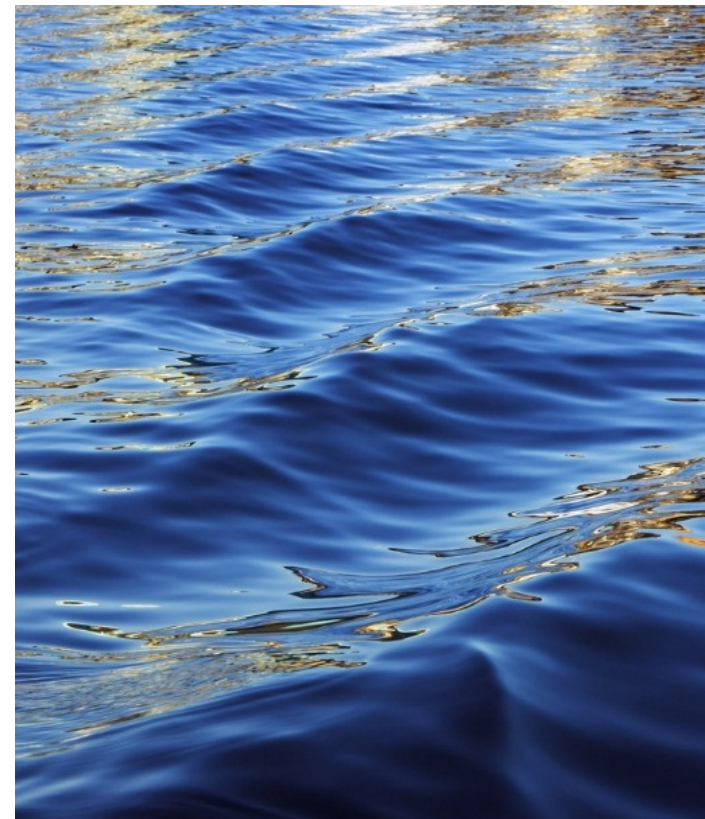


WWEB - COVID-19 IMPACTS ON PUBLIC WASTEWATER SYSTEMS IN NH

April 13, 2020



AGENDA

- Webinar Logistics – Jocelyn Degler
- Welcome – Tom O'Donovan
- Overview & Survey Results – Tracy Wood
- EPA Region 1 Update – Denny Dart & Solanch Pastrana-Del Valle
 - 2020 DMRQA Study
 - EPA Memo on COVID-19 Enforcement
 - DMR Reporting
- NHDES Updates – Tracy Wood
 - NPDES Compliance Sampling & Inspections
 - NPDES/State Surface Water Discharge Permitting
 - Operator Certification & Training
 - CWSRF Funding & Construction
 - Residuals
- Questions/Discussion
- Closing Remarks



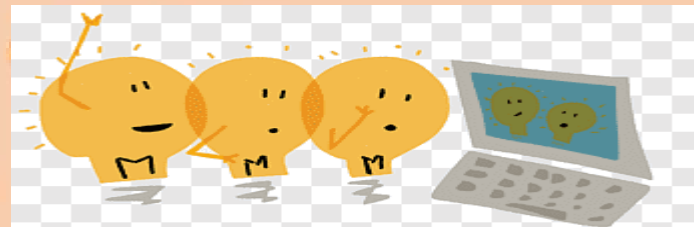
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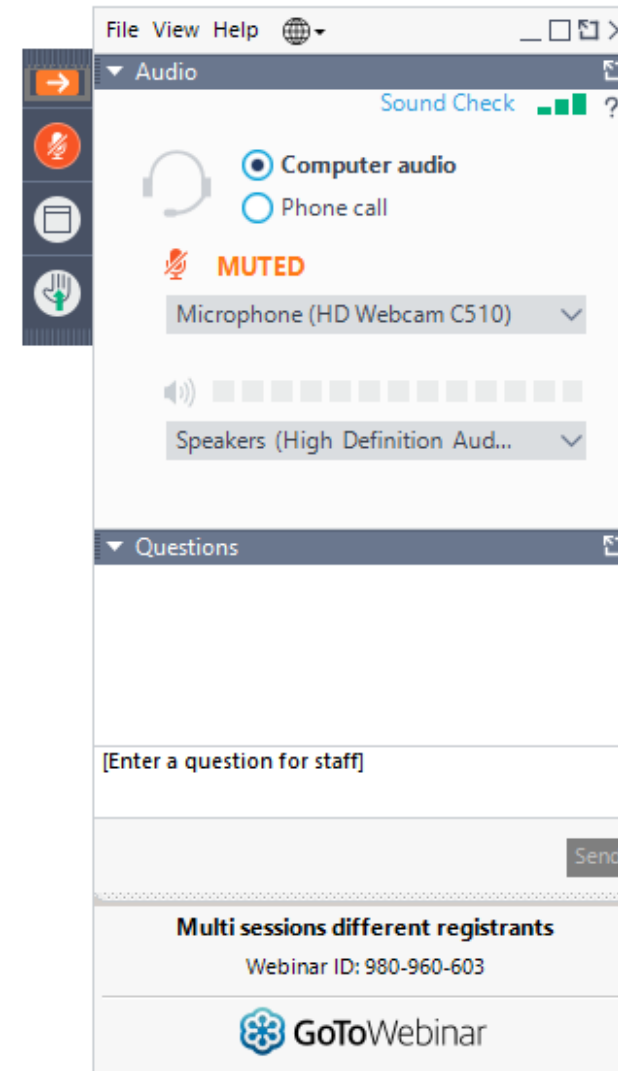
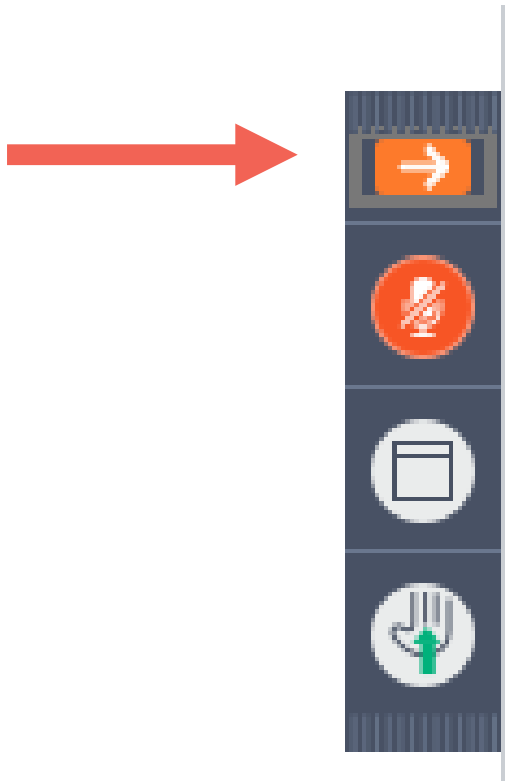


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 - ▶ *Can't hear?* Try turning up your volume or call in
 - ▶ *Have a question?* Use the Q&A box
- ▶ Recording & slides will be available post-webinar



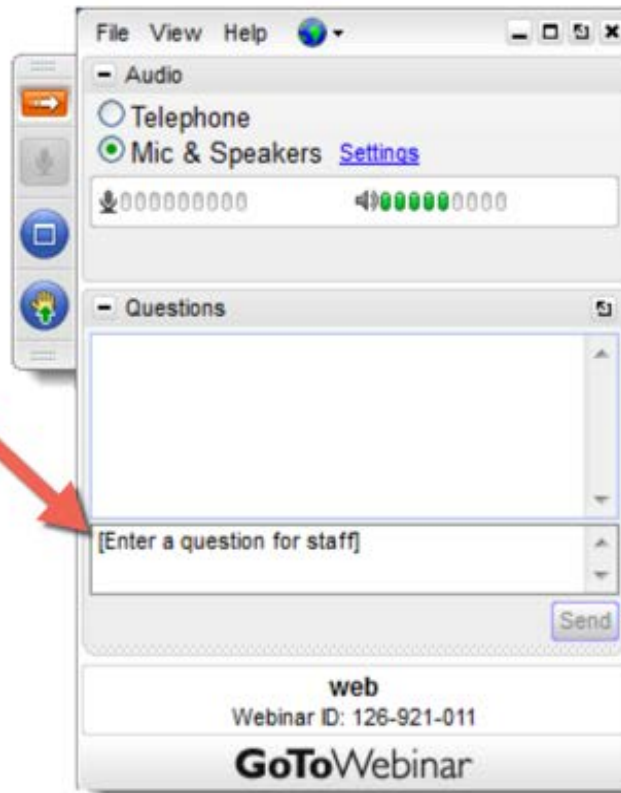
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Webinar Logistics

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Tom O'Donovan

NHDES Water Division Director

With over 33 years of public service, in positions of increasing responsibility, Tom has served as a commissioned officer in the US Army Corps of Engineers, a senior manager within the Department of Energy and as a Project Director in the construction industry. Most recently, he helped with Hurricane Marie recovery in Puerto Rico. His career highlights include leadership of the largest hydropower, and most advanced regulatory Districts in the Corps, responsible for major strategic changes at the Bonneville Power Administration, and delivery of a \$4 billion construction project. His credentials include a Master's in Civil Engineering, registration as a Professional Engineer and certification as Project Management Professional.





