

Building sewers connected to SSTS: What septic professionals need to know!



By the MPCA

The MPCA and Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) created an interagency workgroup (IAWG) to recommend statutory and administrative rule changes to simplify the regulation and administration of work on building sewers that

are connected to septic systems. Language from the 2015 legislative session codifies changes that were recommended by the IAWG with input from stakeholders in the SSTS, utility contracting, and plumbing trades. The legislature directed the MPCA to update its rules to implement the changes.

The proposed solution allows septic system professionals to work with just one agency for their licensing needs and permits them to work on building sewers with respect to the plumbing code.

A detailed fact sheet with answers to frequently asked questions will be available soon on the Internet. Below is a summary of significant changes.

Co-Definition of the Building Sewer Connected to Septic Systems

A “building sewer connected to a septic system” is the pipe that connects the end of a structure’s building drain to a septic system. Building sewers connected to septic systems are

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Summer Seminar Delivers!

MOWA members gathered at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum to update their Soils Training in July.

Harold Overland (shown right) took care of the lunchtime raffle. For more, check out the Exe. Director's message on Page 3.



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From the Executive Director's Office

By Pat Martyn, MOWA Executive Director

Thank you to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum hosted the 2015 summer seminar! Many, many thanks to Pete Moe

and the staff there. Our the event was Ziegler, salute. And also thanks Shane Steinbrecher, Craig Gilberston for great event. We had and the day was a day featured a lunch Birrittieri and Petersen were sponsored by our Systems, and we had classroom instruction provided by the University of Minnesota and then went to the field to look at some soils.

Summer Seminar brings membership together for on-site training!

Thanks to sponsors, volunteers, instructors and friends!

main sponsor of who deserves a firm to MOWA volunteers Sara Heger and putting on such a good attendance, great success. The provided by Tony Supply, breaks friends at Infiltrator

2016 Annual MOWA Convention is being held in St. Cloud, January 26-28, 2016

We are back in Saint Cloud for the 2016 Convention! The Convention location is in the heart of St. Cloud, with all the fun things to do in that metropolis. You can find a preliminary announcement in this issue of the Little Digger, and we are really enthusiastic about the prospect of a great show. Details of the show will be on our website in the near future. But please mark your calendars.

As mentioned last year in this column, the last couple of years we have been using a process that we hope involves more attendees in the discussion of important issues in our industry. We cannot stress enough the benefits of attending. We get very high marks for the content of the show. Your opportunity to mingle with your friends and colleagues in the industry and talk about items of interest, catch up

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Calendar of Events

MOWA Events

January 26 – 28, 2016— Annual Convention & Tradeshow – River's Edge Convention Center – St. Cloud, MN (visit www.mowa-mn.com for details)

Industry Events

November 3-6, 2015— NOWRA-VOWRA-SORA-NAWT to Hold Joint Onsite Mega-Conference, in Virginia Beach Virginia - NOWRA is partnering with the Virginia Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, the State Onsite Regulators Alliance, and the National Association of Wastewater Technicians to host a major industry conference at the Virginia Beach Convention Center this fall. It will serve as the annual meetings for NOWRA, VOWRA and SORA and the Annual Treatment Symposium for NAWT. This will be a must attend event. Watch www.nowra.org for more information. <http://071812c.membershipsoftware.org/Files/Conferences/2015Annual/WWETT%20Promotional%20Flyer.pdf>

February 17 – 20, 2016— WWETT - Water & Wastewater Equipment, Treatment & Transport Show at the Indiana Convention Center – Indianapolis, IN (visit <http://wwettshow.com/> for details)

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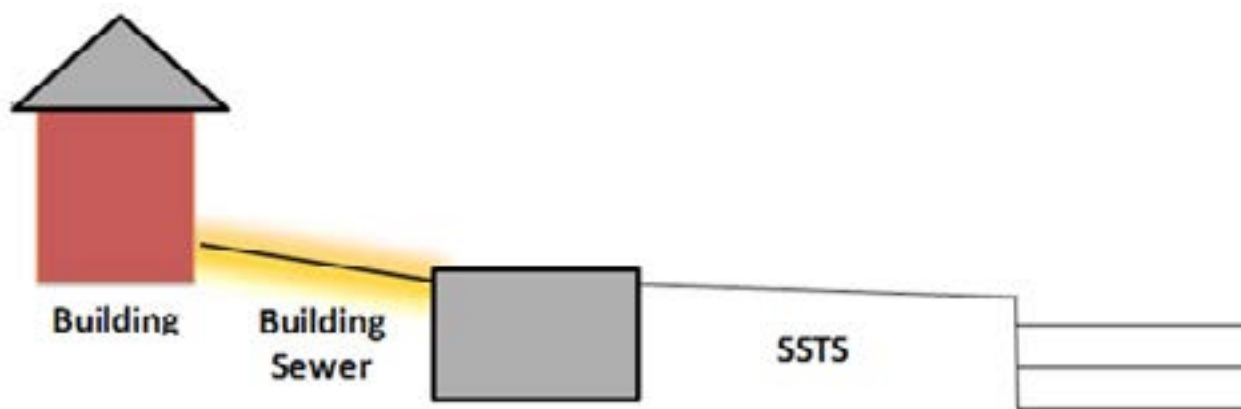
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now co-defined as a component of both the plumbing system and the septic system.

All building sewers will continue to be defined as plumbing. The Minnesota Plumbing Code will still define building sewer specifications and work on building sewers will continue to be subject to the requirements of the plumbing program.

Building sewers connected to septic systems are now also defined as components of septic systems – which creates some flexibility about who can conduct this work. Septic system designers may now design building sewers connected to septic systems.

