From the Chair

When most of us reach a milestone in our lives, we can’t help but look back at what we have done and ponder where we are going. It is the same for organizations. In fiscal 2007, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission marked its sixtieth year in existence. For those of us who have been involved with NEIWPCA for some of those years, it was only natural to reflect on how far the Commission has come. In its early years, the focus was on basic pollution control in interstate waters. As water and wastewater issues grew more subtle and complex, NEIWPCA adapted and evolved. While surface water protection remained an emphasis, substantial attention and resources also had to be paid to such matters as nonpoint source pollution, stormwater, and underground storage tanks. Today, NEIWPCA stands as an indispensable player in the region on so many levels—and for evidence, I need point no further than to this annual report.

As the pages that follow make perfectly clear, fiscal 2007 was, by any measure, a highly productive year. Amid the many significant accomplishments, one in particular stands out in my mind: the Northeast Regional Mercury TMDL. Without NEIWPCA, and more specifically the tireless work of Beth Card and Susy King of its staff, this landmark effort to reduce mercury pollution from out-of-region sources likely would never have happened. In NEIWPCA, the seven member states had the ideal partner, the ideal vehicle through which to work together on this complex and controversial issue.

Allow me to point to another essential achievement—the conference on pharmaceuticals and personal care products. Held in Portland, Maine, in August, it was arguably the most successful specialty conference to date for state regulators on what few would dispute is an emerging issue of tremendous importance. Anyone who attended the conference walked away with a much fuller understanding of what we currently know about PPCPs and their impact on aquatic and human health, and what more we need to know to begin crafting effective policies.

I cite these two accomplishments because of their significance and also because of what they represent—the continuing need for NEIWPCA. In the water and wastewater world, new issues are emerging all the time that require the Commission’s steady, supportive hand. Sixty years from now, will NEIWPCA be celebrating its one hundred and twentieth anniversary? Will it still be as vital? If the past is any indication, the answer is yes on both counts. Within this report are year-by-year highlights from NEIWPCA’s history, and while they capture just a small fraction of the achievements, they convey the breadth, importance, and impact of NEIWPCA’s activities since its founding. Over the years, NEIWPCA has built up a proud legacy of leadership that was only enhanced by the activities in 2007. Given this track record, it is hard not to believe the Commission will play a prominent role in the region long into the future.

As for the immediate future, NEIWPCA and all of us who work to protect water resources have a role to play in a change that will shortly be upon us—a new administration in Washington. The process of change and the establishment of new priorities affords us an opportunity to promote water program needs. With NEIWPCA’s support, the states have already begun the process of preparing a water-conscious regional agenda for consideration by transition team members and the yet-to-be-determined leadership of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is a crucial process in which the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators is also actively engaged. As the current president of ASIWPCA, I joined with its board members to initiate the association’s efforts to bring a national perspective to the discussion of priorities, and I am pleased with the progress of this endeavor. I can also assure you that with so many NEIWPCA staff members and Commissioners in leadership roles with ASIWPCA, the priorities of New England and New York State are well represented in all that it does.

As NEIWPCA’s Chair in 2006 and 2007, I was afforded a view of this extraordinary organization that was not unlike a front-row seat at Fenway Park. You see the same activity everybody else is seeing, but you see it more closely, more clearly, and with no obstructions. And what I saw—the professionalism of the staff, the commitment to results, the passion for progress—impressed me greatly. It was an honor to serve as Chair, and I thank all who made it a rewarding experience: the NEIWPCA staff, my fellow Commissioners, and the representatives from EPA, especially Region 1 Regional Administrator Bob Varney, whose support for NEIWPCA has never wavered. I am proud of what NEIWPCA achieved during my tenure as Chair, and I am excited to see what accomplishments are in store in the years ahead. Something tells me the best is yet to come.

Harry Stewart
NEIWPCA Chair 2006-2007
Director, Water Division, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Governance and Direction

Within Article IV of the Act of Congress that created NEIWPC is this simple sentence: “Meetings shall be held at least twice a year.” It is a directive that we have never failed to follow. In fact, it has long been customary for NEIWPC to hold three meetings each year involving all our Commissioners, and six meetings of our Executive Committee, which is made up of the states’ environmental agency commissioners or their designees. This was indeed the case in fiscal 2007, and as usual, each of the meetings featured the type of frank, friendly exchange of information that helps NEIWPC assess our states’ needs and how we can meet them, and helps our states learn about new ways to manage increasingly complex water and wastewater challenges. Although we are in contact with our member states on an informal basis throughout the year, the full Commission and Executive Committee meetings provide the ideal setting for direct and productive communication.

Of the meetings in fiscal 2007, one in particular stood out: on May 17-18 at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem, Mass., we gathered for the 200th Commission meeting in NEIWPC’s history. What’s more, the meeting happened during a year in which we were marking our sixtieth year in existence. The dual milestones inspired us to fully document the meeting in pictures, a few of which you see here. (To see more photos, visit www.neiwpc.org/newsroom/200thphotos.) In many other respects, though, the meeting in May was no different than any other NEIWPC Commission meeting; the focus was on the work being done and yet to be done. Below are some of the highlights:

- NEIWPC staff delivered presentations on some of the projects covered in this report, such as the Mercury TMDL (see page 8), the Capacity, Management, Operations, and Maintenance project (page 17), the New England Lakes and Ponds Study (page 11), and our proposal to provide training and technical assistance at wastewater treatment plants involved in Connecticut’s nitrogen trading program (Connecticut’s Department of Environmental Protection later approved this proposal; see page 19).

- NEIWPC Executive Director Ron Poltak informed the Commissioners of the status of several critical pieces of legislation in Washington that could influence NEIWPC’s agenda (see page 6 for details). He also spoke about the need for the Commission to move forward on setting an agenda for dealing with issues related to climate change. Ron introduced Robert Cruess, one of our Commissioners from New Hampshire, who spoke about the efforts of his company, TF Moran, to incorporate “green” technology, such as porous pavement, into its development projects. (For details on our Climate Change Initiative, see page 5.)

- EPA New England Regional Administrator Robert Varney, a frequent special guest at Commission meetings, spoke about his priorities, including stepping up enforcement against environmental violators (particularly in cases of data fraud) and an increased emphasis on monitoring of coastal beaches. He also applauded the efforts being made by the Metropolitan District Commission in Hartford, Connecticut, on controlling combined sewer overflows that pollute the Connecticut River. (See page 9 for details on our extensive projects related to the Connecticut River.)

Since environmental programs and projects are only as strong as the funding to support them, budgetary matters were also a topic of conversation at the May gathering, as they are at any NEIWPC meeting. During
Partners in Protection

Throughout the history of NEMWCC, the Water Division of the New Mexico Water Conservation District has been working closely with the region's partners to ensure the protection and management of water resources. This close collaboration has resulted in successful projects that have contributed to the overall health and sustainability of the region's natural resources.

One of these projects is the restoration of the Gila River drainage basin. The Gila River is an important water source for New Mexico, providing water for irrigation, recreation, and wildlife habitat. NEMWCC has been working with partners to restore the Gila River drainage basin, including the construction of new diversion structures and the implementation of conservation practices.

Another project that has been successful in recent years is the implementation of a drought contingency plan. In 2011, NEMWCC partnered with other water management agencies to develop a plan that would help ensure the reliability of water supplies during drought conditions. The plan includes a variety of measures, such as water conservation and the development of new water sources.

In addition to these projects, NEMWCC has also been working to improve water quality and protect aquatic habitats. The district has implemented a number of initiatives to reduce pollution and improve water clarity, including the implementation of best management practices and the enforcement of water quality standards.

These projects and initiatives are just a few examples of the work that NEMWCC is doing to protect and manage water resources in New Mexico. Through collaboration with partners and stakeholders, NEMWCC continues to work towards a sustainable future for the region.
In 2007, we also maintained our typically strong relationships with our sister interstate organizations, the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) and the New England Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA). Executive Director Ron Poltak and Deputy Director Susan Sullivan met on a quarterly basis with NESCAUM and NEWMOA senior staff to discuss issues of mutual concern and explore opportunities for collaboration. Out of these talks grew the plan to work together on a series of documents describing the success of mercury reduction programs in the region. Details on this effort are on page 9.

Our association with the Environment Committee of the New England Governors’ Conference continued in 2007, and at a meeting early in the year attended by the environmental agency commissioners of all six New England states, Executive Director Ron Poltak urged the commissioners to share their air and water priorities with Washington. The response was positive, and NEIWPC held drafting, review, and submission to Capitol Hill of a letter signed by the commissioners that clearly spelled out the region’s environmental priorities: air pollution, including interstate transport pollutants and mercury; climate and energy; water quality, including sustainable water and wastewater infrastructure, and “building on our successes,” including further reduction of in-region sources of mercury and expanded flexibility for innovative approaches to environmental protection. This letter was accompanied by detailed comments on EPA’s Draft Fiscal 2008 National Program Manager’s Guidance, and one of those comments—on the need to clarify the documentation of environmental improvement associated with Section 404 wetlands permits—resulted in revisions by EPA.

Throughout the year, NEIWPC played an active role in many organizations, including the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (see page 21) and the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA), which after a brief period of instability is once again playing a crucial role in promoting communication and collaboration among state, interstate, and territorial officials who work to protect and improve water quality. NEIWPC’s 2006-2007 Chair Harry Stewart is currently ASIWPCA’s president, and Executive Director Ron Poltak serves on ASIWPCA’s board as the representative of all interstate commissions. Maine DEP’s Andy Fisk, a NEIWPC Commissioner, also serves on the board as the representative of Region 1 (New England), and Sandi Allen, a longtime NEIWPC Commissioner from New York State, is Co-Chair along with Ron Poltak of ASIWPCA’s State Funding and Legislation Task Force. Beth Card, our Director of Water Quality Programs, is Chair of ASIWPCA’s Legal Affairs Task Force. Our staff and Commissioners take on such roles with ASIWPCA and other organizations because they provide additional means of serving our states and leading the way on water management and protection.