Tracy Wood
WWEB Administrator

Tracy Wood is the Administrator of the Wastewater Engineering Bureau at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Tracy has worked for the Department since 2007, and in her current role for the past five years. Tracy has over 25 years experience in the wastewater field.

[NHDES Home](#) >

NHDES Response to COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic has cause many of us to do business differently. NHDES is using this webpage as a clearinghouse for information related to any changes in NHDES program activity. NHDES will do its best to communicate any changes directly with our program customers and stakeholders, however please check this webpage regularly, as we will update information as necessary.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/covid19/index.htm>



CONTACT US!

WWEB General Program Contacts

Bureau Administrator:	Tracy Wood	603-271-2001
Operations Staff:	Ken Kessler	603-271-3549
	Richard "Dick" Emberley	603-271-2940
	John Adie	603-271-2586
NPDES Compliance:	Teresa Ptak	603-271-1497
NPDES Inspectors:	Nancy Lesieur	603-271-2985
	Stephanie Larson	603-271-1493
	Jocelyn Henry	603-271-1494
NPDES Permitting:	Stergios Spanos	603-848-0975
Additional Contacts	https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wweb/categories/contactus.htm	



IMPORTANT!



- Submit everything electronically
 - DMR Reporting - NetDMR
 - Monthly Operating Reports - NetDMR
 - NPDES Permit Required Submittals – NetDMR
 - CWSRF Disbursement Requests
 - CWSRF Pre-Applications
 - Operator Renewals
 - Design Review Submittals
 - Residuals Permit Applications

Q: DOES COVID-19 SURVIVE IN WASTEWATER?

A: The World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that “there is no evidence to date that COVID-19 virus has been transmitted via sewer systems, with or without wastewater treatment.” COVID-19 concentrations and survival in feces, sewage or water are currently unknown.

Refer to EPA and CDC’s messaging about safety of drinking water:

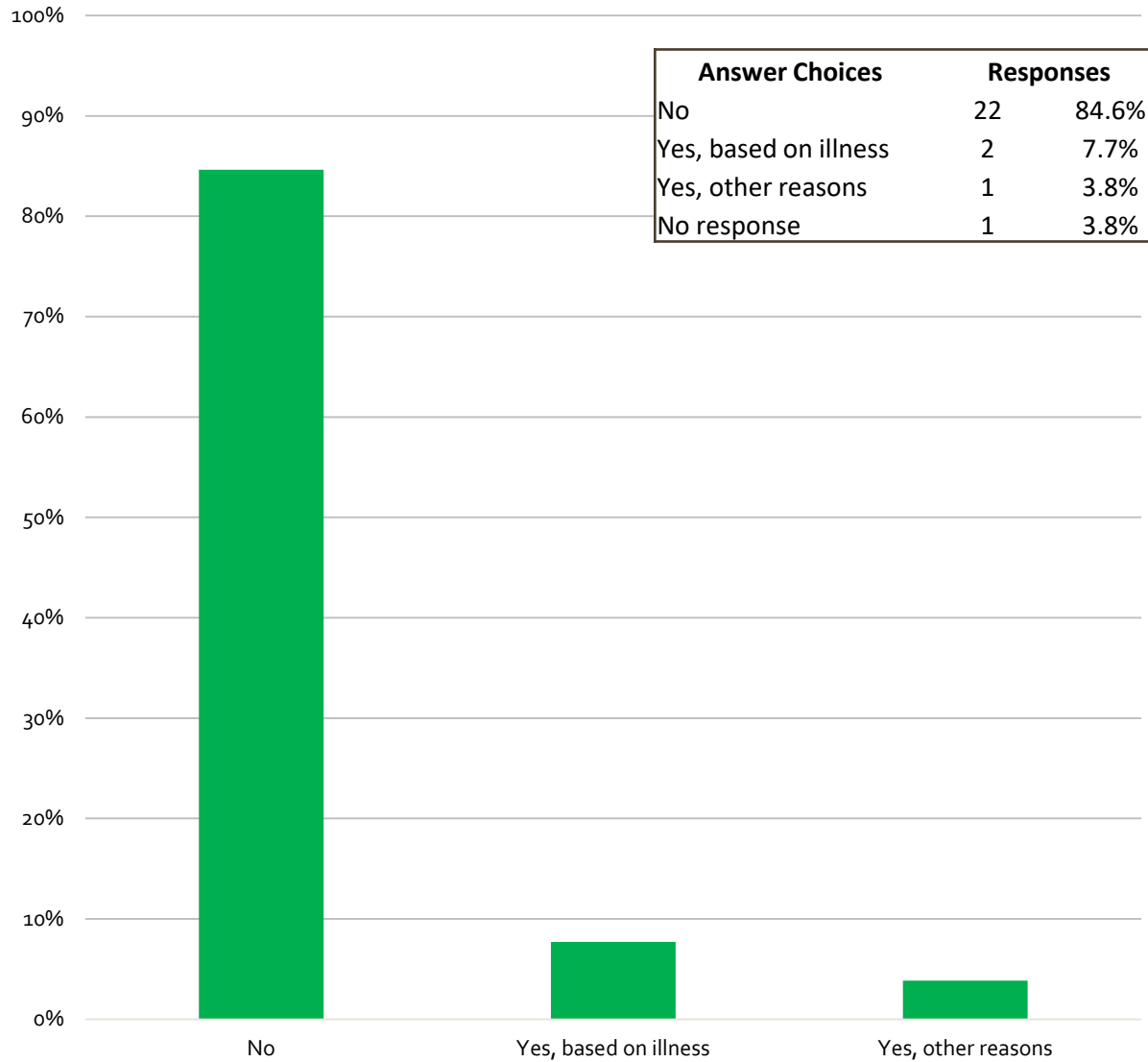
- EPA Coronavirus and Drinking Water and Wastewater
- <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater>
- CDC Water Transmission and COVID-19
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html>