- Septic System Designers may now design building sewers connected to septic systems. As always the design must comply with the Plumbing Code, which means that DLI must review and approve plans and specs for building sewers serving public, commercial, industrial, or five-unit or larger residential buildings.
- Septic System Inspectors may permit and/or inspect building sewers connected to septic systems for compliance with the Minnesota Plumbing Code when the installation is not subject to Minnesota Rules, Part 1300.0215 Subp. 6 or they have permission from the plumbing program authority.
- Septic System Installers may install building sewers if they hold a plumbing license or a pipe laying certificate.

Surety Bonding and License Application/ Renewal Changes

The authorizations above depend on proper education on the pertinent aspects of the plumbing code and appropriate surety bond coverage. For that reason, the SSTS Bond is changing to mirror the requirements of the plumbing program: \$25,000 of liability that accumulates every two years.

This updated bond, now maintained by the MPCA (not DLI), allows septic system license holders to manage their licensure through one agency. All SSTS business licensees will have to update their bond to the new, simplified form in two stages:

1. Installation licenses must update this form and submit it to the MPCA prior to 12/31/15, the date that most bonds currently registered with DLI are set to expire.
2. All non-installation licenses must update this simplified form as a condition of the 2016 business license renewal.

All designated certified individuals (DCI) for each installation business must either have an individual plumbing license or submit evidence of pipe laying training to the MPCA by providing a copy of their pipe layer card with their bond form submission. The DLI will use this information to notify businesses of their authorization as certified pipe layers.

Licensed plumbing contractors that also hold SSTS licensure must continue to work with both agencies. The \$25,000 plumbing code compliance bond will cover both licenses, but plumbing licensees must submit a duplicate original bond with the MPCA.

Updates on the rulemaking process

To receive updates via email on the rulemaking process regarding building sewers, sign up using GovDelivery, the same service that allows people to sign up to receive the SSTS Bulletin as well as other news and information from the MPCA. Google "mpca govdelivery" to find the signup page on the Web. Enter your email address and click "Next." Select the box under "Water Rulemaking": Rulemaking: Expedited – SSTS: Building Sewers Connected to Septic Systems and Lapsed Certification Eligibility Reinstatement. That's it. You'll then start receiving updates on the process.

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Point-of-sale SSTS Inspections on the Rise

More counties, cities, townships adopting point-of-sale SSTS inspection programs to help identify/fix problems



programs increased from 2013 to 2014.

In 2013, 225 LGUs responded to the question. Of those, 116 had such a program in place and 109 did not. In 2014, 230 answered the question. Of those, 141 had a program and 89 did not.

In 2013, 52 of 86 reporting counties (60%) said they had a property transfer/SSTS compliance inspection program. For cities, it was 47 of 85 (55%). Sixteen of 52 reporting townships (31%) had a program.

For 2014, 59 of 86 counties (69%) reported a property transfer program. For cities, it was 54 of 84 (64%); for

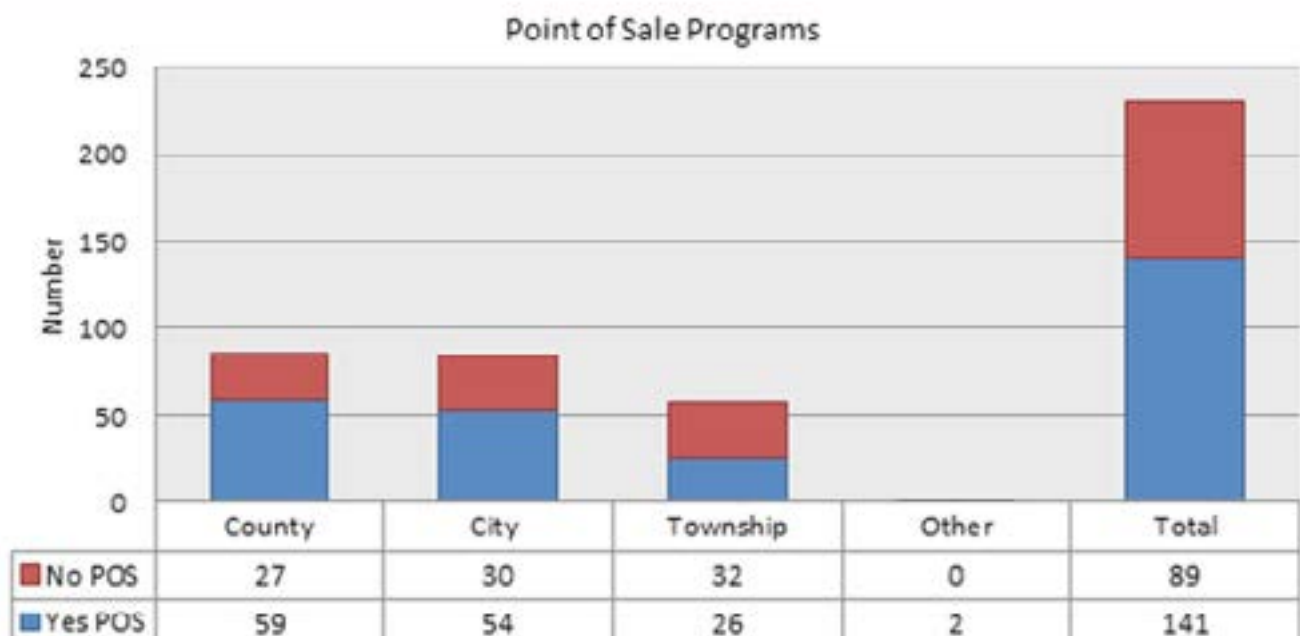
By the MPCA

The questionnaire for the MPCA SSTS Annual Report asks counties, cities and townships that regulate SSTS if they require compliance inspection of a home's septic system before the property can be transferred to new ownership. Based on completed questionnaires received by the MPCA in 2014, the percentage of LGUs with point-of-sale inspection

townships it was 26 out of 58 (45%).

Point-of-sale inspection programs are one of the tools local governments can adopt to identify and fix septic systems that pose an imminent threat to public health, are in need of repair or are too close to groundwater.