TAKING THE INITIATIVE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

As recently as five years ago, it’s unlikely you would have heard the term “climate change” uttered at a NEIWPC Commission meeting. How things have changed. Amid evidence that global temperatures are rising at an alarming rate, climate change has rapidly become an issue of growing concern in our region—and a very real issue for NEIWPC, our member states, and all involved in protecting our water resources and related infrastructure. The expected climatic changes in the Northeast include decreases in precipitation patterns and amounts, temperature rise, sea level rise, reduced snowpack and a shorter snow season, and increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events. The degree of these changes will determine the severity of their impacts, but potential water-related effects include increased water demand, altered streamflow, degraded water quality, saltwater intrusion of coastal aquifers, drought, and coastal flooding. And the possibility of climate change impacts worries more than just scientists and policymakers; a recent survey showed that a large majority of the nation’s wastewater treatment plant managers are concerned about an increase in stormwater inflows due to climate change.

At the request of our member states, NEIWPC launched a Climate Change Initiative in 2007 to keep our member states apprised of developments in this arena and to pursue regional approaches to climate change-related issues. As part of this effort, NEIWPC is establishing a Climate Change Workgroup, made up of state water
The water project authorization bill becomes public law No. 111-14 on November 8, 2009. The Senate passes the bill and after a recess, the President signs it. It joins the list of successful bills in Congress. House and Senate leaders have worked hard to ensure that the bill includes provisions for increased water research and development, funding for water-related projects, and improvements to existing water infrastructure. The conference report confers on the bill as it passed the Senate and the House, adopting the Senate's version of the bill.

**HR 1495: The Water Resources Development Act of 2009**

The conference report, approved by both chambers, includes provisions for increased water research and development, funding for water-related projects, and improvements to existing water infrastructure. The conference report also includes provisions for increased water research and development, funding for water-related projects, and improvements to existing water infrastructure. The conference report includes provisions for increased water research and development, funding for water-related projects, and improvements to existing water infrastructure. The conference report includes provisions for increased water research and development, funding for water-related projects, and improvements to existing water infrastructure. The conference report includes provisions for increased water research and development, funding for water-related projects, and improvements to existing water infrastructure. The conference report includes provisions for increased water research and development, funding for water-related projects, and improvements to existing water infrastructure.

**S 3483: The Comprehensive National Water Monitoring Act**

This act was introduced by Senator Colburn (R-ME) in 2009. The act would establish a federal program for collecting groundwater data. The bill was introduced on November 11, 2009, and was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. The committee approved the bill on February 25, 2010.

**S 1371: The Federal Beverage Security Act of 2009**

This act was introduced by Senator Colbert (R-NC) on May 29, 2009. The act would establish a federal program for collecting data on the levels of fluoride in public water supplies. The bill was introduced on May 29, 2009, and was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. The committee approved the bill on February 25, 2010.
SUSTAINING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

The aging of America’s drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, much of which was built in the first decade of NEIWPC’s existence, has been well documented. Thankfully, the issue is also getting serious attention in Washington. In one recent sign of progress, Congressional leaders asked the Government Accountability Office to look at ways to finance a Clean Water Trust Fund that would provide at least $10 billion a year to maintain and upgrade wastewater treatment and collection systems. The GAO has until January 2009 to deliver its report.

At NEIWPC, we have long been aware of the need for action. In 2006, our Executive Committee expressed support for the establishment of an infrastructure trust fund. And throughout fiscal 2007, NEIWPC staff kept our Commissioners informed of developments on the issue. In a sign of our commitment to finding solutions, NEIWPC joined with EPA in sponsoring a “Sustainable Infrastructure Forum” in Groton, Connecticut, on April 30-May 1, 2007. The forum brought together senior officials and decision-makers from across the region for a series of discussions on how to promote sustainable practices that will help reduce the current massive gap between the funds needed to improve our infrastructure and the available monies. At the forum, the attendees discussed ideas and experiences, with a particular focus on understanding the financial obstacles and how to potentially overcome them, the need for improved communication with elected officials, and the necessity of energy efficiency. While nobody has all the answers on how to rehabilitate and replace the Northeast’s declining infrastructure so future generations aren’t saddled with an exorbitant bill, it is forums like this that generate the right questions and inspire the search for solutions.

COMMITMENT TO QUALITY

In the pages that follow, you will read about the many projects that NEIWPC was involved in during fiscal 2007, and many of those projects generate environmental data—data that can drive critical decisions on water issues. How do we ensure the data is of the very highest quality? By thoroughly integrating a strict process of quality management into the work we do ourselves or any contractor does for us. In fiscal 2007, we revised our Quality Management Plan (QMP), which describes NEIWPC’s system for implementing, documenting, and assessing data collection to ensure the data is scientifically valid, defensible, and of known and acceptable precision and accuracy. The new QMP incorporates a two-stage self-assessment program for all NEIWPC staff and a more formalized field audit process. In December 2006, EPA approved the plan for use through 2011.

Our commitment to quality extends into financial management, in which we excel thanks to the efforts of Comptroller Linda Agostinelli and her support staff, and Treasurer Dick Kotelly. In 2007, they did what they have done for years; that is, track our financial transactions with extreme precision and timeliness, allowing our projects and programs to proceed with a thorough, accurate understanding of their financial foundation. If anyone needed proof of the high quality of their work, it came at the May Commission Meeting. Dick Kotelly delivered the results of our fiscal 2006 audit, in which the auditors once again gave us the highest opinion an organization can receive.

Even our internal activities in 2007 revealed our quality-driven approach. For example, our staff crafted a detailed, closely reviewed emergency response plan that meticulously describes how NEIWPC will respond and continue to function in the event of a crisis that affects operations. And we continued to emphasize the importance of internal communications in structured settings. NEIWPC’s senior staff met on a monthly basis to review projects and assess progress, the entire staff in our Lowell headquarters met bi-monthly, and NEIWPC staff throughout our member states took part in our annual two-day All-Staff Meeting in June. These meetings promote open discussions between staff, provide opportunities for feedback and constructive criticism on projects and plans, and underscore NEIWPC’s drive to consistently fulfill our organizational vision—to take a proactive leadership role on regional and national issues while developing and implementing water programs complementary to and supportive of the statutes, goals, and programs of our member states, EPA, and other federal, state, and local entities.
spray all the catch in the waters of the Northeast. Hope to consider the concerns with the Department of Environment Protection (DEP) and EPA to use a model that accurately reflects the effects of the pollutant. A study by the Northeast Regional Mercury Task Force (NERME) was approved by EPA in April 2000. This is the first time that an analysis of the marine environment has been conducted on a large scale for the purpose of determining the impacts of a pollutant. However, it is still necessary to continue this work. The NERMEC has been working extensively on coordinating the study with the Northeastern states in order to improve the quality of the waters in our member states. As a result, 2007 was a very busy year. The latest update of NERMEC's most significant projects of the year will feature the Northeasten Regional Mercury Task Force and the rest of the achievements of the water quality.
Success Stories
In conjunction with the development of the Northeast Regional Mercury TMDL, NEIWPCCC and our sister interstate agencies, the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) and the Northeast Waste Management Officials’ Association (NEWMOA), collaborated to produce four reports that document the impressive results of regional mercury reduction programs. The report seen above, *Northeast States Succeed in Reducing Mercury in the Environment*, provides an overview of the innovative and effective programs that are resulting in tangible, significant progress on reducing mercury from in-region sources. The other three reports go into greater detail about the accomplishments in the air, water, and waste arenas. All four reports can be accessed at NEIWPCCC’s mercury web page (www.neiwpc.org mercury).

Mercury-Fish Workgroup
NEIWPCCC’s Mercury-Fish Workgroup met twice in our Lowell headquarters in fiscal 2007, as it has every year since we formed the group in 2004. The workgroup is made up of representatives from our states’ environmental and public health agencies, as well as staff from EPA Regions 1 and 2.

The meeting agendas covered a range of issues, but one frequent topic of discussion was how to evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to get the word to the public on statewide fish consumption advisories, which have been issued for all of the New England states. In particular, the workgroup members shared their insights on developing materials for posting at fish counters at supermarkets. Effectively publicizing fish consumption advisories is critical when you consider mercury’s toxic nature and the seriousness of the health threat it poses, particularly to developing fetuses.

CONNECTICUT RIVER
In a coastal ecosystem, excess nitrogen can cause an increase in the growth of algae, leading to low levels of dissolved oxygen in the water and as a result numerous water quality problems, including fish kills. This is precisely what has been happening in the western portion of Long Island Sound, and it has led to an extensive effort to reduce nitrogen flowing to the Sound from all sources, including its largest source of freshwater—the Connecticut River.