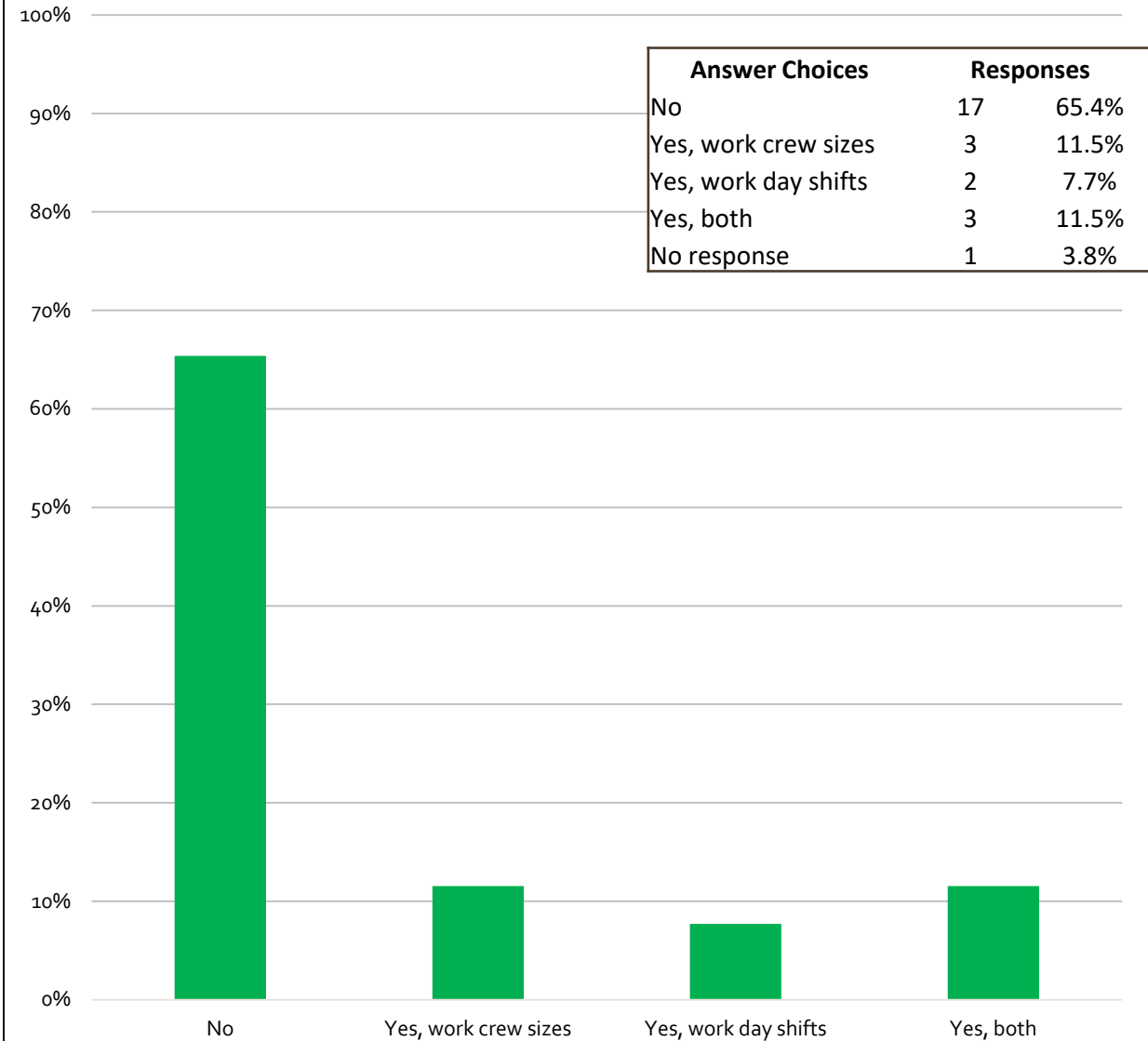
Operator Survey Summary

Total responses: 26

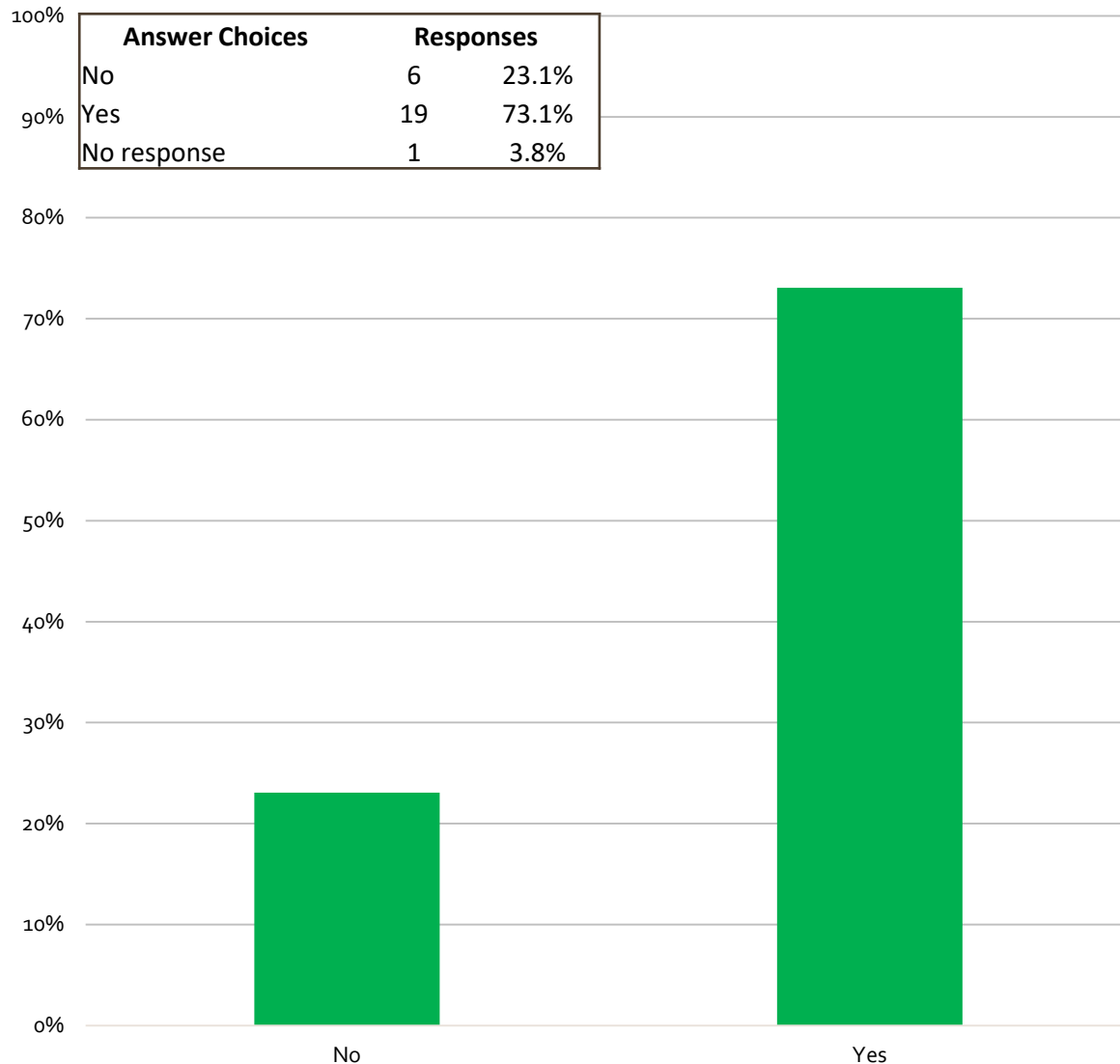
Is your wastewater system having complications with continuity of service due to staff reductions?



Have modifications to work day shifts or work crew sizes been instituted at your facility?



Are your personal protective equipment (PPE)
supplies on hand adequate?



What are your PPE problems?

Our masks were brought to alternate location.

Have gloves and face shields...no masks.

No masks.

We are awaiting an order of masks;
have plenty of gloves.

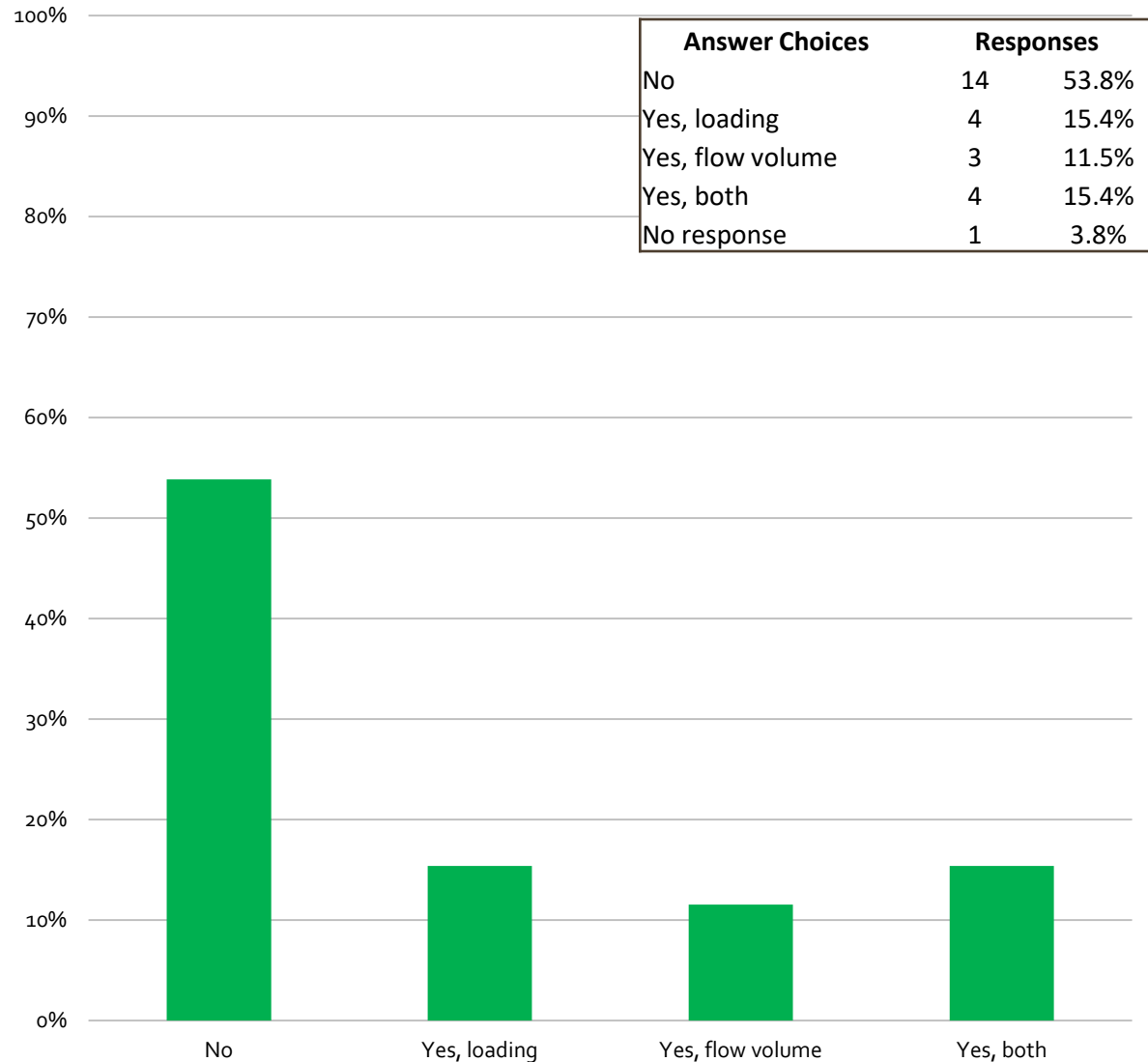
Facemasks, glasses, tyvek suits.

WE ARE SHORT ON N95 MASKS.

If we open for the season, we will likely have a difficult time
ordering PPE for the season.



