, an interactive educational opportunity for third and fourth graders, in Lowell, Massachusetts, for 600 students.

**NARRAGANSETT BAY**

Involving the public in the protection and restoration of the Narragansett Bay Estuary is an essential step in reaching water quality goals for this region. Toward this end, NEIWPCC continued to assist the outreach efforts of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program.

In FY-00, Narragansett Bay Outreach activities included:

- Mapping previously unidentified eelgrass beds for the Narragansett Bay Eelgrass Location Map
- Coordinating meetings of the interagency Rhode Island Coastal Habitat Restoration Team
- Coordinating Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management activities related to the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission
Submitting a grant to Rhode Island Aquafund for a fisheries restoration plan on the Blackstone River

Planning and coordinating the Bay Summit Conference

Revising the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program web page (www.nhep.org).

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Narragansett Bay Estuary Program organized the Narragansett Bay Summit 2000 in April 2000. The summit's purpose was to assess the status of Narragansett Bay and its relationship to the regional economy, environment and quality of life.

A series of presentations by scientists, economists and resource management experts examined a wide range of environmental and economic aspects of the bay, including recreation, fisheries, land use, marine transportation, research and education. Panel discussions brought together a diverse range of decision-makers and resource users, from fishermen to legislators, to discuss challenges and issues of Bay management.

Out of the summit discussions a new broad-based stakeholder group, the Partnership for Narragansett Bay, has been created at the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Institute to carry out the Summit recommendations.

**QUINEBAUG RIVER**

The Quinebaug River flows from Massachusetts through Connecticut's rural areas. NEIWPCC is assisting the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts, EPA Region I, and Millennium Power Partners with the Quinebaug Instream Flow Studies proposal. This study is part of mitigation measures to satisfy the procedural and substantive requirements of Section 401(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act as it relates to the Millennium Power Plant project located in Charlton, Massachusetts.
OPERATOR TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Since 1969, NEIWPCG has provided wastewater operator training to help communities meet their water pollution control goals by providing on-site training for personnel. NEIWPCG staff travels to locations throughout New England and New York, presenting a variety of courses for water pollution control professionals who would otherwise be unable to enroll in off-site training programs. While NEIWPCG courses primarily cover water pollution control topics, the programs are expanding into other environmental disciplines. Training schedules are published in the Fall and the Winter/Spring Calendars, as well as on NEIWPCG’s website (www.neiwpcg.org).

NEIWPCG offers annual courses and workshops on various aspects of wastewater, drinking water, and hazardous materials/waste technologies at locations throughout New England and New York. NEIWPCG also offers symposiums on an as-needed basis to create information exchange forums and to introduce the environmental workforce to new or changing pollution prevention technologies, operations and maintenance practices, and laws and regulations.

Over 1,095 people attended the 45 catalog courses and 5 contract courses offered by the Training Center in FY-00. New courses offered included Complying with Federal and State Biosolids Regulations, Optimizing Phosphorus Removal, Retrofitting Your WWTP for Nitrogen Removal, Putting Computers to Work for You, SCADA Systems, and Troubleshooting Aerated Lagoons.

In FY-00, the Training Center supported a two-year research project by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to evaluate the feasibility of using a fixed film artificial media to retain and enhance the growth of nitrifying bacteria at the Exeter wastewater treatment lagoons. Staff also attended the National 104(g) O&M Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Annual Water Environment Federation Conference in Anaheim, California.

CUSTOMIZED TRAINING

NEIWPCG offers customized training programs for water pollution control facilities, business/industry, communities, and government agencies to meet the specific needs of the region's environmental workforce. These programs can include process-specific issues, Train-the-Trainer, certification preparation, industrial pre-treatment, pollution prevention, compliance, and safety. NEIWPCG has worked closely with state environmental agencies and successfully addressed the training needs of industries such as pulp and paper, metal finishing, and electronics.

MAINE JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC) was established in 1985 using a grant from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP) to coordinate the environmental training needs of Maine’s environmental professionals. JETCC operates under the guidance of a board of directors appointed by the commissioner of the ME DEP. The board is made up of municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plant personnel and local government representatives.