The point-of-sale question results reported by the Olmsted TCPA is included with township numbers.





New Procedure for Enforcement Referral

Form/process created for referring SSTS enforcement cases to MPCA

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

SSTS Enforcement Referrals from Local Programs
Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) Program

Doc Type: Request for Information

Purpose/Instructions: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has created a process which allows Local Governmental Units (LGUs) to refer violation(s) of Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) requirements to the MPCA. To facilitate this process, the MPCA has developed the following LGU referral process:

1. The LGU should contact the MPCA regional SSTS enforcement staff to discuss whether or not the violation(s) falls under the authority of the MPCA and should be referred. A list of the MPCA regional staff can be found at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/wastewater/subsurface-sewage-treatment-system-ssts/ssts-staff-who-to-call.html>.
2. If the MPCA regional SSTS enforcement staff indicates that the violation(s) should be referred the LGU should complete a SSTS Enforcement Referral from Local Programs form.

By the MPCA

The MPCA SSTS Compliance and Enforcement unit has recently been given the authority to issue civil citations (tickets) for some of the more common SSTS violations. Under the citation authority, tickets can be issued for violations such as working without a local permit, working without an SSTS license, late submittal of as-builts, and late submittal of inspection reports.

These violations will most commonly be reported to the MPCA by a local governmental unit (LGU) such as a county or city. To ensure we receive all the information needed to pursue enforcement on any SSTS violations and to make the referral process clearer, the MPCA has developed an SSTS Enforcement Referral from Local Programs process and form.

The SSTS Enforcement Referral from Local Programs Process

1. The LGU should call and discuss the violation(s) with regional MPCA SSTS enforcement staff.
2. The LGU needs to complete an SSTS Enforcement Referral from Local Programs form and email or mail the form and any supporting documentation to the regional MPCA SSTS enforcement staff. A copy of the form can be found under the enforcement section of on the MPCA website.
3. Regional MPCA SSTS enforcement staff will review the form and supporting documentation and make a determination on what course of action the MPCA will take to respond to the violation(s).

Follow-up will range from providing technical assistance to issuing a formal enforcement action.

The SSTS Enforcement Referral from Local Programs form should be filled out and submitted to the appropriate MPCA SSTS enforcement staff for any SSTS violation that a LGU is referring to the MPCA. The first page of the form lists out some of the more common violations, but then also includes a spot to add any "other" SSTS violation or violations.

It is important for LGUs to fill out the entire form and provide all of the required documentation when referring violations to the MPCA. Without proper documentation the MPCA cannot initiate an enforcement action. Documentation of a violation can include photographs, copies of correspondence, phone logs, and inspection reports.

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Short Takes, News and Reminders!

MPCA completes three SSTS enforcement cases totalling \$6,165

By the MPCA

During the period of April- June, 2015, the MPCA completed 53 enforcement cases in 31 counties. Three of the 53 MPCA cases (6 percent) were SSTS related. They were located in Racine, Hampton, and Rochester.

Financial penalties totaling \$6,165 for the three cases ranged from \$1,000 to \$3,600. More enforcement summary information can be found on the MPCA's website.



Snorek named to Detroit Lakes SSTS position

Matt Snorek has been named an SSTS inspector for the Detroit Lakes MPCA regional office.

In December, he graduated from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences, Policy, and Management.

Snorek replaces Ian Harrison who took a similar position at the MPCA regional office in Duluth.

Included on the next page is an updated map of MPCA SSTS regional assignments.