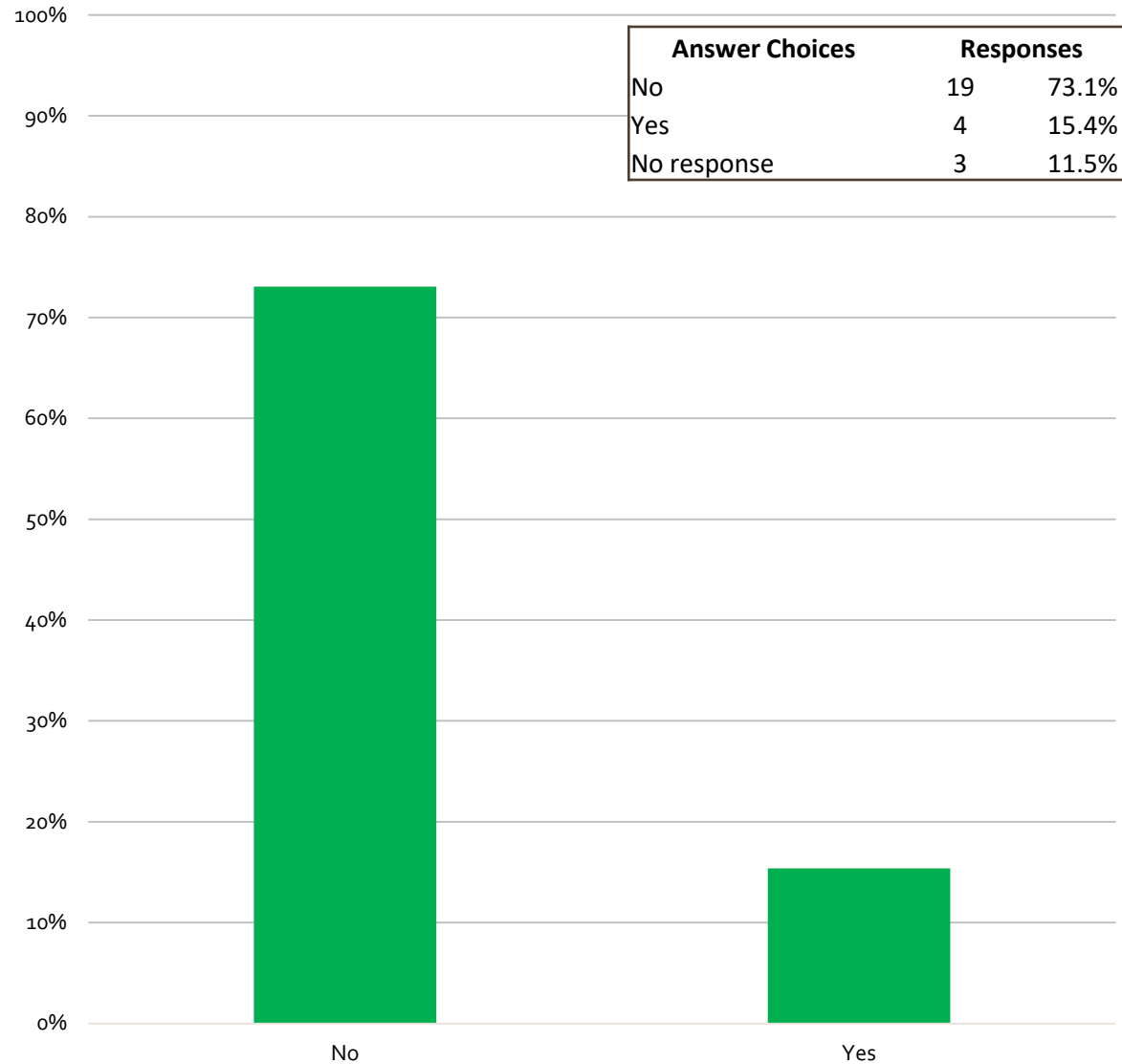
Has your facility experienced a change in flow volume or loading?



What changes have you experienced?

- Influent BOD loadings have fallen, but the drop started before the outbreak so is probably due to other factors.
- Local industries and restaurants have limited operations.
- Less flow do to schools and businesses being shut down.
- With restaurants and ski areas closing we are getting less flow and less loading.
- Influent BOD is lower than prior to the pandemic.
- Flows have increased.
- Wipes clogging pipes and pumps, causing pump failures and additional time.
- PSU has no classes, have half our usual flow for this time of year.
- Trash/wipes.
- BODs are way down, although with the spring rains and Conway Village I/I contribution flows are not down as much as loadings.

Have treatment process changes been instituted in response to influent changes?



What changes have been implemented?

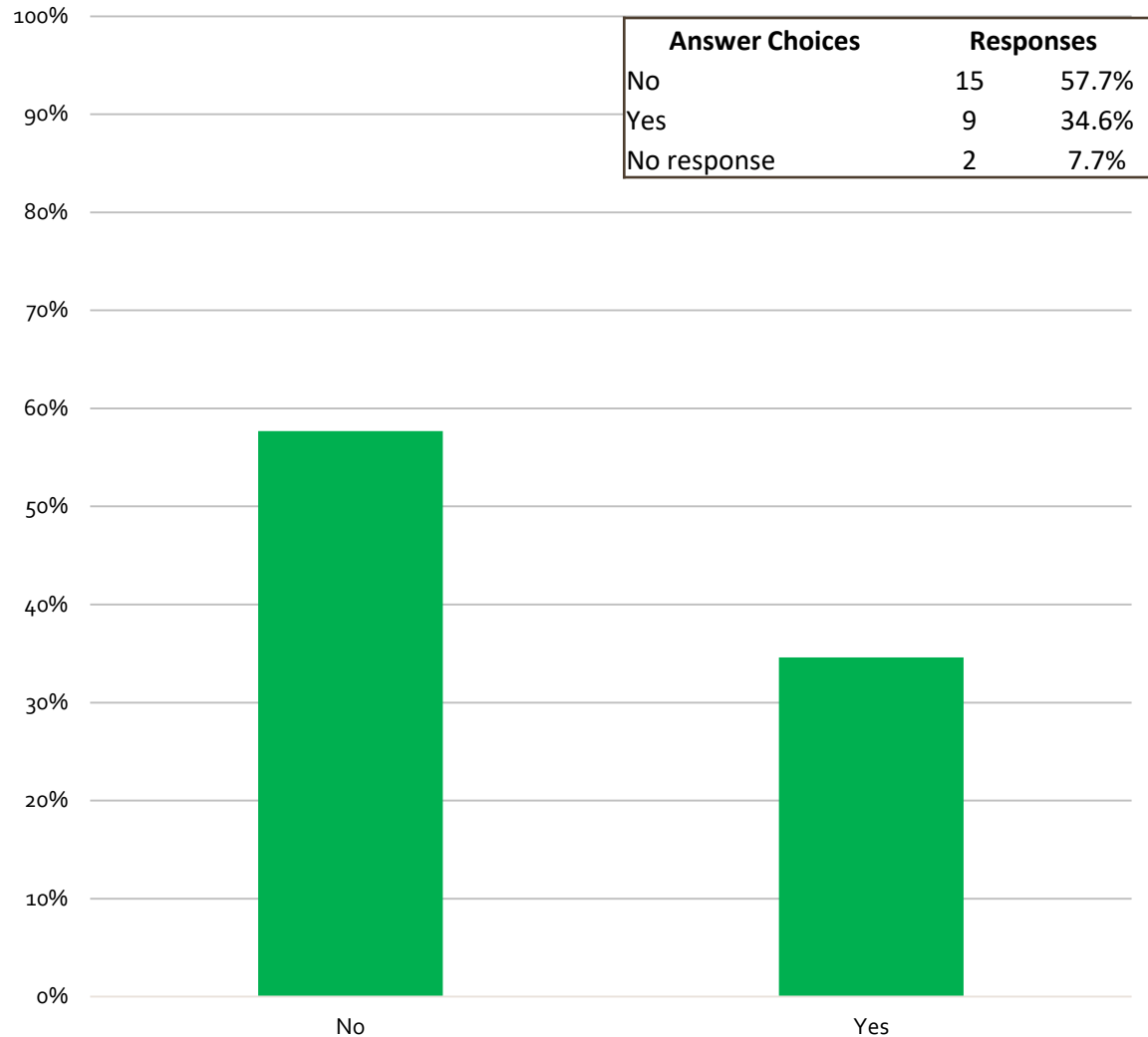
Decrease in sludge inventory.

On the solids side I have emptied a secondary digester, which allows me 18 days of room in case I can't dewater.