Over the last decade, NEIWPCCC has worked with the Long Island Sound Study and our member states to develop a nitrogen reduction strategy for the upper Connecticut River basin—that is, the Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont portion of the Connecticut River watershed. From 2003 to 2005, we worked with the U.S. Geological Survey to regularly sample 13 tributary, three mainstream, and 10 municipal and paper wastewater treatment facilities in the river’s upper basin; results put the estimated annual nitrogen load leaving the upper basin at 21.6 million pounds per year. In fiscal 2007, USGS continued this monitoring effort at six locations in the Connecticut River watershed. During the year, USGS also fine-tuned, with the help of NEIWPCCC, a journal article on a related study that the two organizations completed in 2005. That study estimated the amount of nitrogen entering the upper basin that is lost through natural processes as it travels to Long Island Sound. Results

TIMELINE: A Legacy of Leadership

1957 - 1961

- 1957 • The total of approved interstate water classifications rises to 11 with NEIWPCCC’s approval of the classification submitted by Massachusetts and Rhode Island for the Blackstone River. The length of the river from Worcester to Grafton earns a present condition of Class E—unsatisfactory waters that represent “nuisance conditions”, but the approved highest use of Class D means treatment facilities must be built to upgrade the river’s water quality. Amid a surge in use of atomic energy and nuclear materials, NEIWPCCC’s Technical Advisory Board coordinates the monitoring of interstate waters for possible radiological contamination.

- 1958 • A standard for radioactivity is added to NEIWPCCC’s standards of quality for interstate waters. For all classes, it states, “Within limits approved by the appropriate state agency with consideration of possible adverse effects from discharge of radioactive wastes.” NEIWPCCC publishes a report on the treatment of textile waste; the report is distributed to all textile mills in the region.

- 1959 • A public meeting in Farmington, Connecticut, on the proposed classification of the Farmington River Basin draws a crowd of 150 people. A month later, NEIWPCCC approves the classification. At the request of NEIWPCCC, the federal Public Health Service begins a study of the problems resulting from oil spills, sewage pollution, and other discharges from Navy ships and large commercial vessels.

- 1960 • With slow progress being made on classifying the stretches of the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and Vermont, NEIWPCCC adopts a pollution abatement statement that sets minimum standards for treatment by Connecticut River communities in the two states. Approval of the classification of the Piscataqua River Basin means NEIWPCCC has approved classifications for waters in 18 of the 27 interstate drainage basins in the Compact area.

- 1961 • NEIWPCCC’s Technical Advisory Board begins drafting a guide for the design of sewage works, a forerunner of what will become the Commissioner’s most requested publication (TR-16). The goal of the guide is to establish uniformity of practice among NEIWPCCC’s member states to help the engineers who prepare plans and the regulatory agencies that decide whether to approve them.
Building on a Legacy of Leadership
been hoping for. In January 2008, NEIWPC submitted a comment letter to EPA representing the views of our member states, who feel the guidance needs additional clarifying language to adequately advise federal agencies and states on how to proceed in determining jurisdiction over waters of the United States.

The states’ views were far more favorable on the proposed national wetlands mapping standard released by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). The intent of the standard is to 1) streamline mapping efforts for greater consistency and efficiency as mapping technology shifts from paper-based map products to technology-based products, 2) facilitate consistent mapping layers that can be used across geopolitical and watershed boundaries, and 3) assure long-term usability of the data and minimize the need for revisions and updates over time. Our member states agreed to comment on the standard as it potentially impacts the way wetlands are mapped at a state and regional level. As our November 2007 letter stated, the states find it beneficial to have a consistent approach to mapping wetlands for interstate comparison purposes, so that they can be regulated and managed properly. Currently, this consistency is lacking and the states are concerned that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, which is responsible for mapping U.S. wetlands, does not have the resources necessary to update the National Wetlands Inventory on a continual basis.

Regional Support

NEIWPC continued to play an active role in the New England Biological Assessment of Wetlands Workgroup (NEBAWWG), in which state and federal wetland managers and academic scientists work together to improve how we biologically evaluate the health of the region’s wetlands. NEIWPC staff worked closely with the staff of our member states and EPA to develop an agenda and coordinate preparations for NEBAWWG’s annual meeting in March 2007 in West Dover, Vermont. The meeting, which was held in conjunction with the New England Association of Environmental Biologists, featured presentations by our member states and staff from EPA headquarters.

STUDIES

Lakes and Ponds

As the days grew shorter in the fall of 2007, staff at the EPA New England Regional Laboratory and regional collaborators from state agencies and universities put away their gear for the winter, having sampled over 100 lakes and ponds in the region as part of two studies. In 2007, the New England Lakes and Ponds Study, otherwise known as NELAP, entered its second year of sampling, while EPA’s National Lakes Assessment (NLA) completed its first and only year of sampling. NEIWPC is a partner in both studies, which share the same goal—to assess the health of lakes and ponds using a statistically valid sampling design—but the scale is different: NELAP is regional, while NLA is national in scope.

During the summer of 2007, scientists visited each of the selected lakes and ponds, and collected water and sediment samples that were analyzed for a suite of nutrients, chemicals, metals, and other constituents. The scientists also made a visual observation of each site, noting the presence of invasive species, development, and other relevant biological and man-made features. The sampling techniques for both the national and regional study are almost identical, so in many cases one sample sufficed for both studies.

The NLA sampling was completed during the summer of 2007; EPA is expected to release a report documenting the results in 2009. Sampling for the NELAP study will be finished in 2008. The results of both studies will identify trends in ecosystem health as well as provide a snapshot of the current status of lakes and ponds in this region and the nation.

Connecticut Stream Flow

In recent years, many states have begun work that will provide the necessary information to balance uses of water resources with protection of the ecological integrity of river systems. States are working toward establishing in-stream flow requirements that will protect rivers—that is, stream flows of a particular magnitude, frequency, and timing to ensure a river system remains environmentally healthy.

Throughout 2007, NEIWPC continued to support a study that began the previous year to improve the understanding of low flow characteristics in Connecticut streams. The Connecticut office of the U.S. Geological Survey used existing streamflow data to calculate flow durations, low flow frequencies, and monthly median stream flows. Data were used from 91 stream gaging stations that had at least ten years of recorded data. This is the first phase of a three-phase project that will provide critical information to be used by state and local governments in making decisions about the use of water resources. NEIWPC is working with USGS in 2008 to support the remaining phases of the project.

During the NEBAWWG annual meeting, the group suggested that NEIWPC organize and host two technical trainings: a National Wetlands Inventory training with Ralph Tiner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and an Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) training with John Mack from Ohio EPA. The Ralph Tiner session, entitled “New Developments in Wetlands Mapping: Regionally and Nationally,” took place in October 2007 in Lowell, Mass., and attracted more than 40 attendees from across the region. The session with John Mack will take place in May 2008 at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve in Wells, Maine.

Through our NEBAWWG funding from EPA Region 1, NEIWPC also provides much needed travel assistance to wetlands staff in our member states, allowing them to go to regional and national meetings.
NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

In the technology transfer phase, the technology transfer managers of the projects, in coordination with the project's technology transfer coordinator, are responsible for ensuring that the project's technology transfer plans are implemented. The technology transfer plans are developed to ensure that the technology is transferred to the appropriate end-users and that the technology is used effectively.

STORMWATER

For New England coastal wetlands, the development of a model leads to more effective water quality management and protection. The model focuses on the development of a model that can be used to predict the impact of stormwater runoff on coastal wetlands. The model is based on a series of equations that are solved using numerical methods. The results of the model are used to identify areas that are at risk of erosion and to develop strategies to reduce the risk of erosion. The model has been demonstrated to be effective in predicting the impact of stormwater runoff on coastal wetlands.
in the Northeast and beyond involved in NPS pollution management, including participants from state, federal, and municipal governments; the private sector; academia; and watershed organizations. The conference, which was held on May 21-23, attracted some 175 attendees, a considerable increase over the previous year. We must give the location some of the credit; the setting for the conference rotates among our member states and in 2007, it was held in scenic Newport, Rhode Island, with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management serving as co-host. But the compelling agenda was also a major factor. The conference carried the theme “Seeking New Solutions to Old Problems: The Nonpoint Source Program at 20 Years” and a diverse array of sessions focused on innovative NPS solutions. The conference addressed several critical questions including: What are the right tools for controlling NPS pollution? What can we do differently? What are the challenges, old and new, in our watersheds? Field trip options included a tour of several sites in the Providence area showcasing innovative urban best management practices. Scott Wolf, executive director of Grow Smart Rhode Island, delivered the keynote address.

In 2008, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection is our co-host for the conference, which will stress the importance of partnerships and integrated programs among local, regional, state, and federal agencies. Highlights include a one-day training workshop on “Stormwater Funding and Utility Development” taught by Andrew Reese of AMEC Earth & Environmental.

We should stress our commitment to NPS solutions is not limited to the annual conference. Members of our NPS Workgroup convened quarterly to discuss important issues facing federal and state NPS managers. A priority of the group is to stay informed on research and emerging technologies for reducing the impact of NPS pollution, and those involved in such work were invited to present the findings of their research to the group. In 2007, Dr. Sukalyan Sengupta of UMMS Dartmouth spoke about the use of denitrifying bioretention systems to control nonpoint sources of nitrogen, and Dr. Tom Ballesteros of the University of New Hampshire presented data from research on stormwater best management practices at the UNH Stormwater Center. In late 2007, the NPS workgroup took to the road to tour the stormwater treatments at a demonstration workshop at the Stormwater Center.

NPDES

Since the creation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) in 1972, all facilities—industrial, municipal, or other—have had to obtain coverage under a NPDES permit in order to discharge pollutants from a point source directly into surface waters. It’s a program that’s been responsible for significant improvements to our nation’s water quality—but there’s room for improvement. Too many facilities across the country are discharging pollutants into water bodies without any an-up-to-date version of their NPDES permit. We must continue to hear from our member states that existing NPDES measures and processes are not addressing environmental priorities.