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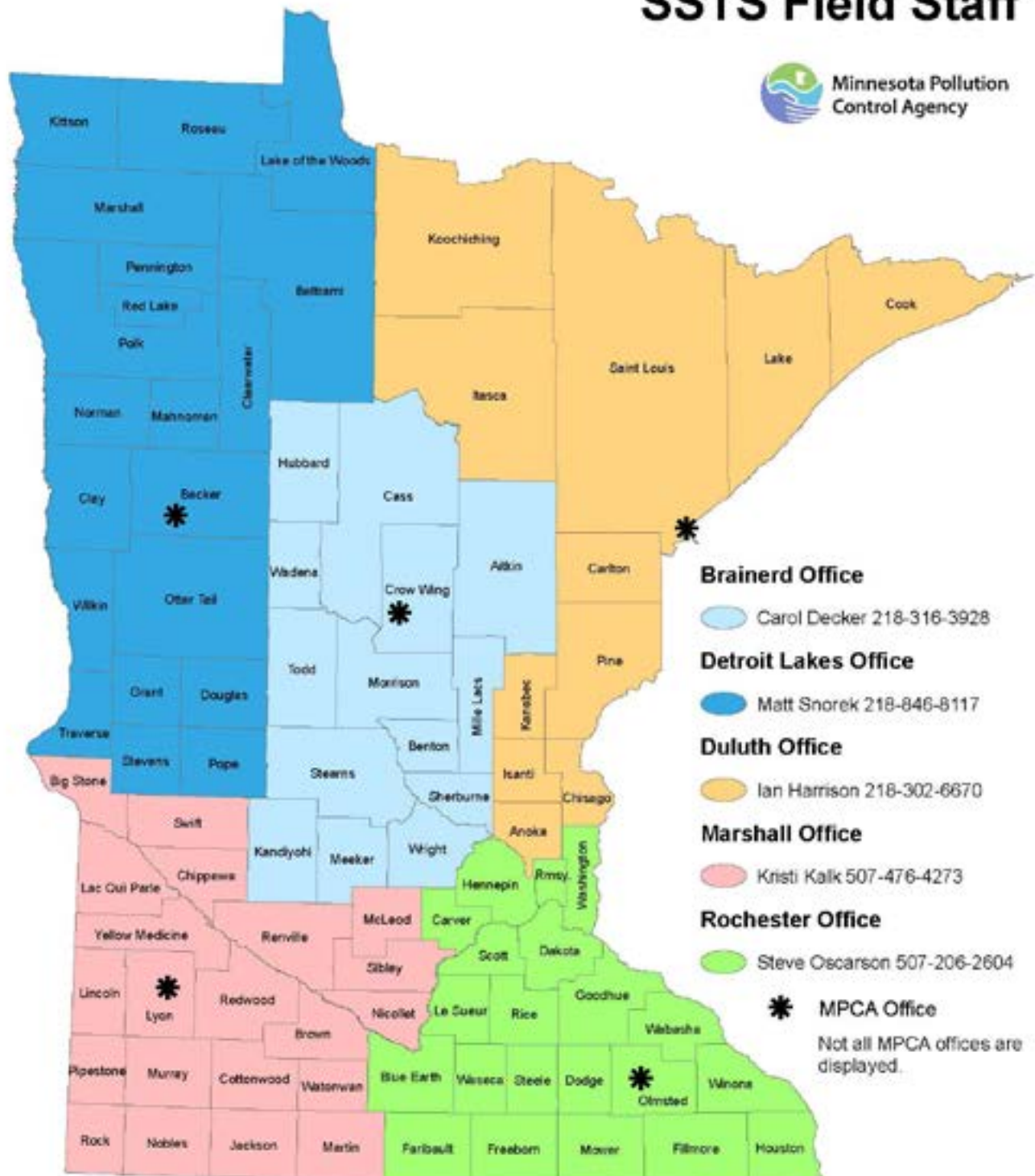
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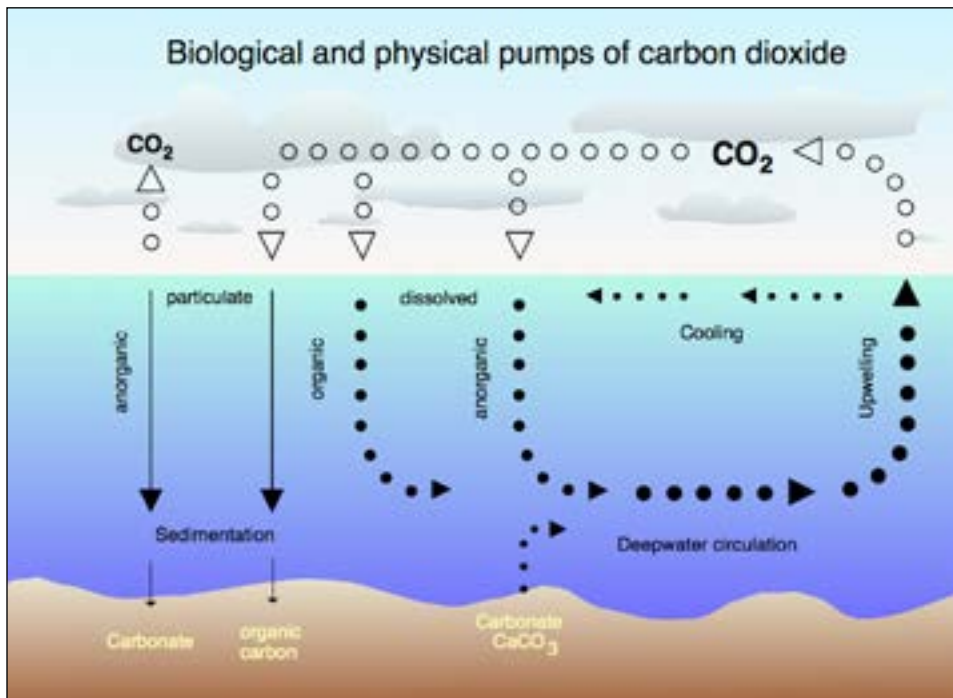
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Tony Ruppert 2014 Scholarship Winners: 3rd Place Essay

The Other CO₂ Problem

By Sophie Halling of Lake Norden, SD, 3rd Place Tony Ruppert Scholarship Winner



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The world's oceans are not only enchanting to the human population, but they are also a source of sustenance. Over billions of years, the oceans have evolved into worlds inside of worlds—dependent upon each other. When one link is taken out of a chain; the chain is no longer useful or functional. A similar situation occurs throughout the ocean; when one part of the web is removed, even the smallest inkling, the entire line of predators following becomes endangered due to the lessened prey. Humans need the world's oceans to survive; food, transportation, recreation, even protection are all things that would simply cease if the oceans were to be removed. One of the most important things that would kill humanity, given it were gone, is oxygen; of which the oceans provide over one third of to the world. It is also the thing that the human race is depleting at an increasing rate. The emission of carbon dioxide from humans is increasing causing ocean acidification and endangerment to not only the oceans and the species that lie within, but to the people as well.

The levels of carbon dioxide in the ocean are rising at a rapid rate causing the acidification of the waters. Acidification is similar to "warming" during the spring; when the snow begins to thaw and melt even though temperatures are still chilly; the

ocean is becoming more acidic without actually being considered an acid on the pH scale. To understand the actual impact of the changing chemistry of the ocean waters on the human population, the size of the oceans and what the oceans do for living creatures must be considered. The oceans cover over seventy percent of the total surface area of the earth; more importantly they convert over one-third of the carbon dioxide from the air into oxygen for living creatures to live and breathe. Carbon dioxide exists naturally in the air; it is essential for plants because they take in carbon dioxide in order to carry out life processes. On the other hand, though, carbon dioxide is also a byproduct of humans. The amount emitted is too great—about twenty two tons every day mixes with the oceans-- and it becomes harmful to the ocean environment.