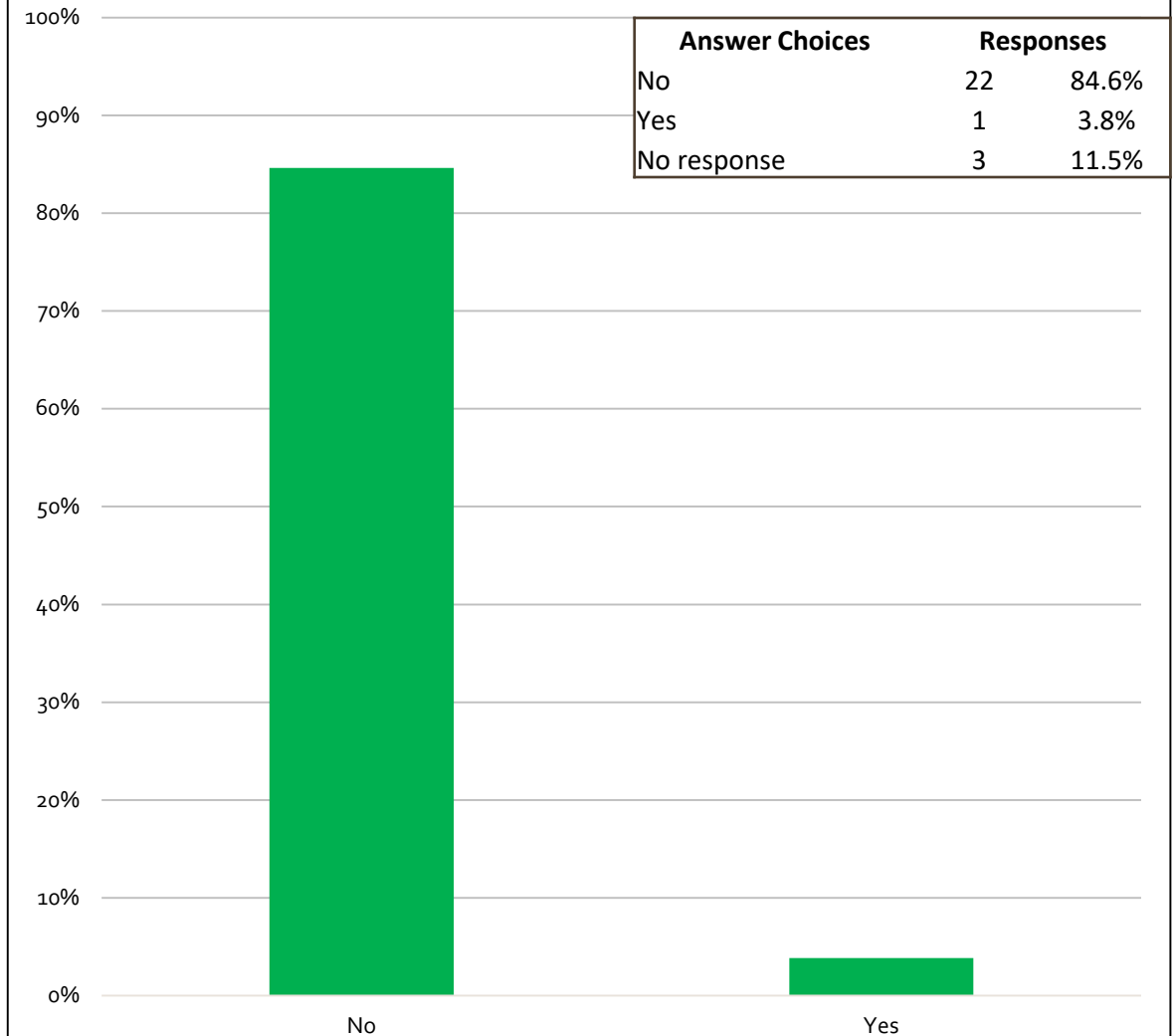
Lower televalve on secondary clarifier for more food for RBC's.

Adjustment in wasting/MLSS targets; adjust schedules for dewatering/hauling to adapt to social distancing for crew.

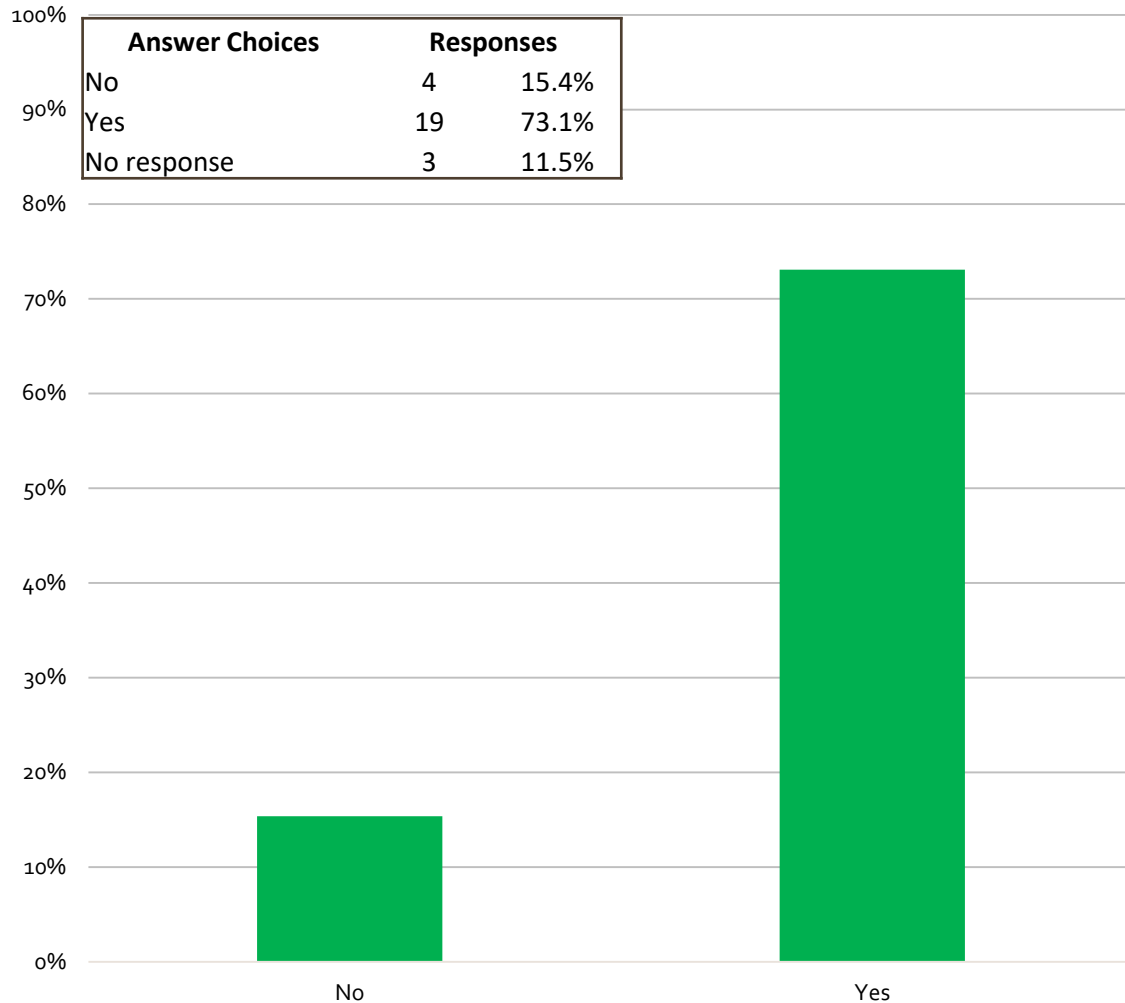
Are you experiencing system issues due to an increase of "flushable wipes" or other non-flushable items such as rags, paper towels, etc.?



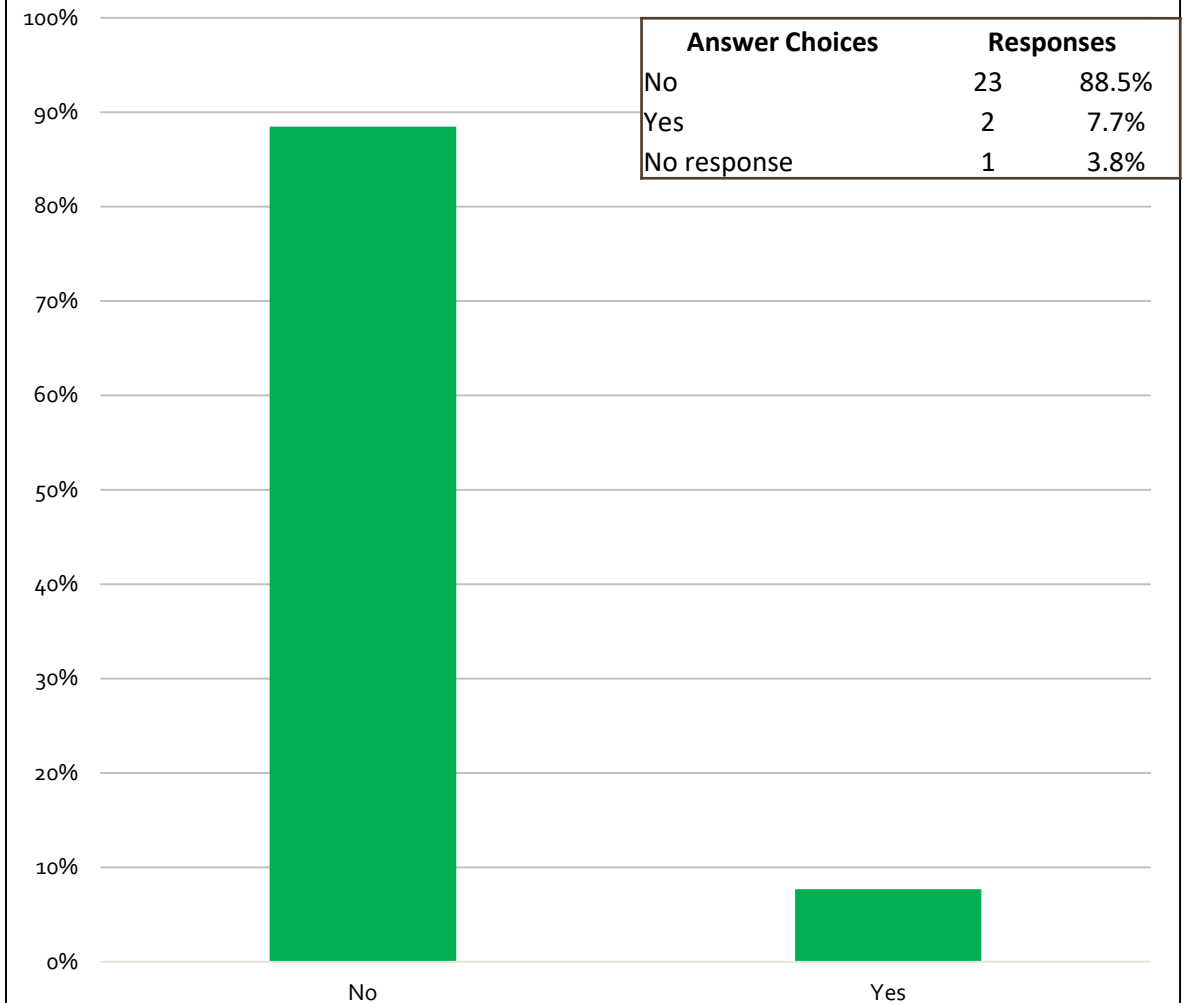
Have there been effluent quality changes/concerns?