JETCC performs its function as training coordinator by networking training needs with the best instructional and technical support available and by conducting annual training needs surveys. JETCC utilizes a network of volunteer local hosts to manage on-site organizational details. Volunteer trainers are also drawn from JETCC’s network of...
wastewater treatment experts. JETCC's activities in FY-00 include:

- JETCC delivered twenty-five training seminars on wastewater and drinking water to over 900 participants.
- Included in that total were a number of special sessions in cooperation with the DEP Land & Water Bureau on such timely topics as Controlling Nitrogen Discharge, Clean Sampling Techniques, Mercury Detection & Reduction, and Toxicity Reduction.
- JETCC co-sponsored six On-site Wastewater System Installers workshops with Maine’s County Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the Department of Human Services, the Maine State Planning Office, the Casco Bay Estuary Project and ME DEP.
- JETCC assisted the ME DEP Hazardous Waste & Remediation Bureau by coordinating and delivering a Tank Hallow class to 83 fireman, truck drivers, and emergency response personnel.
- JETCC coordinated two more in a series of Visible Emissions Observer training sessions for the ME DEP Air Bureau. Each of the two “Smoke Schools” was exceptionally well attended with participation from over 100 smoke observers from industries in Maine and Atlantic Canada.
- JETCC assisted NEIWPCC and other sponsors with the planning and staffing of the National Operator Trainers Conference in Providence, Rhode Island.
- Along with ME DEP and NEIWPCC's Residuals Workgroup, JETCC sponsored the Biosolids Land Application workshop in Waterville, Maine.
- JETCC partnered with Southern Maine Technical College to provide joint training in water, wastewater and other related environmental program offerings as part of the certificate “Pollution Abatement” or associate degree “Environmental Technology” program.

NORTHEAST PARTNERSHIP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

The Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE) program has worked to link community and technical colleges with the technical resources of such federal agencies as EPA, the Department of Energy (DOE), and the National Aeronautics and Space Agency. DOE and EPA have defined “needs driven” or specific interests that require increasing numbers of qualified graduates in environmental science, engineering, and waste management.

The PETE program is focused on addressing these needs, as well as improving public understanding of environmental issues, promoting environmental technology transfer, and enhancing U.S. economic development and international competitiveness. The Northeast Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (NE PETE) is one of six regions that comprise a national PETE program. NEIWPCC serves as coordinator and fiscal agent for NE PETE.

NE PETE is a non-profit community/technical college advocacy group that has worked to establish a community/technical college network by linking participating academic institutions with each other and by locating community/technical college training resources for business, industry, and government. In the NE PETE region, about 130 colleges offer some form of environmental programming. The following are summaries of NE PETE's FY-00 programs:
NEIWPCC 2000 Activities
Operator Training & Technical Assistance

Green Campus Project: The focus of this “pilot project” is to develop a protocol for two-year community/technical colleges for promoting and conducting business on campus in an environmentally safe, “green” manner. This will be done by training college faculty and students in two selected NE PETE member colleges in the art of pollution prevention (toxics use reduction), alternative methods and options, P-2 audits, and green campus strategies. This will involve all aspects of a college campus: administration, business, purchasing, laboratories, maintenance/custodial, technology departments, buildings and grounds, and general education.

The concept is to utilize the faculty and students within the “environmental technology department” for this project. By training their students, faculty and staff in environmental regulatory compliance, the college can become both a community resource for P-2 information and a good neighbor.

The two NE PETE Lead Colleges selected through the application process to participate in this project are Gateway Community Technical College in North Haven, Connecticut, and Southern Maine Technical College in South Portland, Maine. NE PETE contacted ME DEP and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, as well as EPA Region I and NEIWPCC training staff, to provide technical assistance on both campuses.

North Haven, Connecticut, High School was selected as a mentoring school by Gateway Community Technical College. As part of the program, North Haven’s electrical usage was evaluated, low voltage lighting was installed where appropriate, paper recycling was reinstated, and the water used in the building and found on campus was tested. Gateway Community Technical College also instituted some changes on its own campus, including the addition of recycling containers and storage drums for hazardous chemicals.

On May 4, 2000, Gateway Community Technical College hosted the Green School Initiative 2000 Expo. Presentations were made by students from North Haven High School and Gateway Community Technical College participating in the Green Campus program. Presentations were also offered by the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association, the Regional Water Authority, and other groups with ties to the Green Campus program.

RHODE ISLAND OPERATOR TRAINING/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

NEIWPCC received a grant to assist the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management perform on-site technical assistance at six plants in Rhode Island (Warwick, West Warwick, East Greenwich, Cranston, Fields Point, Providence). The programs focused on the ability and efforts of the plants to achieve and maintain compliance. NEIWPCC also contracted for on-site technical services to evaluate and propose nitrogen removal upgrade strategies at the Warwick plant. In addition, the contractor conducted a Biological Nutrient Removal course in Warwick.