The carbon dioxide emitted into the air by humans is changing the chemistry of the ocean. When carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere, over

one-third of it is absorbed by the oceans. The carbon dioxide then reacts with the water to form carbonic acid. The excess carbonic acid molecules will then combine with a water molecule to form a bicarbonate ion and a hydrogen ion; thus resulting in the decrease of the pH of the seawater. There are several reactions that can happen between water, carbon dioxide, bicarbonate, carbonate, and carbonic acid; however, the reactions that occur most infrequently are the ones lowering the pH of the oceans. The pH scale is a logarithmic scale measuring the concentration of hydrogen ions, and the higher the concentration the lower the pH and vice versa. A seven on the pH scale is neutral and anything below a seven is acidic, therefore, anything above a seven to a fourteen is basic. Because the pH scale is a logarithmic function, every drop of one on the pH scale is an increase of a factor of ten of the concentration of hydrogen ions; therefore, a drop of .1 is about a thirty percent increase of the concentration of hydrogen ions. The pH of the oceans has decreased by about thirty percent from the preindustrial 8.2 to the present 8.1. The acidity is expected to increase about one hundred fifty percent by the end of the century leaving oceans with a

Acidification of Oceans, Continued on Page 11

Acidification of Oceans, *Continued from Page 10*

staggering pH of 7.8-7.9.

The lowered pH of the oceans is affecting the life that exists within the world of the seas. The metabolic rate and immune responses of some of the marine animals is decreasing because the carbonate ions in the ocean water are depleting due to the increasing acidity. The marine life, especially those having shells, need the carbonate ions in order to calcify their shells. With lesser amounts of carbonate, the animals must work harder to make their shells; which in return leaves them exhausted and unable to create a thick, sturdy shell. Not only does the acidity affect their energy for making the shells, it also begins to break them down placing the shelled creatures in danger and sinking their population. Not only are the marine animals in danger, but their habitats are as well. Heterotrophs, such as coral and algae, are also experiencing the same thing, for they too need the carbonate in order to grow and repopulate. One in every four organisms seeks their home amongst the coral reefs, but with the acidity their homes are crumbling. The organisms in the most trouble are small, but they are a necessary link in the food chain; without them, the larger autotrophs have no food and nutrients; therefore, the whole food chain is affected. Essentially the rich biological diversity of the oceans would turn into a dreary world of weeds.

Not only is the acidification of the oceans affecting the marine life, but it is also affecting the human population. Food, transportation, recreation, even protection are just a few of the things that the ocean provides for humans, but they are destroying what has been handed to them. The sea creatures becoming endangered are the food for the fish which are a huge food for a large chunk of the population. Many, in fact, rely solely on the fish in order to put food on the table for survival. The pH of the oceans range lower in the cold water areas and this coincides largely with the fisheries. Commercial fishing is the third largest driver of economic activity in Alaska; fifty percent of seafood in America is caught in the waters of Alaska. Over 70,000 jobs are powered by the seafood industry; that's more than oil, mining, and gas all combined. The number of available jobs is dropping due to the excess amount of carbon dioxide being released into the air.

There are many potential fixes to the problem at hand with the overabundance of carbon dioxide being emitted into the open air and absorbed by the oceans. The problem must be viewed in a much larger context; humans are creating the problem, so therefore they must be the ones to solve it. In order to restore the world's oceans, there must be a lesser emission of carbon dioxide. Now, in order to follow through with this, humans need to utilize the different recourses around them. Instead of setting things on fire for energy, try to use the sun, the wind, tides, and the heat of the earth's core for energy. If only people could move beyond the fossil

fuels and open their eyes to reality, then they will see where this great problem is leading. Protection areas are also an idea that will help to decrease pollution around the coasts allowing the marine life to flourish once again.

In an instant, humans literally have begun to consume the earth. The emission level of carbon dioxide is much too high letting the oceans absorb too much leading to the decrease in the pH levels. This puts not only the marine life of the oceans in danger, but also the jobs and food for the human population in danger. Thousands of jobs are powered by the oceans, but those jobs are being thrown out by the humans themselves. Other resources must be utilized in order to lower the amount of carbon dioxide being released into the air so the pH does not double in the next century. Oceans must be given that chance to prosper and become whole again. If fish populations are restored then the human population will benefit greatly from this. The future with oceans needs to be restored, and it is up to the human race to provide that. In a great tragedy, one can see it coming; let's not make this a great tragedy, let's make this place our home.

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 "What is Ocean Acidification?" . Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 1 Jan. 2014. Web. 19, May 2014.

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Tony Ruppert 2014 Scholarship Winners: 3rd Place Essay

The Water Crisis

by Jacob Van Dyken of Prinsburg, MN, 3rd Place Tony Ruppert Scholarship Winner



Discharge pipe. Photo obtained from USDA website.

What is the number one resource in the world? The only resource that everyone needs to live? The answer for that is water. Experts say that the human body can only survive

up to a week without water (Ogunjimi, 2013). Water is essential to human life, and without water, people and society cannot exist.

In the world that we live in, with all of its technological and medicinal advancements, you wouldn't think that water shortages or unclean water would be a problem still. Unfortunately though, worldwide, 2.3 billion people contract a disease as a direct result of poor water quality, including half of the people living in big cities in Africa and Asia (APEC, 2014). Faced with that information, we can look at the causes and solutions of this problem, in order to attempt to make this world a better place for generations to come.

One of the major contributors to poor water quality are industrial buildings that burn a lot of coal or other fossil fuels, and emit a lot of smog into the air. This smog can cause acid rain, which finds its way into streams and rivers. These streams and rivers wind their way down to a big city, where

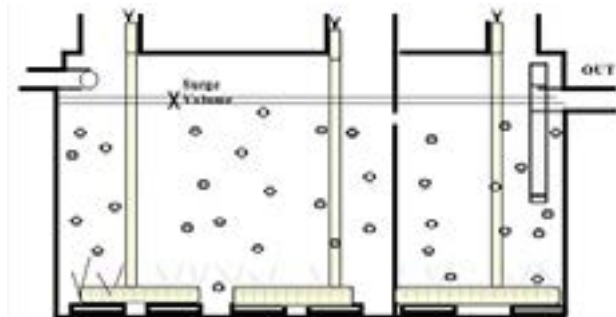
The Water Crisis, Continued on Page 13

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The Water Crisis, Continued from Page 12

people drink the water, without knowing the pollutants are in the water, or being unable to filter them out.