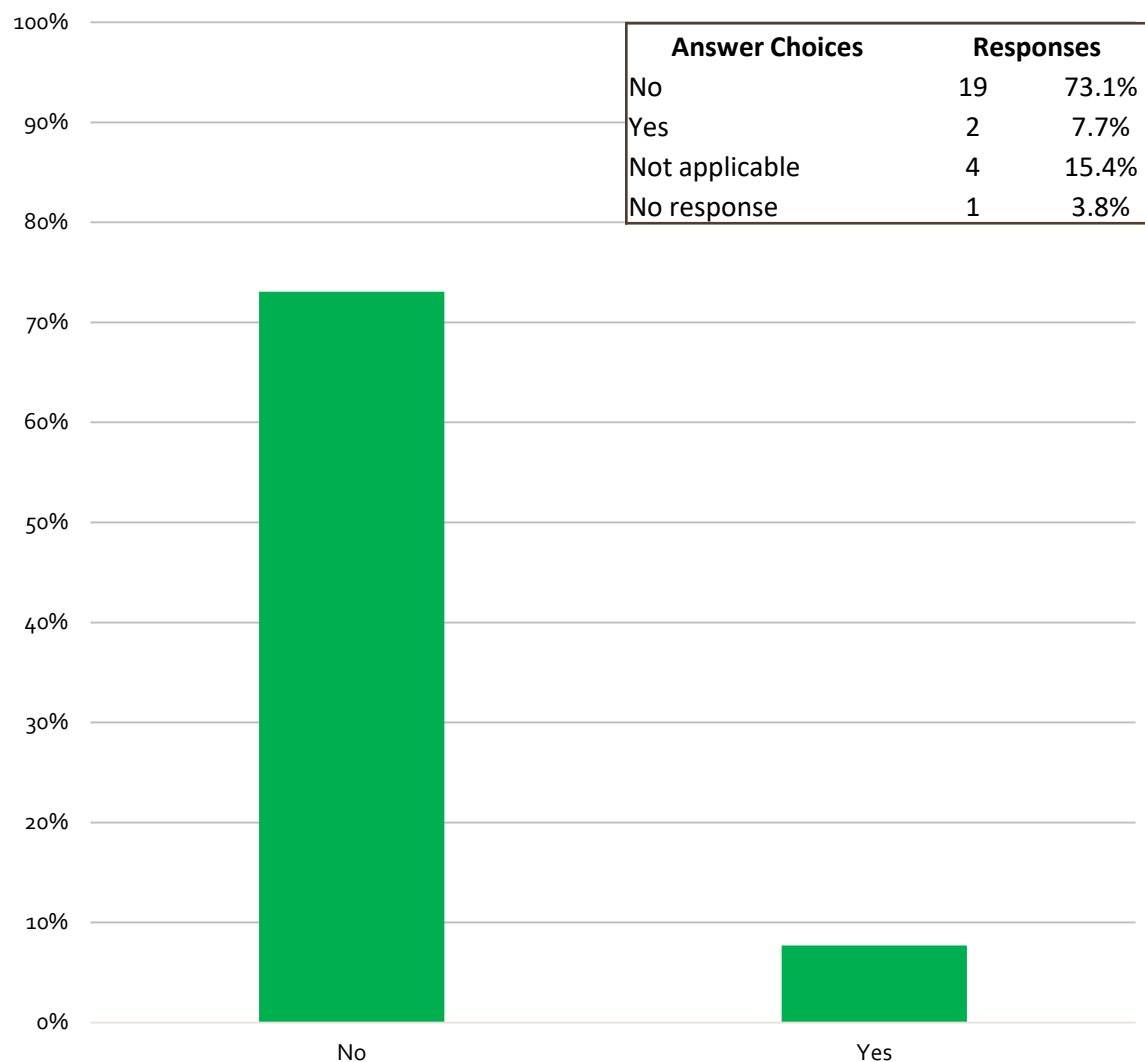
Have you been in touch with your suppliers to ensure adequate inventory of essential needs, including chemicals?



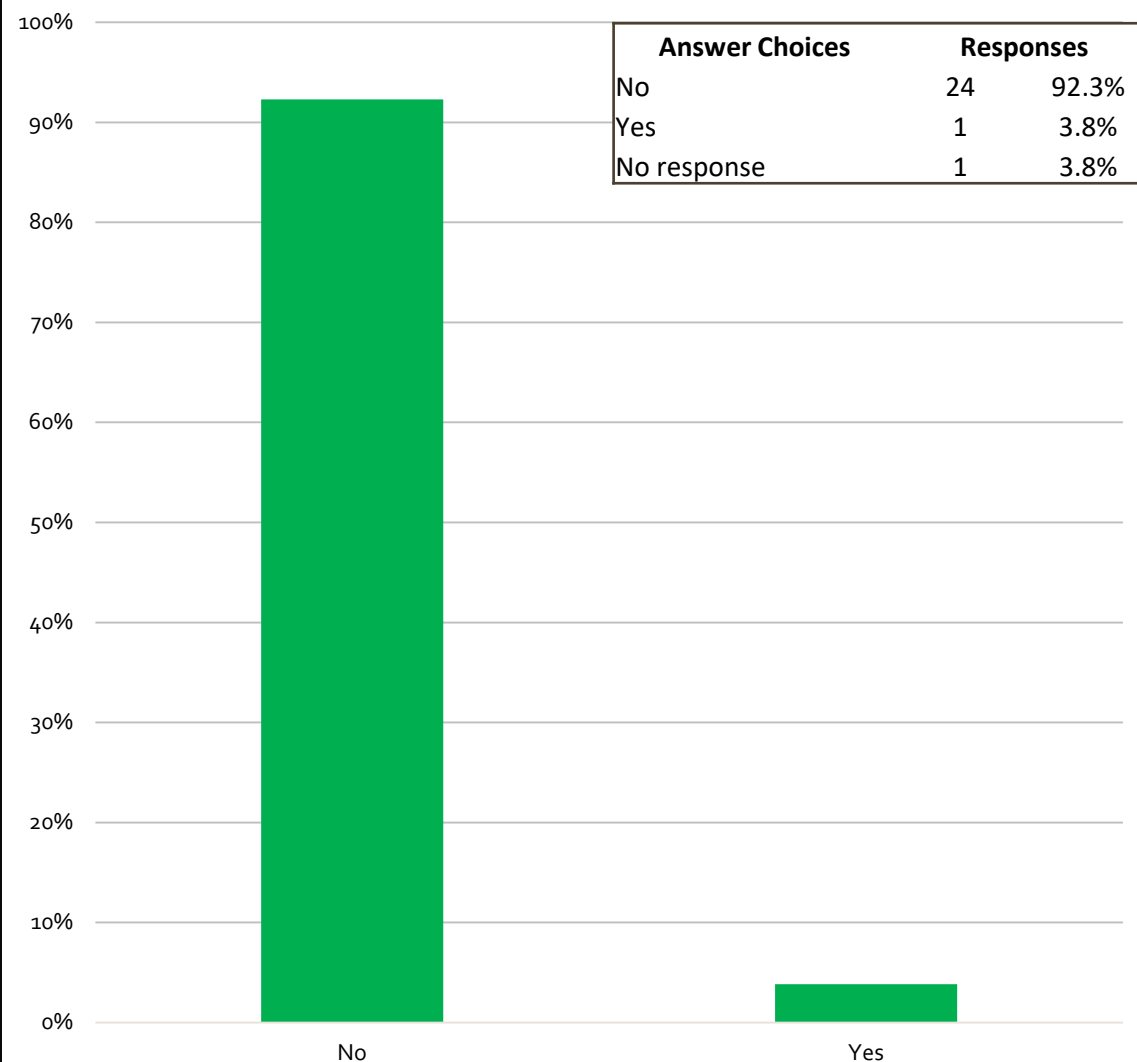
Are there chemical inventory or delivery concerns?