To help address the concerns, NEIWPCCC worked in fiscal 2007 on planning a one-day NPDES Innovations Workshop, with the assistance of EPA, Connecticut DEP, and New York State DEC staff. The idea was to bring together staff from all of our member states to explore ways to streamline the permitting process and optimize environmental outcomes. After months of planning, the workshop took place on October 3, 2007 at the EPA Regional Laboratory in Chelmsford, Mass. More than 20 participants listened to presentations and took part in discussions on such topics as increasing NPDES program efficiencies, EPA’s Permitting for Environmental Results process, and New York State’s Environmental Permit Strategy. The workshop provided NEIWPCCC staff with a great insight into how we can foster collaboration and offer assistance to our states on NPDES permitting issues.

One NPDES issue that drew a great deal of attention throughout the year was EPA’s proposal to provide a financial incentive for states to generate a greater share of the funding for their permitting programs, which currently are supported through a blend of federal monies, state revenues, and fees paid by facilities that receive permits. In early 2007, EPA released the proposed
In recent years, much of the talk about water in New England has focused on the issue of water quality and pollution. The New England Water Pollution Control Conference, held annually in New Hampshire, has become a major event in the region, drawing hundreds of participants each year. The conference provides a forum for discussing the latest research and developments in water quality management, as well as an opportunity for networking and collaboration among professionals in the field.

The conference includes a variety of sessions on topics such as water treatment technologies, water quality monitoring, and the impacts of climate change on water resources. In addition, there are workshops and hands-on sessions for attendees to learn about the latest tools and techniques for managing water quality.

New England's water quality challenges are significant, and the conference serves as an important platform for sharing information and best practices. By bringing together experts from across the region, the conference helps to build a collaborative approach to addressing the region's water quality issues.
RTAG hadn’t met for a long time when we reconvened it in 2006. The group now meets once a year, and the 2007 meeting took place in November at the EPA New England Regional Laboratory. Staff from the states that are furthest along on developing nutrient criteria spoke about their experiences, allowing those from states that aren’t quite so far along to learn and even adapt their approaches based on what they heard. EPA staff also took the opportunity to comment on the states’ approaches.

In New York State, where nutrient criteria development is currently focusing on lakes, wadeable streams, and large rivers, our support extends to a specific and significant project. Since 2006, NEIWPC on has been coordinating work in New York State to examine nutrients in large rivers. Field work that began in 2006 and was completed in the summer of 2007 consisted of collecting water chemistry, macroinvertebrate, and algae data. Analysis of these data will continue into 2008 and will be used in developing draft numeric nutrient criteria for the state’s large rivers. Establishing these criteria will allow for better protection of recreational uses and aquatic life in the future.

**TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD**

While our coordination of the Northeast Regional Mercury TMDL was NEIWPC on’s most notable TMDL-related work in fiscal 2007, it was not our only effort in this area. For years NEIWPC on has coordinated a workgroup that focuses on TMDLs, which specify the maximum daily load of a pollutant a waterbody can safely assimilate, and allocate how much of that load can come from point and nonpoint sources of the contaminant. During the year, the TMDL Workgroup met three times in our Lowell headquarters, and the conversation frequently focused on so-called innovative TMDLs. For example, many of our member states are just beginning to focus on developing TMDLs that address stormwater-impaired waters, with only Connecticut, Maine, and Vermont having actually developed any. During the workgroup discussions, TMDL staff from the three states shared their experiences, including the arduous process they went through to get EPA approval. Their success demonstrated for the other states that stormwater TMDLs can be done, and done effectively.

Another big issue for the workgroup in 2007: bacteria TMDLs. All our states have them, but all are also looking into new and more effective ways of doing them. Massachusetts, for example, broke new ground by developing a watershed-wide bacteria TMDL for the Charles River. EPA approved the TMDL in late fiscal 2007. Through our workgroup, NEIWPC on is leading the conversation in the region on the complexities and obstacles associated with innovative TMDLs, which hold great promise but can also pose a great challenge for our states.

During the year, NEIWPC on’s TMDL staff also supported an important effort in the New York City area. EPA Region 2 and the states of New York and New Jersey are collaborating to plan TMDLs for toxic contaminants, nutrients, and pathogens in the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary. From April to October 2007, NEIWPC on assisted in this project by supporting modeling used to develop lists of toxic contaminants for which TMDLs are or are not necessary. A private company, HydroQual, developed the lists by comparing contaminant levels in water and biota to endpoints provided by EPA. HydroQual previously developed models as part of the Contamination Assessment and Reduction Project (CARP), and data collected under the CARP project will be used with these models to develop TMDLs for the Harbor Estuary. In a related project, NEIWPC on began supporting modeling in early fiscal 2008 that will be used in the development of nitrogen and carbon TMDLs in the Harbor Estuary. NEIWPC on anticipates continued collaboration with EPA and the states on projects to improve water quality in this vital area.

**AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES**

Aquatic ecosystems are fragile things, and the introduction of nonnative plants, fish, and other organisms can and often does wreak havoc on the delicate biological balance. Combating these harmful invaders requires a coordinated effort among many stakeholders, and as a key member of the Northeast Panel on Aquatic...
short process, but the end result may well be the deterioration we need of our freshwater ecosystems. Both solutions will require a long time, but they may provide the water quality and quantity improvements we need. What is clear is that we need a combination of new water sources and existing water sources to meet our future demands.

In the case of looking for new water sources, we can consider the following options:

1. Desalination of seawater
2. Water reuse
3. Rainwater harvesting
4. Groundwater recharge
5. Water abstraction from rivers and lakes

In the case of reducing water demand, we can consider the following options:

1. Water conservation
2. Improved water management systems
3. Education and awareness campaigns
4. Water pricing
5. Regulations and policies

In conclusion, both solutions are necessary, and we must consider a combination of both to ensure the sustainability of our freshwater systems.
Wastewater and Onsite Systems

While innovations such as new water reuse technologies are attracting interest, there remains for most Americans two ways of handling wastewater: either it takes a short trip to a septic tank or takes a longer journey via sewers to a wastewater treatment plant. Either way can be an effective solution, but neither is without its challenges. At NEIWPCA, the issues posed by wastewater treatment—whether done on-site or at a multi-million dollar plant—have been a priority for 60 years. We have worked side-by-side with our member states in the pursuit of improvements that have led to cleaner, healthier waters. This pursuit of progress continued in earnest in fiscal 2007.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Municipal sanitary sewer collection systems—the pipelines, pumping stations, force mains, and other equipment—are the means by which wastewater is conveyed from its point of origin to a treatment plant. It is an absolutely critical role in the modern wastewater treatment process, but over the years many communities have neglected collection system maintenance and repair. All too often the result has been sanitary sewer overflows or SSOs, those dangerous releases of raw sewage that occur when the capacity of a collection system is exceeded, primarily during heavy rain.

In fiscal 2007, NEIWPCA staff made great progress on an innovative project designed to help ensure the region’s wastewater collection systems work as they should. Working with staff from New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation, we are developing a model capacity, management, operation and maintenance (CMOM) evaluation process, which will spell out in detail the recommended systems and procedures for addressing collection system performance and preventing SSOs. In developing the process, NEIWPCA and NYSDEC are working with three communities—Saratoga County, N.Y.; Somersworth, N.H.; and Boonville, N.Y.—that represent the needs and capabilities of communities with large, medium, and small collection systems, respectively. During the year, NEIWPCA’s Mike Jennings and NYSDEC’s Tim Miller led workshops, conducted collection system staff interviews, and observed field practices in Saratoga County and Somersworth as they prepared to finalize their evaluations of the CMOM programs in those two communities. At the end of the fiscal year, it was estimated that the project was roughly 65 percent complete, with the expectation that the remaining tasks will be finished by September 2008.

When the project is done, the model evaluation process will provide a guide for municipalities throughout the Northeast to use when developing measures and activities to prevent, reduce, and ultimately eliminate water pollution from sanitary sewer overflows. Given the significant threat that SSOs pose to human health and the environment, their elimination would be no small accomplishment.

Field Guides

In 1973, EPA published Estimated Staffing for Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facilities, a guide that describes a four-step method which state regulatory agencies and plant managers can use to determine the staffing needs of a wastewater plant. The guide was, and still is, important and influential. It is also dated. Many changes have occurred in the wastewater field since 1973, such as the use of computer applications and telemetry, and the development of new treatment processes such as sequencing batch reactors. When NEIWPCA staff reviewed the 1973 guide, it was clear an update was needed.

Under Observation NYSDEC’s Tim Miller (foreground, green jacket) observes workers in Saratoga County, N.Y., as they prepare to clean a segment of sewer prone to grease accumulation from an upstream restaurant. NEIWPCA’s Mike Jennings (who took the photo) accompanied Miller during the field observation, which is one of many the two have conducted during the development of a model evaluation process for addressing collection system capacity, management, operation and maintenance (CMOM).
Protection to provide classroom training and on-site technical assistance at wastewater treatment plants in Connecticut to help them meet their nitrogen removal goals, specifically during cold or wet weather. The proposal called for NEIWPCC’s Charles Conway and a team of technical experts to visit 10 wastewater treatment plants that would benefit from technical assistance, then conduct more in-depth assistance at five of the 10 plants. In fiscal 2008, the proposal was approved, the contract finalized, and the visits began. Each of the five plants in the second phase will receive final reports recommending modifications and changes that could be made to optimize biological nutrient removal.

In addition to our training programs and technical assistance offerings, we also provide customized instruction on a contractual basis to municipalities and companies. In fiscal 2007, we conducted courses for New York City and at a number of locations in Massachusetts, including Intel in Hudson, Shire Chemical in Cambridge, Distrigas in Everett, Garelick Farms in Lynn, UMass Amherst, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.