Pesticide run off from farms is another common way that water is polluted. In a world of over 7 billion people, the demand for food is high. With limited farmland, farmers are looking for way to increase their yield per acre. Also, any crops they do plant, they don't want to have destroyed by weeds or bugs, so they spray them with a considerable amount of pesticides and weed killers. This becomes a bad thing when that spray finds itself in our streams and rivers.

Arguably the biggest contributor to poor water quality worldwide is untreated sewage. Worldwide, only about one-third of sewage from urban areas is treated, meaning that two-thirds is untreated sewage that is being pumped straight into rivers and lakes (APEC, 2014). This causes millions of deaths each year, and leaves even more people unable to live healthy lives. In countries like India, where over a billion people live, untreated sewage is a major problem. An estimated 80% of sewage in India is untreated (Presse, 2013). In one study, only 160 out of 8,000 towns had sewage systems and a treatment plant (Presse, 2013).

If you drink water that is infected with raw sewage, you can contract a number of diseases, including cholera, malaria, and diarrhea (Information for Action, N/A). But not only does it affect the drinking water, it also can pollute local seafood, making eating it very dangerous. As a result, places where untreated sewage is a problem, everyday things like drinking and eating become more like playing the lottery; except this time, if you win, you lose.

So what are steps that can be taken in order to try and fix some of these problems? Around your home, things like properly disposing of oil from your car, and proper application of lawn fertilizers and chemicals can be beneficial (USGS, 1996). Being a supporter of clean water in your community and encouraging your town officials to reduce pollution in your area is a good way to get involved (NRDC, 2012).

On a worldwide scale, bigger steps need to be taken. Clean energy options like hydroelectric, nuclear, wind, and solar among others need to be expanded and used more. Either more accurate application of pesticides to fields needs to happen, or the run off needs to be contained better. In countries where sewage is pumped untreated into the water supply, filtration plants need to be erected in order to cut down on water pollution (APEC, 2014). Either that, or more sewage treatment plants need to be constructed so that the water is clean before it enters the public water supply. Some countries have started using their sewage as fertilizer, which means that not only are the governments making money, they are pumping clean water back into the water supply (Information for Action, N/A). Unfortunately, this is not a common practice,

as most governments deem it too expensive.

Our world is in a water crisis. Millions of people are dying worldwide because of unclear or inefficient water supplies. Steps need to be taken to solve this preventable problem. But in order for this to happen, it needs to be a joint effort of many countries, recognizing that there is a problem and from there working towards a solution that will be best for everyone.

Works Cited:

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DEED Helps Tourism Businesses Replace Septic Tanks



The Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) offers a Tourism Business Septic Tank Replacement Program that makes low-interest financing available to existing tourism-related businesses that provide overnight lodging and need to replace a failed septic system. Participation loans in cooperation with financial institutions can be made for up to 50 percent of the total cost of the project.

Eligibility

Corporations, sole proprietorships or partnerships engaged in an existing tourism-related business that provide overnight

lodging, including resorts, bed and breakfast inns, hotels, motels, ski lodges, campgrounds and recreational vehicle trailer parks are eligible. Projects that replace an existing septic system that has failed are eligible. However, project costs incurred more than 30 days before submission of a completed application are ineligible. Applications are not considered complete until DEED has approved the loan.

Terms and Interest Rates

Federal funds are used in conjunction with loaned funds from financial institutions. The maximum state loan may not exceed 50 percent of the total project costs or \$65,000 whichever is less. The interest rate for septic system replacement loans is fixed at 2.0 percent for a maximum of 10 years. The interest rate for the banks' share of the loan is negotiated between the bank and the borrower. All loans must be secured by collateral and personal guarantee.

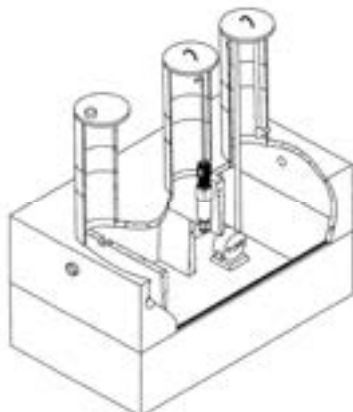
Applications

Loan applications are reviewed and evaluated to determine eligibility, credit worthiness and a number of other factors. If the loan is approved, DEED enters into a loan participation agreement with the financial institution. For more information, contact Bradley Simenson at (651) 259-7428 or toll-free at 1-800-657-3858.

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Around the State: Accident Highlights Safety Issue

Man dies in trench collapse in Lakeville

LAKEVILLE, MN—One man is dead after a trench collapse on a construction site in Lakeville on Tuesday, June 30th.

Police were called to the area of 179th Street West and Idawood Path around 3:45 p.m. on a report that a man in his early 50s was trapped in a trench.

A machine-dug trench collapsed on 51-year-old Gerald Thompson of Apple Valley, according to Deputy Chief John Kormann.

The person operating the backhoe was the victim's brother who tried to rescue him but was unsuccessful, Deputy Chief Kormann said.


According to Kormann, the trench was roughly six to eight feet deep. Thompson was helping to install drain tile when the walls of the trench collapsed in on him.

Kormann said several people on the construction crew tried to help the man before authorities arrived, but the trench was too dangerous to get him out before he passed.

When firefighters and first responders reached the accident site to aid in the recovery process, the trench was so unstable that crews were unable to recover the body until roughly three hours after Thompson was initially covered by the collapsing trench walls.