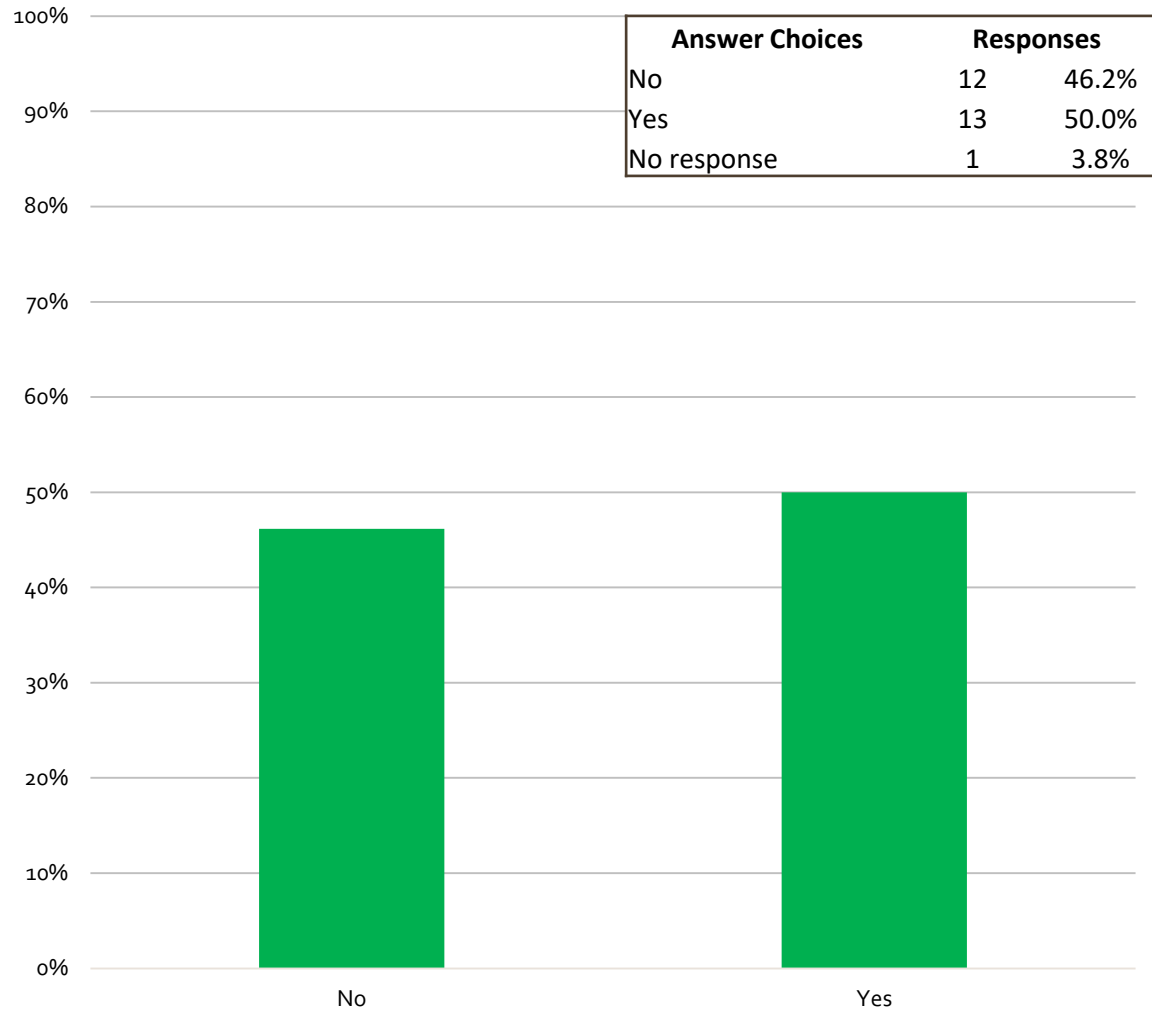
Has your facility modified or reduced its septage receiving hours?



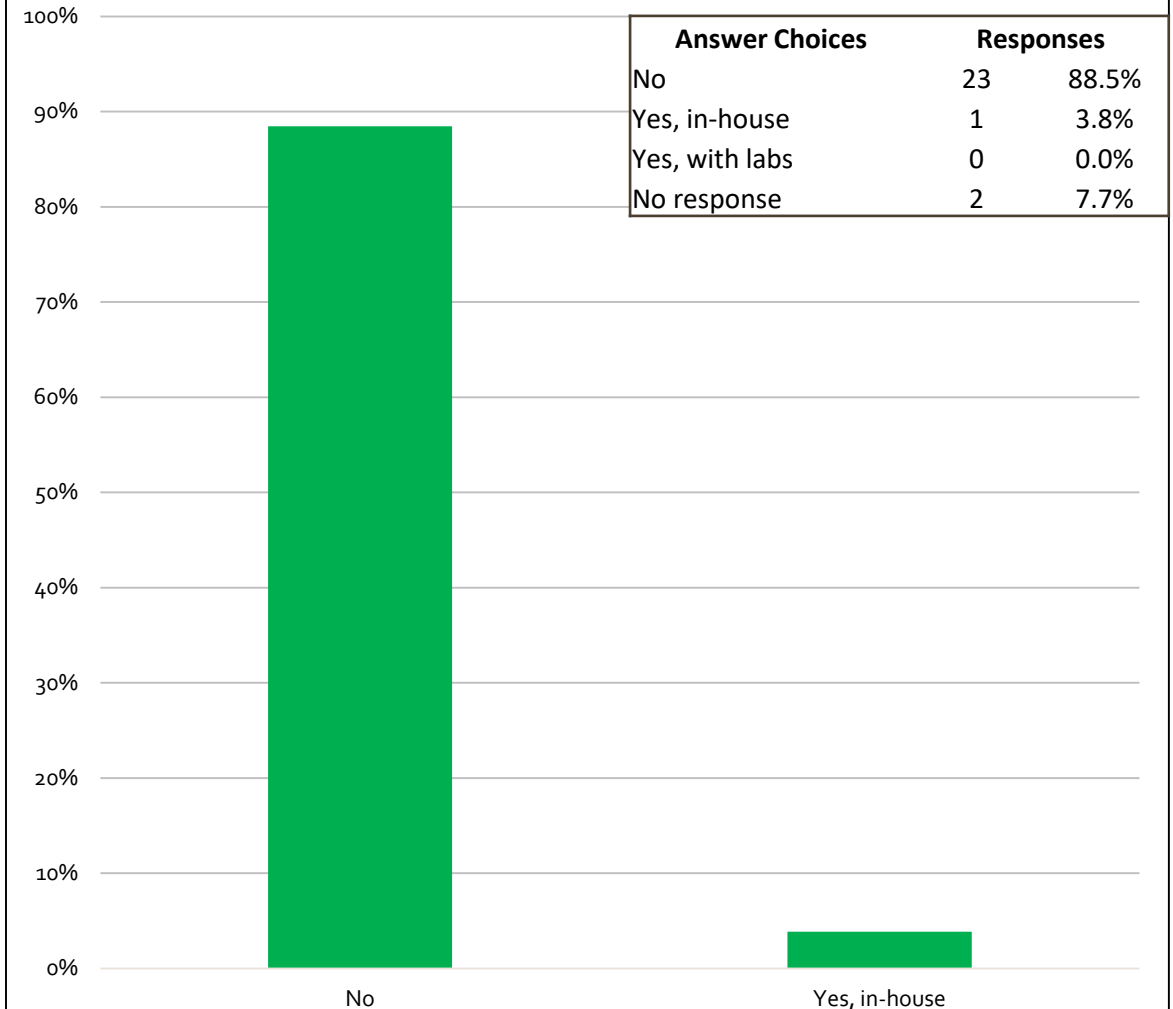
Has there been interruption in ability to dispose of solids from the facility?



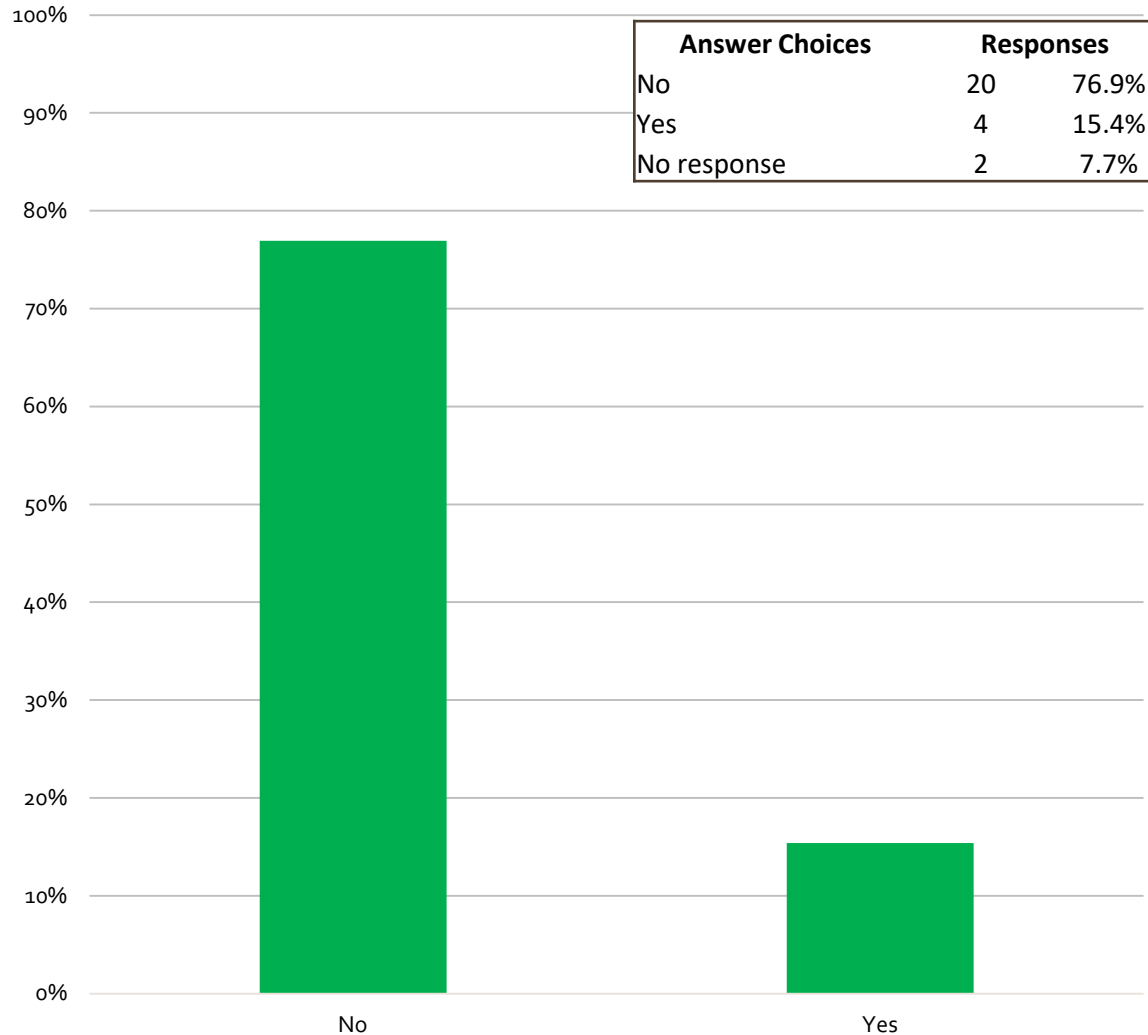
Do you have a mutual aid understanding with a neighboring community in case of emergency?