POTW_PAS

NEIWPCC began Phase II of the Publicly Owned Treatment Works Performance Analysis System (POTW_PAS) software package. Phase Two will sport new features and reporting items such as process control calculations not featured in Version 1.

In FY-99, a contractor was hired to develop the POTW_PAS Phase II software. He continued his work in FY-00 based on input from NEIWPCC and the National Advisory Workgroup (NAW). NEIWPCC arranged for the contractor and select NAW members to present a draft version of the Phase II software at the 104(g) Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.
Education and Outreach

Education plays a key role in bringing about change, and NEIWPCCC has been reaching out to educate and inform people for many years. NEIWPCCC develops, produces, and distributes an array of environmental information for the regulated community, environmental professionals, educators, and the general public. In addition, NEIWPCCC staff is often called upon to give presentations at workshops, conferences, and meetings on a variety of water-related issues.

Publications

Annual Report: The annual report summarizes activities for the fiscal year and keeps government agencies and the general public up-to-date on NEIWPCCC's roster of activities.

Interstate News: A quarterly in-house newsletter, distributed to NEIWPCCC commissioners, employees, and workgroup participants, Interstate News contains updates on NEIWPCCC projects, notices of meetings and training programs, and brief summaries of relevant information.

L.U.S.T.Line: A national bulletin on underground storage tanks, L.U.S.T.Line is published three times a year. It is funded with support from EPA’s Office of Underground Storage Tanks. The publication helps keep state and federal UST regulators, consultants, contractors, and tank owners informed about UST and LUST activities, cleanup fund issues, spill remediation, and prevention technologies.

Water Connection: A free newsletter, published three times per year, Water Connection keeps subscribers informed of emerging and on-going matters related to water and its interaction with air, land, and living organisms. Each issue focuses on a single topic, exploring a wide range of subjects within that topic. The issue topics in FY-00 were coastal waters, wetlands, and lakes.

The New England Interstate Environmental Information Catalog: The catalog contains a comprehensive list of NEIWPCCC’s publications, brochures, newsletters, technical reports, curricula, videos, and training materials. The items in the catalog, produced by NEIWPCCC and other selected sources, span a wide range of water-related topics, including groundwater, surface water, wetlands, underground storage tanks, and wastewater treatment. The catalog is available free of charge. The catalog is updated yearly.
WEB PAGE

NEIWPCC's web page (www.neiwpcc.org) continues to grow and change as a resource for both environmental professionals and the public. Bimonthly updates to the Welcome Page describe the latest meetings, events, and job postings. From the Welcome Page, visitors can navigate to information about NEIWPCC's history, the efforts of our workgroups, and our special projects. Training is also a feature: the Training Page includes extensive information about NEIWPCC's Environmental Training Center and JETCC, as well as the latest course schedules. From the web site, visitors can download Water Connection, L.U.S.T.Line, the latest training catalog, and many of NEIWPCC's publications. In addition, the page includes links to federal, state, and other sites of environmental interest.

YOUTH IN THE ENVIRONMENT

This was the eleventh year of the Youth in the Environment Program (YEP). Youth in the Environment programs were conducted at the Lowell Wastewater Treatment Plant, the New Haven Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Roger Williams Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island. Over 40 students participated in the programs. Four days a week the students worked at the job sites; one day a week they went on field trips to learn about career opportunities in the environmental field. Field trip sites included Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, Andover Drinking Water Plant, Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant, UMass Lowell, the White Mountains, and the Roger Williams Zoo.
NEIWPC's Youth in the Environment program began at the Lowell Wastewater Treatment Plant in 1990 to introduce economically disadvantaged youth to career opportunities in the environmental field by combining summer employment with academic training and hands-on experience. In an effort to expose students to a variety of environmental career opportunities, the program provides a blueprint for establishing youth awareness and training in such fields as water supply, wastewater treatment, recycling, energy, marine environments, hazardous waste, and natural resources protection.

Photos: Top left and right: YEP trip to Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. Center: YEP Whale Watch Field Trip. Bottom: YEP participants take a field trip to the headwaters of the Merrimack River.
Congratulations to Tom Groves (10 years), Anne Jett (5 years), and Catherine Eliopoulos (5 years) for reaching milestone years in their NEIPWCC employment!

NEIPWCC thanks you for your dedication and service.
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