Massachusetts Certification and Training
As we have done for the past several years, NEIWPCC coordinated Massachusetts’s extensive wastewater operator certification and training program. Due to state budget cuts, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection shifted the program in 2005 to a consortium of training organizations led by NEIWPCC, and our role has been expanding ever since. MA DEP and the state’s Board of Certification remain members of the consortium and still handle some aspects of the work, but the majority of the tasks are in our hands. During fiscal 2007, for example, our training staff coordinated 27 courses for the program, which attracted a total of 540 students. NEIWPCC instructors led many of the classes, and we are constantly looking to develop new courses that meet the operators’ evolving needs.

Much of the work, however, is administrative, and during the year, our role grew to include not only the processing of wastewater operators’ applications for license renewals, but also the processing of emergency
The 2007-2008 budget increased funding by 50% to $5,000,000 for the integration of the EDC's efforts to improve water quality. The increase in funding has allowed for the development of new initiatives and programs aimed at reducing nutrient loading and improving water quality. The EDC continues to work closely with local and state agencies to implement these initiatives and achieve the goals set forth in the Action Plan.

Innovative Solutions:

The EDC has implemented several innovative solutions to address the nutrient loading problem in the watershed. One such solution is the installation of a nutrient removal system at a local wastewater treatment facility. This system uses a combination of biological and chemical processes to remove nutrients from the wastewater before it is discharged back into the Chesapeake Bay.

Another innovative solution is the development of a community-based program to educate residents on the importance of reducing nutrient loading. The program includes workshops, seminars, and outreach materials designed to raise awareness and encourage voluntary efforts to reduce nutrient loading.

These initiatives, along with others, are expected to significantly reduce nutrient loading and improve water quality in the watershed over the next few years.
a significant gap remained between revenue and costs.

Given the budget strains, JETCC was forced to raise fees for its training programs, a regrettable but unavoidable development. But in one other crucial respect, nothing changed. JETCC continued to deliver an extensive array of training programs on wastewater and drinking water topics, including multi-week classes on chemistry and one-day sessions on everything from facility operation in cold climates to using corrosion control technologies for increasing energy efficiency. JETCC helped ME DEP's Non-Point Source Training Center with its courses on erosion control and other NPS topics, and partnered with other organizations to put on a popular series of workshops for onsite system installers. And the staff coordinated the always popular two-day North Country Convention, which is held every other year and combines training sessions with a trade show. Held on November 1-2, 2006, in Presque Isle, Maine, the convention attracted 138 attendees. For the year, JETCC either directly coordinated or assisted with 51 training sessions, which reached a total of more than 1,800 students.

That's not all. JETCC's two-person staff, Coordinator Lecann Hanson and Assistant Deb Merrill, also worked throughout the year on coordinating Maine's wastewater operator certification program. As in Massachusetts, budget cuts prompted the state to look for somebody else to take over the program, and the shift from ME DEP to JETCC began in 2006. In fiscal 2007, Hanson and Merrill conducted all recordkeeping and correspondence for the program, including processing license applications, coordinating certification exams, and tracking training credits. The program serves more than 700 licensed wastewater treatment plant operators in Maine.

Career Exposure
For the eighteenth consecutive year, NEIWPC's, EPA, and the Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility collaborated in conducting the Youth and the Environment summer program in Lowell, Mass. The program stresses hands-on work experience and academic training to introduce disadvantaged inner-city high school students to professional opportunities in the environmental field, with a particular emphasis on careers in the wastewater industry. In 2007, we hired an intern to coordinate the activities of four students who worked at the Lowell plant in a variety of capacities, studied environmental issues, and went on educational field trips. As this annual report went to press, the prospects of receiving funding to run the program in 2008 were not encouraging, raising the very real possibility that the 2007 participants will be the last graduates of this long-running program.

ONSITE LEADER

In December 2006, NEIWPC's Director of Wastewater and Onsite Systems, Tom Groves, began a two-year term as Vice President/President-Elect of the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association. NOWRA's mission is to advance and grow the onsite and decentralized wastewater industry by promoting sustainable wastewater management on a watershed basis. Groves will begin his two-year term as NOWRA's President on December 1, 2008.

In 2007, Groves helped coordinate NOWRA's Annual Technical Education Conference held in conjunction with the 1st U.S. International Program on Decentralized Systems in Baltimore, Md.; spoke on the U.S. perspective of onsite/decentralized system management at the First National Workshop on Decentralized Systems held in Venice, Italy; coordinated NOWRA's committees and task forces; and chaired a task force that worked with NOWRA's state and member affiliates. He and NEIWPC's John Murphy assisted with the further development of our region's NOWRA affiliate—the Yankee Onsite Wastewater Association (YOWA). Groves serves on YOWA's board and Murphy participates on the Outreach Committee. YOWA was formed in 2006, and already has 80 members from throughout the region.

ONSITE SYSTEMS

In 1997, EPA issued a report to Congress which stated clearly that, when properly managed, onsite and decentralized wastewater treatment systems do indeed provide adequate protection of public health and

Rewarding Experience The 2007 Lowell Youth and the Environment Program students at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, N.H. Clockwise from left: Sabrina Tiy, Michael Lam, Enoch Mukiibi, Estelver de Jesus.
With EPA's shift to a new Tiered framework, coordination between the National Environmental Management and Water Quality Council (NEMWCC) and its partners is more important than ever. NEMWCC, which is comprised of the ten Councils of water- quality organizations, is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the implementation of environmental and water quality policies. This includes the development and implementation of strategies to reduce the effects of non-point source pollution, which can significantly impact water quality. To address these issues, NEMWCC works with a variety of stakeholders, including federal, state, and local governments, as well as environmental groups and businesses. This cooperation is essential to ensure that the necessary resources are available to support the implementation of effective strategies.
discussing among other things the issues they’d like to address in the next five years if funding is available. The issues identified by the workgroup include drinking water treatment residuals management, contaminants of emerging concern in residuals, management of non-traditional residuals (manures, food waste, etc.) and their impacts on water quality if mismanaged, and energy recovery during residuals management.

During the year, the workgroup also discussed how to conduct further outreach and training associated with The Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators Guide to Biosolids Sampling Plans, which NEIWPCG published in 2006. The guide has proven to be particularly helpful for staff at small- to medium-sized treatment plants, who often aren’t experienced at sampling residuals and may be unfamiliar with working with laboratories. The report is still available in hard copy by contacting NEIWPCG or it can be downloaded for free at www.neiwpcg.org/biosamplingguide.asp.

Wastewater and Onsite Systems Looking Ahead

Perhaps the most acute challenges of the future in wastewater treatment are in the area of personnel. The workforce at the region’s wastewater facilities is aging, particularly in the management ranks. A study conducted by NEIWPCG in 2005 found that the average age of plant managers was over 50, and nearly a third of all plant employees had passed the half-century mark. At NEIWPCG, we have embarked on several initiatives to address this issue, such as our training for prospective managers in Rhode Island (see page 19), but more work remains to be done on grooming management’s next generation. We must also work to convince more talented young people to join the field as operators, and to continue to properly train and certify those already in the industry. Regional certification and examinations are a distinct possibility in the future, and NEIWPCG is poised to fully assist our states with this effort.

Another inescapable challenge: funding. Municipal budgets are getting tighter and expenses need to be controlled. This will put a premium on energy reduction, since the energy used at a wastewater treatment plant can be the largest source of energy consumption for a municipality. (Energy reduction has the added benefit of being good for the environment by helping to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.) Another funding concern is the ongoing availability of money for infrastructure replacement and state technical assistance. Clean Water State Revolving Funds have been reduced, Congressionally approved grants have come under scrutiny, and what little technical assistance money that has been available has been all but phased out. New funding sources are being explored, such as a possible infrastructure trust fund (see page 7), but any assistance they might provide is far down the road. Once again, it appears to be a case of doing more with less. The need for each community to understand and manage these difficult financial issues is making concepts such as asset management even more vital every year.

One unexpected challenge to centralized wastewater treatment has come from those who oppose it for a reason unrelated to funding or performance. Rather, they fight the construction or expansion of collection systems and wastewater treatment plants as a means of preventing further development in their communities. Unfortunately for those who’ve adopted this stance, developers have an attractive alternative to centralized treatment: the advent of new onsite technologies means septic systems can now be installed just about anywhere. In fact, much of the new development in NEIWPCG’s member states has relied on onsite and decentralized wastewater treatment systems. This is not a worrisome trend; if properly sited and maintained, onsite wastewater systems provide a sustainable, environmentally friendly approach to wastewater management. But they are not the solution for everyone. Developments that rely on onsite technology can expect to see systems fail unless they are managed with a centralized approach. Ensuring this happens is one more challenge we face in the wastewater world.
Groundwater and Source Protection

Groundwater and the water in surface waters are closely connected and share the same characteristics. The protection of groundwater is crucial for ensuring the quality of drinking water. The New England Water Management Council (NEWPEG) has been working to protect groundwater sources and ensures that the water we drink is safe and healthy. The council has implemented various measures to prevent contamination of groundwater and protect it from pollution. These measures include monitoring the quality of water sources, implementing strict regulations, and educating the public about the importance of protecting groundwater. The NEWPEG has conducted numerous workshops and seminars to raise awareness about the importance of groundwater protection. As a result, there has been a significant improvement in the quality of drinking water in New England.
causing viruses and bacteria, such as *E. coli*. Those viruses and bacteria are not an idle threat: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have reported that, between 1991 and 2000, groundwater systems were associated with 68 outbreaks that caused nearly 11,000 illnesses.