Thompson was an employee of DSM Excavating, a subcontractor from Hastings hired by Ryland Homes.





OSHA arrived on site Wednesday, July 2 to assist the Lakeville Police Dept. in the investigation. Wet soil was initially thought to be the cause of the collapse. Investigators also are checking to see if inadequate protections played a role in the fatal collapse.

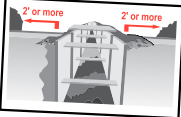


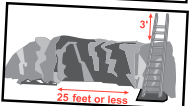
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Two workers are killed every month in trench collapses. Each worker in a trench shall be protected from a cave-in by an adequate protective system. Some of the protective systems for trenches are:


- Sloped for stability; or 
- Cut to create stepped benched grades (Type A or B soil only); or 
- Supported by a system made with materials such as posts, beams, shores or planking and hydraulic jacks; or 
- Shielded by a trench box to protect workers in a trench. 

Excavated or other materials and equipment must be at least 2 feet back from the edge of a trench; and 

A safe way to exit must be provided within 25 feet of workers in a trench. 

A competent person must inspect trenches daily and when conditions change. An unprotected trench is an early grave. Do not enter an unprotected trench.

For more information:



**Occupational
Safety and Health
Administration**
U.S. Department of Labor
www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)
TTY (887) 889-5627

OSHA 3245-09R-11

Medications, cosmetic ingredients and endocrine disruptors found in Minnesota lakes and streams

The following is an excerpt from an MPCA news store released June 2, 2015:

ST. PAUL, MN— A new study released by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) confirms that lakes and streams across Minnesota are contaminated by a variety of pharmaceuticals, ingredients from personal care products and endocrine-disrupting compounds....

"We have known for some time that these compounds frequently turn up downstream from wastewater treatment plants," said the study's lead author, Mark Ferrey. "And recent research has shown that a surprising number are found even in remote lakes or upstream waters. But we have a lot to learn about how they end up there."

Ferrey noted that septic systems and stormwater runoff are among the potential sources of contamination to surface water not impacted by wastewater treatment plants. While it is not yet clear how these compounds are entering more remote lakes and streams, Ferrey noted that it is possible that these contaminants are sometimes being distributed by rainfall or atmospheric transport of dust to which these chemicals are attached. For the rest of the story, go to <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/about-mPCA/mpca-news/current-news-releases/medications-cosmetic-ingredients-and-endocrine-disruptors-found-in-minnesota-lakes-and-streams.html>

Short Takes, Reminders and News!

Clean Water Partnership grant funding suspended but loan program continues

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) was not awarded grant funds for the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) program from the 2015 Legislature. As a result, there will be no CWP grant funding rounds in 2016 or 2017. Current CWP projects will continue until their agreement end dates, the last of which will be June 30, 2018.

Although there will be no grant funding, there is almost \$11 million available for CWP loans in the next biennium. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, as well as the Governor's Buffer Initiative, the CWP loan program is developing an open

funding process for loan-only applications that allows project sponsors to apply and receive loan funding at any time during the year. Details of the process are still being finalized, but are expected to be available soon.

If you have any questions please contact Pete Fastner of the MPCA Watershed Section at 651-757-2349, peter.fastner@state.mn.us

Source: *Waterfront Bulletin*, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 08/17/2015

Executive Director's Report, Continued from Page 3

with the State regulators from the MPCA is always most welcomed, and this is your best opportunity to have direct interaction with them, hear their ideas in group settings, and find out how they look at our industry both present and in the future.

In addition, this is also the time that MOWA explains the ins and outs of what happened during the year, and what we think will happen in 2016. This organization continues to evolve, and is very interested in hearing from you. Want to

hear all about it? The Convention is the place to listen (and to speak out) at the Annual meeting. Want to be more a part of the Board decision making process? Let us know if you are interested in running for a spot on the Board. Elections are held at the Convention, and we are looking for a few good souls to fill the posts of departing Board Members.

There will be more on the Convention in the next Little Digger, but mark your calendar for those dates.

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2015 OSTP Certification Course - Descriptions and Offerings

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ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMENT PROGRAM



Introduction to Onsite Systems (15 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$355 - Exam: Yes

This 15-hour workshop is the foundation for all SSTS certification courses and is best completed prior to the other workshops. It prepares participants for the Basic exam and provides an overview of onsite treatment options and concepts. Enrollment in this workshop includes a copy of the *Manual for SSTS Professionals in MN*

Topics include:

- Treatment of wastewater
- Site evaluation
- Wastewater characteristics
- Soil treatment systems

10-3 Alexandria - Douglas Cty 11/30-12/2/15 Deadline: 11/23/15
Public Works Building

Installing Onsite Systems (12 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$260 - Exam: Yes

This 12-hour workshop prepares attendees for the Installer exam and provides information about proper installation practices.

PREREQUISITE: Introduction to Onsite Systems

Topics include:

- Construction planning
- Tools for installing
- Construction practices
- Pipelayer certification

112-3 Alexandria - Douglas Cty 12/3-4/15 Deadline: 11/26/15
Public Works Building

Service Provider (21 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$485 - Exam: Yes

This 21-hour workshop prepares attendees for the Service Provider exam and offers an in-depth look into the care of all system types. This course is based on the National O&M Service Provider materials and will include a field component. It is intended for system maintainers, designers or MPCA certified operators who need training for soil-based system management.

PREREQUISITE: Introduction to Onsite Systems

Topics include the management of:

- Type I systems
- Type IV systems
- Cluster systems
- System troubleshooting

49-2 St. Cloud - Moose Lodge 10/6-9/15 Deadline: 9/30/15

Soils Continuing Education (6 Soils-specific Direct Credits)

Fee: \$235 or \$400 with [Munsell Color Guide](#)

Exam: No

This 6-hour course couples classroom and field training to meet soils-specific MPCA continuing educational requirements for designers and inspectors. Munsell Color Guides are available for \$165 and Sand Cards for \$10.