Have there been testing challenges, either in-house or with contract labs?



Do you currently have, or foresee, any issues complying with your NPDES permit sampling requirements?



What issues do you foresee?

We are not sure about being able to complete the annual toxicity testing.

Copper testing would be an issue if our contract lab shut down.

If/when we open: ordering gloves, bleach, supplies; opening facilities with limited staff; maintaining distance in small spaces.

Possible near future reduction in staff do to illness and contract lab closings.

If the contract labs no longer accept samples.

- Continue providing COVID-19 updates and resources.
- We are fine for now, as long as employees stay healthy we will have no problems.
- It would be great to have some guidance on whether or not the Coronavirus is viable in raw wastewater or sludge.
- Keep giving information, and be available.
- Communication is key for both parties at all times, but especially during this time.
- Please keep us updated.
- If chemicals become scarce, please provide support. If staff are quarantined at the WWTP, please provide support.

How can NHDES support you and your facility through this public health emergency?



EPA Region 1 Update

- 2020 DMR-QA Study deadlines
- Susan Bodine Memo on Compliance
- <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/oecamemooncovid19implications.pdf>
- DMR reporting
- <https://netdmr.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360041746691-Covid-19-Information-Page>
- EPA contacts
- Solanch Pastrana-Del Valle 617 918 1746 pastrana-del-valle.solanch@epa.gov
- Neil Handler Net DMR 617 918 1334 Handler.Neil@epa.gov
- Todd Borci NPDES Stormwater 617 918 1358 Borci.todd@epa.gov



NPDES Updates

- NPDES Compliance Sampling
- NPDES Compliance Inspections
- NPDES/State Surface Water Discharge Permitting
- NHDES Contacts
 - Teresa Ptak 603-271-1497
teresa.ptak@des.nh.gov
 - Stergios Spanos 603-848-0975
stergios.spanos@des.nh.gov

Wastewater Operators are Essential Workers



Thank You!



CISA
CYBER+INFRASTRUCTURE



OPERATORS: WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

- ✓ Notify NHDES of operational interruptions as it allows NHDES to understand individual WWTF impacts and the statewide operational status
- ✓ If additional hands are needed, other individuals can perform basic work at NH WWTFs provided that work is under the direction of a NH Operator certified at the proper grade level of the WWTF.
- ✓ Walk through 'What-if'/Plan B scenarios and Emergency Plans
- ✓ Many municipalities have agreements in place with neighboring communities to assist each other, and allowing operators to shift around to other plants if necessary
- ✓ GSRWA created a list of operators available to assist other facilities:
<http://www.granitestatewater.org/News.asp>.
- ✓ NH Public Works Mutual Aid Program (NHPWMA)



OPERATOR CERTIFICATION & TRAINING

- ✓ For two-year renewal cycle ending June 30, 2020, NHDES is expecting operators will have met all renewal requirements including meeting minimum CEU requirements. If you are up for renewal and you anticipate not being able to meet all requirements please contact Richard “Dick” Emberley at (603) 271-2940 or Richard.Emberley@des.nh.gov to discuss. Time extensions may be granted on a case by case basis with valid justification.
- ✓ Training classes cancelled thru May 4, 2020. There will be classes this summer. For updates on NHDES sponsored training go to: <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wweb/optraining.htm>.
- ✓ On-line training opportunities are still available from many sources, and NHDES emails out notices as it becomes aware of these opportunities. For free online water and wastewater courses go to: <http://ci23.actonsoftware.com/acton/rif/29254/s-02e1-2003/-/l-0006:7323f/q-oof7/showPreparedMessage?sid=TV2:HtUOo7pOf>
- ✓ The June 3, 2020 operator exam is on schedule as of now



OPERATOR SAFETY

- ✓ Wastewater operators should follow the latest CDC guidelines for reducing Health Risks to Workers Handling Human Waste or Sewage. https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/sanitation/workers_handlingwaste.html
- ✓ In general, people should follow the latest CDC guidelines for social distancing and proper hygiene. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>
- ✓ The WWEB is using the Water Environment Federation (WEF) recommendations in The Water Professional's Guide to COVID-19 as safety guidelines for wastewater professionals during the current outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19. <https://www.wef.org/news-hub/wef-news/the-water-professionals-guide-to-the-2019-novel-coronavirus/>
- ✓ Per OSHA there is no evidence to suggest that additional, COVID-19-specific protections are needed for employees involved in wastewater management operations, including those at wastewater treatment facilities. Wastewater treatment plant operations should ensure workers follow routine practices to prevent exposure to wastewater, including using the engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices, and PPE normally required for work tasks when handling untreated wastewater. <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html>
- ✓ **Goggles** to protect eyes from splashes of human waste or sewage.
- ✓ **Protective face mask or splash-proof face shield** to protect nose and mouth from splashes/ aerosols of human waste or sewage. Depending on the type of work this could include N95 masks with a verification of "face fit" testing for the employee including the limitation of facial hair.
- ✓ **Liquid-repellent coveralls** to keep human waste or sewage off clothing.
- ✓ **Waterproof gloves** to prevent exposure to human waste or sewage.
- ✓ **Rubber boots:** to prevent exposure to human waste or sewage.

CWSRF Funding & Construction

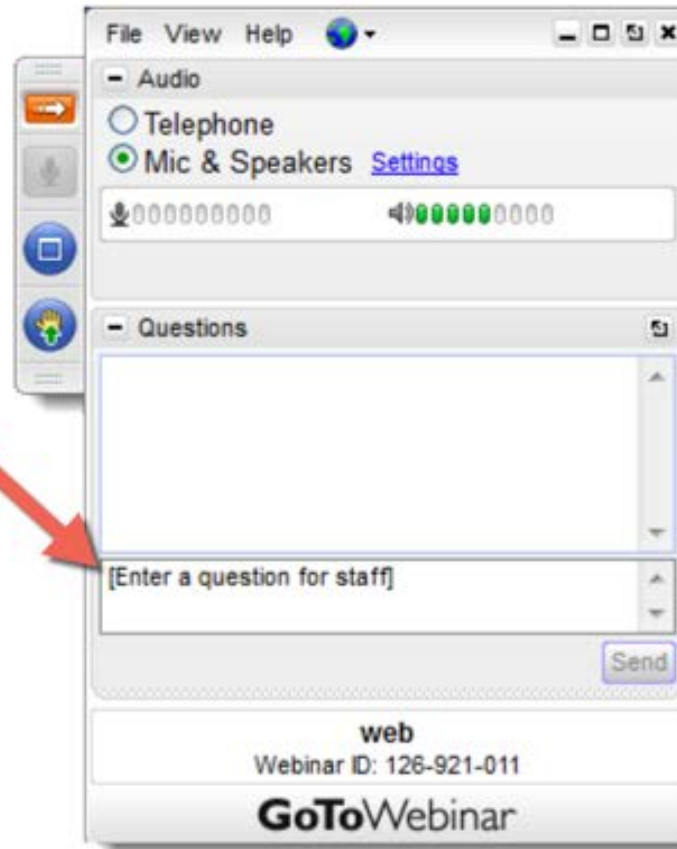
- Actively Processing Loan Disbursement Requests
- CWSRF Pre-App Solicitation Status
- Construction Projects
 - NHDOT Guidelines
- Pre-Bid Meetings & Bid Openings
- Chit Chat and Chew with UNH T2
 - Open forum to connect with NH public works colleagues
 - Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.
 - <https://t2.unh.edu/training-calendar>

Residuals

- Spring SQC Sampling Inspections
 - Anthony Drouin 603-271-2818
Anthony.Drouin@des.nh.gov
- Land Application
 - Judith Houston 603-271-7888
Judith.Houston@des.nh.gov
- Septage and Sludge Hauling
 - Timothy Sweatt 603-568-1817
Timothy.Sweatt@des.nh.gov

Comments or Questions?

Find the Question/Chat Box
- Type your question(s)



Click on the send button



<https://www.des.nh.gov/covid19/index.htm>

End of Webinar

Thank You!