States have two years to adopt the rule, which has four major requirements: 1) regular sanitary surveys of the critical components of a public water system such as the distribution system and source water, 2) triggered source water monitoring when a system that doesn’t already sufficiently disinfect drinking water gets a positive sample for total coliform, 3) implementation of corrective action by groundwater systems with a so-called significant deficiency or evidence of fecal contamination in their source water, and 4) compliance monitoring to ensure that systems which are sufficiently disinfecting drinking water are effectively removing pathogens. The rule offers states a lot of flexibility in how they meet these requirements, which means there are plenty of decisions to be made. To help the states talk through the issues and learn from each other’s implementation efforts, NEIWPCG created a Ground Water Rule subcommittee, which meets via conference call. As the states get closer to the rule’s various deadlines, this subcommittee will only grow in importance as a vehicle for NEIWPCG and the states to discuss policy decisions and approaches.

Members of NEIWPCG’s Groundwater and Source Protection Managers Workgroup also participated in a special session designed to address the problem of pesticides. On May 3, 2007, workgroup members traveled to EPA New England’s Regional Laboratory for a joint meeting with the agency’s Pesticides/Water Quality Workgroup. As the groups discussed, most people don’t think twice about what happens to the fertilizer or other common garden products they use at home. But many of these products are actually pesticides, and can find their way into drinking water supplies if not applied properly. While states have a good understanding of the practices of commercial applicators, they are much less aware of what is being done at the residential level. As the discussion came to a close, both workgroups deemed the joint meeting a success and made plans for a second session, which will focus more closely on opportunities for working together to protect source water.

**Publications in Demand**

Developing effective communications products on water issues—whether the intended audience is the public or public officials—is a priority at all levels at NEIWPCG, and it is no different in the drinking water arena. In 2007, NEIWPCG completed a guide written and designed for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. The guide provides owners of nontransient non-community water supplies (gas stations, restaurants, etc.) with basic information on operating a system and meeting state and federal Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. Once it was completed, and the design and text approved by a scrupulous group of reviewers, we sent the final version of the file to NH DES, which handled distribution. While the guide was developed for a New Hampshire audience, the information can certainly be helpful to readers elsewhere in the region, a fact not overlooked by state staff in Massachusetts and Connecticut. They asked to use the guide as a template for creating their own versions, and we encouraged them to do so—it was one more way to spread an important message. (For details on a similar guide we are creating using underground storage tank funds, see page 29.)

NEIWPCG also collaborated with several partners, including Massachusetts’s Drinking Water Program, on the development of a brochure for owners and staff at childcare facilities in Massachusetts. The brochure outlines the dangers that lead in drinking water poses for children, and offers specific guidance on how childcare facilities can test for lead in their water and what to do if the test results show...
Drinking Water - Look, Think, Act

In every way possible, and to lead the way when leadership is needed.

Accept that the drinking water we use at home is a very important part of our daily lives. It is a part of our personal health and well-being. It is the lifeblood of our communities.

We need to make our water systems more resilient and more sustainable. This means we need to consider the environmental impact of our drinking water systems. We need to consider the social and economic impact of our drinking water systems.

We need to make sure that our drinking water systems are safe and sustainable. This means we need to consider the long-term impact of our drinking water systems. We need to consider the future of our drinking water systems.

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Underground Storage Tanks

When most people fill up at a gas station, they’re usually thinking about the price at the pump, not about where the gasoline streaming into their car is stored. At NEIWPC, we’ve been thinking about underground tanks that store gasoline and other hazardous substances for a very long time. There’s nothing intrinsically wrong with storing these substances underground; the problems occur when the tanks are incorrectly designed, installed, operated, or maintained, and their contents are released into the environment. Gas from a leaking tank seeps into the surrounding soil and can easily contaminate groundwater.

Since 1984, when Congress passed legislation requiring EPA to develop a comprehensive regulatory program for underground storage tanks (USTs), great progress has been made on this issue—and continues to be made. According to EPA figures, 450 cleanups of contaminated UST sites were finished in fiscal 2007 in New England alone, bringing the region’s total number of completed cleanups since 1984 to 13,155. However, in a sign there still is a way to go, EPA reports there were 289 confirmed tank releases in the region during the year. And across the country, there are more than 100,000 cleanups that have been initiated but not yet completed to the satisfaction of regulators.

Those who work in the UST field benefit greatly from discussing tanks issues on a regular basis, and NEIWPC provides a forum to do just that—our regional All-States Workgroup. The group, which is comprised of federal and state tanks program staff, convened three times in fiscal 2007. The meetings focused primarily on the states’ efforts to meet the requirements of the Underground Storage Tank Compliance Act, a subsection of the 2005 Energy Act. The law contains challenging mandates for the states, including a requirement that each state conduct routine tank inspections every three years—no small feat for the bulk of our states, which have nowhere near enough inspectors to satisfy this mandate.

The act also requires that states develop programs to train UST owners and operators, consistent with EPA guidelines. Working in conjunction with a subcommittee of the All-States Workgroup, we are developing a framework for a regional UST training and certification program. It is an arduous development process, in which many factors unique to an UST training program must be considered. For example, how do you ensure every operator in the region is adequately trained when many facilities with USTs, such as gas stations, are notorious for high employee turnover? But at NEIWPC, we learned long ago that solutions exist for even the toughest problems. And our vast experience in wastewater training and certification is proving to be an asset as we move forward in discussions on this topic with our member states and industry. In fiscal 2008, we expect to present the states with a detailed proposal for a regional UST training and certification program.

Report Response
In February 2007, the U.S. Government Accountability Office released a report on the use of public funds for cleaning up sites contaminated by leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs). The report urged EPA to take steps to ensure more effective use of public funding, and identified obstacles that may prevent fast and effective cleanups: lack of viable owners, solvency of the state funds earmarked for cleanups, effectiveness of state versus private funds, LUST Trust Fund distribution, the future cost of cleanups, and disincentives.

On behalf of our member states, NEIWPC responded to the GAO report in a comment.
TECHNICAL TRAINING  NEIWPCC teamed up with the American Petroleum Institute and the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council to offer a two-day training course on technical issues related to fuel oxygenate characterization and remediation. Held on November 2-3, 2006, in Westford, Mass., the session attracted 85 attendees. The success inspired interest in holding similar trainings elsewhere in the country, and in early fiscal 2008, we cosponsored oxygenates sessions in Portland, Oregon; and Atlanta.

Policy—which provided a bounty of options; instructors covered everything from “Leak Detection: The Next Generation” to “Innovative Approaches to Speeding Cleanup and Closure.” Attendees also had the option of taking part in workshops offered on the Sunday before the conference officially began, such as a full-day session on soil data acquisition and analysis. The Expo, always a highlight at this event, featured booths from 31 paid exhibitors, and provided attendees with a firsthand look at the latest tanks products and services.

Each year, NEIWPCC tries to make the conference better than the year before, and the changes implemented in fiscal 2007 contributed to the success of the San Antonio event. For example, we set up a system that allowed conference moderators, speakers, and exhibitors to post their information directly onto the conference website, which we develop and host. Another improvement allowed moderators and speakers to upload their presentations to the site, which gave attendees quick and easy access to information from sessions they may have missed. And after the conference, we and our traditional cosponsors, EPA, and the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, scrutinized the attendee and exhibitor evaluations, looking for improvements to consider for the 2008 conference in Atlanta.

Many of the San Antonio attendees offered glowing reviews, including these lines in a letter from Jennifer Pruett of New Mexico’s Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau: “I was really impressed by the variety and quality of the presentations, and I made a huge number of great contacts... I know we will be able to use many of the ideas heard at the conference to make our work more effective and efficient.” Such positive feedback was tremendously rewarding to the NEIWPCC staff who work so hard each year to make this event a success.

Version 3.0
Late in fiscal 2007, NEIWPCC released the results of the third version of a national survey we first conducted in 2000. In the first version, we focused on how states were remediating soil and groundwater contaminated with methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MtBE), the fuel additive that...
oxygenates gas but also poses a health threat when present in drinking water. In the 2003 survey, we broadened the focus to examine state experiences with all fuel oxygenates. Our focus in 2007 was captured in the survey’s title: “State Experiences with Petroleum and Hazardous Substance Releases at LUST Sites, Heating Oil Tanks, and Out of Service Tanks.”

NEIWPCC’s contractor on the project, Ellen Frye of Enosio – The Environmental Outreach Group, coordinated the survey, which was divided into 12 areas: state standards for specific gasoline additives/blends, fuel blend/additive analysis, site assessment, drinking water impacts, remediation, remediation cost impacts, vapor-intrusion pathway, hazardous substance USTs, heating oil tanks, out-of-service tanks, ethanol, and miscellanea. State LUST managers from all 50 states responded electronically through a password-protected website. Among the findings, States do not feel MiBE increases a site’s cleanup costs, though the chemical continues to be a concern because of its well-deserved reputation for being difficult to remediate and its potential impact on drinking water wells and human health. The survey also showed the key factors in the cost of a cleanup are the length of the contamination plumes and the need for monitoring. The longer the plume, the more extensive the monitoring, the higher the cost.

These are just two highlights from the extensive survey results, which will be useful to state and federal government staff as well as industry personnel interested in LUST trends. For the complete results, visit the survey section on our website (www.neiwpcc.org/mbc.asp), where you can also find detailed information on the 2000 and 2003 surveys.

Publication of Record

One of NEIWPCC’s ongoing UST/LUST projects is LUSTLine, our national bulletin covering underground storage tank issues, activities, and technologies. First published in 1985, LUSTLine covers the issues of importance to the tanks community with a depth and an expertise that cannot be found anywhere else. As we do every year, we published three issues in fiscal 2007, all produced by Ellen Frye, the longtime editor of LUSTLine who also coordinated our survey of tanks programs. The February 2007 LUSTLine was particularly notable in that it featured a cover article by NEIWPCC’s Kara Sergeant. In the piece, she challenged state UST/LUST and drinking water program managers to be as proactive as possible in protecting drinking water by going beyond federal standards, by working with each other, and by educating both tank owner/operators and municipal officials. Kara was writing from experience. In recent years, she has coordinated meetings in Massachusetts, Illinois, and Minnesota that have brought together state UST, LUST, State Fund, and groundwater and source water program staff in an effort to foster greater collaboration between the programs.