Topics include:

- Regional geology and soils
- Local soil hydrology information
- Soils observations
- System siting and design

55-7 Onamia-Rolf Olson Center 9/22/15 Deadline: 9/15/15

General Continuing Education (12 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$260 Exam: No

This 12-hour workshop is designed to meet the continuing education requirement for SSTS professional registration. The topics will be varied to give a wide range of information for SSTS professionals.

Topics include:

- Rule change implications
- Pressure distribution
- Working on difficult sites
- MPCA update

60-3 N Mankato- Best Western 11/18-19/15 Deadline: 11/11/15

60-4 New Ulm- Holiday Inn 12/15-16/15 Deadline: 12/8/15

Installer Continuing Education (12 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$260 Exam: No

This 12-hour workshop will meet the continuing education requirements for any registration but is specifically tailored for Installers. All information will be provided from the perspective of a system installer.

Topics Include:

- Construction safety
- Keys to proper installation
- Pumps and dosing
- Rule change implications

69-3 St. Cloud - Moose Lodge 12/17-18/15 Deadline: 12/10/15

Pipelayer Certification (2 Direct Credits, 1 Related Credit)

Course begins at 1:00PM

Fee: \$100 or \$50 as add-on to enrollment in Installer CE

Exam: Yes

This 3-hour workshop is once again offered this year to accommodate a change in the Minnesota Plumbing Code that requires all septic system installers be either certified pipelayers, licensed plumbers, or registered apprentices in order to install sewer or water service pipes outside of a building in Minnesota.

Topics include:

- MN Plumbing Code
- Pipelaying
- Code compliance bond packet instruction

92-3 St. Cloud - Moose Lodge 12/18/15 Deadline: 12/1/15

Enroll online at: septic.umn.edu
Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

OSTP, 173 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St Paul, MN 55108

Fax: 612-624-6434

Phone: 800-322-8642

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The **LITTLE DIGGER** is a bi-monthly publication of the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association.

Editor: Carla Tourin **E-mail:** MOWAcarla@aol.com

The articles printed in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this organization. Readers are encouraged to respond to the articles with their own points-of-view. We welcome industry-related comments or articles. Information or inquiries should be sent to any of the following: MN Onsite Wastewater Association, 5200 Willson Road, Suite 310, Edina, MN 55424 Phone: (952) 345-1141 Toll Free: 888-810-4178 Website: www.mowa-mn.com



2015 MOWA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership: ☐ **Renewal** ☐ **New Member**

- ☐ **Individual Member** \$240 (1 person)
 ☐ **Business Group /Government Unit** \$340 (up to 5 people; \$100 /person after 5)
 ☐ **Student** \$140 (1 person)
 ☐ **Life-time**
☐ **Honorary**

Note: Your MOWA Membership includes one NOWRA membership

Memberships are based on calendar year - After July 1st, new members pay \$140-individual / \$190-business or gov't groups for remainder of 2015

Individual/Group Contact: This person will be listed as the NOWRA member on the Septic Locator website. They will be listed first in all MOWA publications. Please print clearly.

1st Member _____ **Company Name** _____
 Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
 Title _____ Phone _____ Mobile/800# _____ Fax _____
 Email _____ Website _____ County _____

Circle the counties you work in: *Needed for Directory and Website.*

Statewide 88	Clay14	Hubbard29	Marshall44	Pipestone59	Steele74
Aitkin1	Clearwater15	Isanti30	Martin45	Polk60	Stevens75
Anoka2	Cook16	Itasca31	McLeod46	Pope61	Swift76
Becker3	Cottonwood17	Jackson32	Meeker47	Ramsey62	Todd77
Beltrami4	Crow Wing18	Kanabec33	Mille Lacs48	Red Lake63	Traverse78
Benton5	Dakota19	Kandiyohi34	Morrison49	Redwood64	Wabasha79
Big Stone6	Dodge20	Kittson35	Mower50	Renville65	Wadena80
Blue Earth7	Douglas21	Koochiching36	Murray51	Rice66	Waseca81
Brown8	Faribault22	Lac qui Parle Lake37	Nicollet52	Rock67	Washington82
Carlton9	Fillmore23	Lake38	Nobles53	Roseau68	Watsonwan83
Carver10	Freeborn24	Lake of the Woods39	Norman54	Scott69	Wilkin84
Cass11	Goodhue25	Le Sueur40	Olmsted55	Sherburne70	Winona85
Chippewa12	Grant26	Lincoln41	Otter Tail56	Sibley71	Wright86
Chisago13	Hennepin27	Lyon42	Pennington57	St. Louis72	Yellow Medicine87
	Houston28	Mahnomen43	Pine58	Stearns73	

Information: (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Installer ☐ Pumper ☐ Designer ☐ Inspector ☐ Gov't Regulator ☐ Educator ☐ Service Provider ☐ Student
☐ Soil Scientist ☐ Professional Engineer ☐ Manufacturer ☐ Operator/Maintenance ☐ Supplier ☐ Other: _____

Additional Business/Government Members:

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3rd Member _____ Title _____ County _____
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(Please list additional business/government group members on separate sheet with complete contact information.)

Publications: Would you prefer receiving 'Little Digger' newsletters via ... ☐ Regular Mail ☐ Electronically

We currently send one publication per address to business/government groups. Contact the MOWA office if you'd like additional copies.

Additional NOWRA Memberships: MOWA membership fees include one NOWRA membership per company/organization. List names of members who want additional NOWRA memberships here: Cost - \$40 per person.

2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____

Payment:

(Please print)

MOWA Membership \$ _____ + Add'l NOWRA Memberships = **Amount: \$** _____

- ☐ Check enclosed (Payable to MOWA) ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

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Note: Dues payable to MOWA are not deductible as a charitable contribution but may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense.



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