Issues of LUSTLine are available in their entirety online at www.neiwpcc.org/lustline.asp, where you can view online-only supplements, peruse listings of past articles in the LUSTLine Index, and obtain subscription information.

Gas Station Guidance

Underground storage tank funds received from EPA are supporting an effort to help gas station owners who must not only worry about safe operation and maintenance of their fuel storage tanks, but also the quality of their station’s drinking water. As fiscal 2007 ended, NEIWPCC was near completion on an educational booklet that states and tribes can use to educate owners of gas stations and convenience stores that have their own water supply. They’re known as transient non-community public water supply systems, and if they supply water to 25 or more people a day, they are required to meet certain state criteria to ensure the quality of the water is adequate. The NEIWPCC guide explains these drinking water regulations and how to comply with them. The guide shares the design and structure of a similar publication we produced for the state of New Hampshire (see page 25).
Water Service Form

In Portland's business community, the need for water is critical. The Portland Water Bureau is committed to providing high-quality water to its customers. The bureau is working with local businesses to ensure that they have access to safe and reliable water resources.

The Portland Water Bureau is also making efforts to reduce water usage and improve water efficiency. This includes implementing water conservation measures and promoting the use of water-efficient appliances and fixtures.

In addition, the bureau is actively engaging with its customers to provide education and support for water-saving practices. By working together, the bureau and its customers can ensure the long-term sustainability of Portland's water resources.

The Portland Water Bureau is dedicated to providing the highest quality water service to its customers. Through its commitment to water conservation and efficiency, the bureau is helping to ensure a sustainable future for Portland.

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Regional Research Initiative

The newly established Portland Water Bureau Research Initiative is focused on advancing research on the region's water resources. The initiative is a collaboration between the Portland Water Bureau and other regional partners, including academic institutions, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

The mission of the initiative is to address research issues related to water resources in the region. This includes understanding the impact of climate change on water availability and quality, and developing strategies to ensure sustainable water use.

The initiative is also committed to promoting public engagement in water-related research and decision-making. By involving the public in the research process, the initiative hopes to increase awareness and understanding of regional water issues.

The Portland Water Bureau Research Initiative is a critical component of the bureau's overall strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability of the region's water resources. Through its focus on research and public engagement, the initiative is helping to ensure a bright and healthy future for Portland and its residents.
The forum in Maine featured more than 30 presentations from some of the country's most prominent researchers, who shared what they've learned about the presence of PPCPs in surface waters and groundwater, the effects they have on aquatic and human health, and the removal of them from the waste stream. The speakers included Edward Furlong of the U.S. Geological Survey, who cosponsored the forum. Furlong discussed several current USGS studies, including one in Colorado where samples taken at a wastewater treatment plant's point of discharge showed a surge in levels of the female sex hormone estradiol in the water. He said that downstream of the plant, the estradiol levels were still significant and always above the "effects level."

Furlong was referring to levels that could potentially affect aquatic life, but among the public, the burning question is whether people can possibly be affected. On its website, EPA emphasizes that, "to date, no evidence has been found of human health effects from PPCPs in the environment." But the impact on humans is still an open question, and scientists are continually learning more about PPCPs and their effects.

While talks about research, past and present, dominated the forum agenda, it wasn't all about science. Several speakers shared their stories of success in keeping PPCPs out of wastewater in the first place through drug take-back programs and other initiatives. Among them: Ann Pistell of Maine's Department of Environmental Protection, who spoke about Maine's pharmaceutical mail-back legislation and the state's practice of holding large one-day drug collection events.

This was the first Northeast Water Science Forum, and its success invigorated plans to make it a regular event. NEWPCC is now exploring topics for future forums, and as details become available, they will be posted on our website (www.newpcc.org). For more on the PPCP forum, including access to many of the presentations, visit www.newpcc.org/ppcpconference.

New Workgroup
The forum in Maine may have been our primary effort in 2007 related to pharmaceuticals and personal care products, but it wasn’t the only one. We also moved forward during the year with our plans to form a PPCP Workgroup. While NEWPCC coordinates many workgroups, getting a new one off the ground is never a simple matter; potential members must be queried on their interest, the value of regular meetings must be assessed, funding must be identified, and most importantly it must be determined that a workgroup is in the best interest of our member states. As the fiscal year ended, the PPCP Workgroup was still in the planning stages. We are pleased to say the workgroup did meet for the first time in fiscal 2008, and we are excited about its potential to generate discussion, coordination, and collaboration on PPCP issues in our region.

New Relationship
As part of NEWPCC’s commitment to the advancement of high-quality, applied water resources research, we have joined the Water Environment Research Foundation. WERF is a national leader in water quality research and supports millions of dollars of research annually on wastewater treatment and collection, watersheds and ecosystems, human health effects, and stormwater. This membership-driven, results-oriented organization funds peer-reviewed research to advance science and technology and to find solutions for priority wastewater and water quality issues.

In an exciting development, NEWPCC’s Deputy Director Susan Sullivan accepted an invitation to serve on WERF’s Research Council, which oversees the organization’s strategic direction and makes research funding decisions based on member priorities and environmental need. Susan is working to represent the Northeast states’ priority research needs as part of this group.

NEWPCC feels strongly that our membership in WERF will promote our states’ research needs and enhance our states’ ability to make sound water resources policy and management decisions. For more information about WERF research, please visit www.werf.org. For information on NEWPCC’s other research efforts, visit www.newpcc.org/research.asp.
destination under scrutiny

have a sense, a feeling, an experience, have this kind of idea to enhance your
experience. What it does to enhance your
Customers' experience. And you to enhance your
experience. Enhance your customers' experience.

If you have access to the mobile device or if you own
a window, we encourage you to look at our new look at
what we announce to you. Is there a phrase, an
efficiency and increased the... photojournalists,
focus on the manner, this will enhance your
channel or on your channel. This is a photojournalist,
project management to develop that can provide
a project management to develop that can provide
widespread impact. The photojournalists in the
workplace, the photojournalists in the workplace.

In 2007, we began to evolve in the workplace.
So the phrase is more... more... more...

What's next? We're thinking about
a new generation of professionals,
many of whom are familiar with NEPWCC,
which is the more... more... more...

Traditionally, the resources NEPWCC
produced

Education and Outreach

Since NEPWCC's inception, a key role of the organization has been to keep our member
clubs informed on water and wastewater issues through resources and activities that
share information on water and wastewater issues through resources and activities that

The efforts of our education and outreach initiatives are many

...
The positive response served as powerful evidence that with the article, we had met our goal—to provide IWR readers with the broad, in-depth understanding they need to be informed when discussing and debating the pros and cons of embracing desalination as a means of supplementing traditional sources of water supply. The desalination special report as well as articles from the current IWR and all previous issues are available online at www.neiwpcc.org/iwr.asp, where you can also obtain information on subscribing to receive print versions of upcoming IWRs free-of-charge.

NEW FROM NEIWPC

Shortly after fiscal 2007 drew to a close, NEIWPCC debuted an entirely revamped version of a publication we’ve been doing for years, our Resource Catalog. Written by NEIWPCC’s Stephen Hochbrunn and designed by Ricki Pappo of Enosis – The Environmental Outreach Group, the catalog features short descriptions and ordering instructions for the vast array of publications, CDs, videos, and other resources available from NEIWPCC, most of which we developed. The materials listed are diverse, ranging from complex operations guides to...
Spreading our message

Our commitment to a collaborative work process results in the production of our programs and products as a team effort. Our programs are reviewed and expanded through the education and dissemination of the MERPC. It is important to note that our educational materials are distributed in our workshops, books, and conferences where we provide our national and international audiences with new and updated resources.

In 2006, the MERPC hosted a major national conference, which highlighted educational curricular improvements. These can be used in collaboration with teachers, schools, and the public.
Partnerships

While much of the work done by NEIWPCC is conducted by the staff at our Lowell headquarters, Commission staff based outside of Lowell also perform work of great importance. These staff members work directly with state environmental agencies or with programs that target the needs of a specific area. Their work varies, from producing publications to tracking the movements of Atlantic sturgeon, but they all help NEIWPCC achieve one of our fundamental goals—to meet the needs within our member states and the region.

NEW YORK STATE SUPPORT

NEIWPCC supports the work of New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation through our staff based in Albany and elsewhere in the state. In fiscal 2007, our staff continued to play a significant role in the Department’s Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) program. The WQIP program provides grants to municipalities and Soil and Water Conservation Districts for projects addressing nonpoint source pollution, including stormwater, aquatic habitat restoration, and wastewater infrastructure. In 2007, the WQIP program provided more than $10.8 million to 58 projects. To promote the WQIP program, NEIWPCC’s Jeremy Campbell attended a series of workshops across New York State to further inform potential grant applicants about the program.

In recent years, projects addressing stormwater have been a priority of the WQIP program. The highlight is the funding provided to regulated communities to assist with implementation of Phase II Stormwater Regulations. Since 2002, New York State has provided more than $11 million to assist communities with implementing Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits. The dedicated funding has played a key role in helping communities meet their Phase II Stormwater requirements and achieve a high level of permit compliance. If the funding wasn’t available, more time and effort would have been spent by both the MS4s and the state in seeking and determining compliance with permit requirements.

In another effort related to New York’s Water Quality Improvement Project program, NEIWPCC’s Bruce Mussett continued his oversight of the New York City Watershed Protection Program. Utilizing federal Safe Drinking Water Act funds provided to NYSDEC, the program provides financial assistance for projects aimed at protecting and enhancing the quality of source waters of the New York City water supply system. A number of significant projects were underway in fiscal 2007 including one that is evaluating the effectiveness of alternative onsite wastewater treatment technologies to assist designers and regulators in selecting appropriate, cost-effective systems in the watershed west of the Hudson River. In another key project, researchers are assessing the occurrence and concentrations of pharmaceutical and other organic wastewater compounds in the New York City Watershed through focused sampling of key points in the New York City reservoir system, wastewater effluent at select wastewater treatment plant sites, and receiving streams above and below the plants’ outfalls.

Among other achievements of note by our staff in Albany was Erik Posner’s assistance in the overhaul of NYSDEC’s website. He coordinated the Division of Water’s conversion and migration of approximately 250 web pages to the new look and structure. The content was reorganized by subject matter in order to make it easier for users to locate information.

Working out of the NYSDEC office in Ray Brook, NEIWPCC’s Christopher Lassell spent many hours on Lake Champlain samplings its waters for the Long-Term Monitoring program.
The report and materials of the Sound\,NEMPCO\,Project were
published by the New York\,State Department of \nEnvironmental \nConservation. The materials include project plans, \nmonitoring data, and
results. The project was designed to
improve water quality in the Sound by
protecting coastal areas and
reducing pollution. The reports cover a
detailed analysis of the project's
results and recommendations for
future actions.

LONG ISLAND SOUND

Long Island Sound is an important
waterbody that supports
recreational and commercial
fishing, and provides habitat for
endangered species. However, the Sound
is threatened by pollution, including
nutrient runoff, oil spills, and industrial
waste. The Sound\,NEMPCO\,Project was
established to address these issues and
improve the health of the Sound.

The project has
implemented various strategies to
reduce pollution, including:
- Protecting coastal areas
- Reducing nutrient runoff
- Monitoring water quality
- Enhancing habitat

The results of the project have
shown improvements in water quality,
with reductions in nutrient levels and
increased diversity of marine life.

In conclusion, the Sound\,NEMPCO\,Project
has made significant progress in improving
the health of Long Island Sound.

\*

This project was funded by the
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and
the New York\,State Department of \nEnvironmental Conservation.
Hudson River Estuary

**Grounds for Concern**

For years, NEPPO staff have insisted on the importance of managing the Hudson River, which begins in New York and ends in New Hampshire. The staff is concerned about the health of the river and its ecosystems, particularly the oyster population along the south shore of Long Island. The oysters were once abundant in the eastern oyster (Crassostrea virginica) and have now been decimated by overfishing and disease. The current estimated population is estimated at 5,000, down from the 50,000 estimated in the 1930s. The project involves growing an initial population of oysters in enclosures at five locations south along the South Shore of Long Island. The oysters will be monitored weekly for two years to determine growth and maturity. The region's environmental benefits will be evaluated by scientific community involvement and cooperation. The project was managed by the Hudson River Estuary Partnership, which provided funds through the Hudson River Estuary Program. The partnership is managed by the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center. Seven stormwater professionals took part in the focus group session, which included various stakeholders.

**School Sessions**

As a part of the 2007-2008 Hudson River Estuary Program, the partnership and school programs created a focus group session on the Hudson River Estuary Program. The program was designed to educate elementary students about the importance of protecting and preserving the river ecosystem. The students were divided into groups and given a floating pool that contained rainwater. They were tasked with identifying and categorizing water quality issues in the pool. They also observed how various contaminants affect the oyster population. The students learned about the importance of water quality monitoring and the role of stakeholders in protecting the river.

**Hudson River**

Since 1999, the Hudson River Estuary Program has been providing funding and support to New York State programs that work to protect and enhance the river. This includes programs that focus on water quality, habitat restoration, and education. The program has been instrumental in funding numerous successful projects that have helped to improve the health of the river.

**Conclusion**

The Hudson River is an important ecosystem that provides a variety of benefits to the people of New York and New Hampshire. The partnership is committed to protecting and preserving the river ecosystem for future generations. Through continued funding and collaboration, the partnership will continue to support the projects that are critical to the health of the river.
LAKE CHANTILLY POND PROGRAM

In 2007, the Lake Chantilly Basin Program engaged local partners in collaboration with several local and regional organizations to conduct the first ever in-depth review of the pond's condition and land uses. The program's goals were to improve water quality, enhance habitat, and restore the natural ecosystem of the pond. The project involved the collection of data on pond morphology, water chemistry, and benthic communities. This information was used to develop a management plan that included the removal of invasive species and the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce nutrient and sediment inputs to the pond.

Participants included the local community, the local government, and a network of stakeholders who provided input and support throughout the project. The program's success was attributed to the collaboration among partners and the commitment to improving the pond's health.

For more information, visit www.newpcc.org/ponds

Hands-On Experience: Vision and New York

[Image of children working on a project]

The annual Pond Ecology Program, sponsored by the Lake Chantilly Basin Program, provides hands-on learning opportunities for students of all ages. Through interactive workshops and field trips, participants learn about the ecology of ponds and the importance of preserving them. The program aims to foster a love for nature and inspire a sense of stewardship among future generations.

Partners include the local school districts, the local government, and environmental organizations. The program is funded through a combination of grants and donations from local businesses and individuals.

For more information, visit www.newpcc.org/ponds

1997-2001 Timeline: A Legacy of Leadership

[Image of a timeline chart]

The Lake Chantilly Basin Program has been a leader in the preservation and enhancement of local water bodies. Under the leadership of various champions, the program has successfully addressed issues such as pollution, invasive species, and habitat restoration. The chart highlights key milestones and achievements of the program, including the establishment of partnerships, the implementation of best management practices, and the protection of critical habitats.

For more information, visit www.newpcc.org/ponds
1,200 new students to care for their local watershed in the next three years alone.

These were just two of the activities conducted by the LCBP in a very busy year for the organization. To learn more about all that the program does, visit its website at www.lcbp.org.

**Philatelic Celebration** In honor of the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain’s arrival at Lake Champlain, which will be celebrated in 2009, the LCBP organized the first ever international and interstate stamp cancellation in September 2007. The event included ceremonies on Isle La Motte, Vermont; at Champlain, New York; and in Lacolle, Quebec.

**IN-STATE SUPPORT** Each year, NEIWPCC staff based outside our Lowell headquarters coordinate and participate in an extensive array of programs and projects, far more than we can capture in this annual report. Pictured here are just two more examples of the work they do, and the invaluable service they provide to our states’ environmental agencies.

**Team Effort** NEIWPCC’s Richard Chase, who is based at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection offices in Worcester, collaborated with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and EPA New England to plan and implement sampling and analysis for low-level metals concentrations in the Ten Mile River. Data from the study will be used to determine whether sampled reaches in the Ten Mile River are meeting state surface water quality standards for dissolved metals, and whether development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is needed. Chase took this photo, which shows MA DEP and RI DEM staff sampling for metals in the Ten Mile River at the border between the two states.

**Focus on Wetlands** NEIWPCC’s Christine Caron, who works with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, spent considerable time in fiscal 2007 coordinating preparations for a wetlands training workshop for consultants at RI DEM headquarters in Providence. The workshop, which was held in early fiscal 2008, provided the consultants with information to improve compliance with avoidance and minimization requirements, the completeness of wetlands permit applications, and the predictability of outcomes. Many of the sessions highlighted changes to the revised Wetlands Rules and Regulations that were promulgated in June 2007.
From the Comptroller

This page contains the results of the latest audit of NEIWPC's program revenue and expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007. The Commission is a not-for-profit organization, exempt from taxes under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We continue to receive the majority of our funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in the form of grants and cooperative agreements. From our member states, we receive direct financial support in the form of annual dues, as well as substantial funding for projects pertaining to specific waterbodies. Our training and certification programs also generate significant revenue, including those we now conduct for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of Maine. You will note that we list the fees generated from these programs as separate sources of revenue.

Fiscal 2007 was again a generally good year financially for NEIWPC, with total revenue exceeding total operating expenditures. This resulted in an increase in net assets, which provides a reserve for the organization to draw upon when necessary to temporarily support operations. Such a reserve is particularly important in these uncertain economic times. Independent auditors perform an audit of NEIWPC's financial records, as required by our compact and our various grants and contracts. It is conducted in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Linda Agostinelli, C.P.A.
NEIWPC Comptroller

New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
Statements of Program Activities
Years Ended September 30, 2007 and 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grants</td>
<td>$6,045,821</td>
<td>$6,568,975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member State Support</td>
<td>148,664</td>
<td>147,849</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Contracts</td>
<td>1,521,178</td>
<td>1,511,036</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>686,526</td>
<td>874,281</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>152,786</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donated Services</td>
<td>310,913</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
<td>14,948</td>
<td>16,769</td>
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<tr>
<td>License Renewal Fees</td>
<td>218,026</td>
<td>160,491</td>
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<td>Certification Exam Fees</td>
<td>350,165</td>
<td>88,930</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
<td>87,025</td>
<td>53,525</td>
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<td></td>
<td>68,116</td>
<td>3,890</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>9,804,168</td>
<td>9,923,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenditures</td>
<td>9,526,709</td>
<td>9,693,196</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase in Net Assets</td>
<td>$277,459</td>
<td>$229,953</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concept/Writer/Project Manager:
Stephen Hochbrunn, NEIWPCC

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Cindy Barnard, NEIWPCC

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All photos by NEIWPCC unless otherwise noted.

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