



**CONNECTICUT ONSITE WASTEWATER RECYCLING ASSOCIATION  
SUPPORTING CONNECTICUT AND OUR ENVIRONMENT**

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## Summer 2017



### COWRA'S 2017 SEPTIC COURSES

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the President

New Member Profiles

Technical Standards  
2018 Revisions Draft

David Evans &  
Legislation Bill Proposals

Water Treatment  
Wastewater

COWRA'S 2017  
Installer Course

COWRA'S 2017  
Pumper/Cleaner School

Dates to Remember  
Soil Workshop

#### Inserts

Substitute House Bill No.  
7222

EHS Circular Letter  
# 2017-17

Mailing List Notification

Easement Exception  
Off-site SSDS Application

Soil Training Workshop  
Agenda

#### Brochure Information

COWRA Brochures are  
available to our  
Members at \$50.00 per  
100, including shipping.

## Letter from the President

Dear COWRA Members,

I hope you all are well and busy with septic installs and pumping. This has been a very nice spring. I am hoping the drought is a thing of the past. Many of us spent part of the winter plowing snow but were not as busy as we would have liked.

The State has been reviewing changes for the 2018 Technical Standard. We have placed those proposed changes in this newsletter. These changes will be discussed at upcoming Code Advisory Meetings. If you have concerns that you would like COWRA bring up at these meetings, please email or call us.

Best,  
Frank Talarico

## NEW MEMBER PROFILES COWRA WELCOMES

**Alfonso Bernardi**, joined us from American Rooter in Watertown CT. Alfonso is employed at American Rooter which has been in business since 1980. American Rooter's services include: septic cleaning, inspections, cameras/videos, drain cleaning, grease trap cleaning and drainage. They have added a new service, pipe-lining. Their services cover the entire state of CT. To learn more about American Rooter, visit them on the web at [www.americanrooter.com](http://www.americanrooter.com)

**Robert Klybas** joined us from Blake Group Holding, Inc. His company is located in East Windsor. Their services include: septic installation, and septic inspections. The Blake Group is also a supplier of pumps, drainage products, water treatment systems, plastic septic products and septic tanks. Robert has been with Blake Group Holdings over 25 years. The Blake Group has been in business since 1967. To learn more about The Blake Group visit them on the web at [www.blakeequip.com](http://www.blakeequip.com)  
Problematic

**Blair Carignan** joined us from Saltwater Septic LLC. Blair is the owner of Saltwater Septic which is located in Niantic CT. Blair provides service to southeastern CT. Those services include: septic installation, septic cleaning, inspections, cameras/videos, waterjet and grease trap cleaning. Blair has been in the septic industry for over 7 years and decided to go out on his own in the beginning of 2017. To learn more about Saltwater Septic LLC visit Blair on the web at: [www.saltwaterseptic.com](http://www.saltwaterseptic.com)

## NEW MEMBER PROFILES CONTINUED

**Robert Chamberlain** joined us from Chamberlain Landscape Services Inc. Bob is the owner of Chamberlain Landscape, which is located in Brewster NY. Bob's company services the Fairfield County area and has been in business since 1992. His services include: Landscaping, drainage, site development, patio and step installations, water features and snow removal. Bob was a student in COWRA's 2017 Septic installer course and will soon extend his services to include septic installation. We wish Bob well on his State exam. To learn more about Chamberlain Landscape Services Inc. visit Bob on the web at:

[www.chamberlainlandscape.com](http://www.chamberlainlandscape.com)

**Mike Bosco** joined us in May of this year. Mike is one of the owners of B&B Septic LLC, which is located in Harwinton, CT. Mike was a student in our 2017 Installer course. B&B Septic LLC is family owned and operated by a father and son team, who pride themselves on honest work and customer satisfaction. Mike's services include: septic inspections, pumping/cleaning, grease traps cleaning, cameras/videos, power snaking and emergency services. B&B Septic, LLC has been in business for over 20 years. To learn more about Mike's company visit him on the web at: [www.bbsepticllc.com](http://www.bbsepticllc.com).

## STATUTE AND REGULATORY CHANGES AT THE DPH

Attached are two inserts forwarded from DPH concerning July 1, 2017 changes to the Statutes and Regulations (including the Technical Standards) concerning review and approval of large SSDS soon to be under DPH jurisdiction. The current DPH regulations were applicable to all septic systems with design flows of 5,000 GPD or less. After July 1, DPH will be able to review and approve all systems with design flows up to 7,500 GPD. Bob Scully's memo states all current sections of the Code, B100a, B103 and B104 will apply to these larger systems and it is assumed that Bob's group will be working on making slight modifications to those three Code sections and the Technical Standards to accommodate these larger systems.

Our Association members have always installed both the smaller less-than-5k systems and the larger DEEP systems so that part of our involvement should not be different. Hopefully what will change is the time required to review and approve plans for these larger systems with flows between 5k and 7.5k. In the past, DEEP usually took considerably more time in the soil testing, plan review and approval process. Now, some of their former load will be shifted to both State and local health departments and projects should move through the process in a timely fashion.

### Technical Standards Revisions 2018 Draft

The DPH is planning to revise the Technical Standards in 2018. The following are proposed changes to the standards as of the March 2, 2017 Code Advisory Meeting.

Proposed Revisions to the Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems (Technical Standards)

- Next Publication: Revisions to the Technical Standards are now planned to be published on January 1, 2018.
- Proposed Revisions: A preliminary summary of proposed revisions is being prepared by DEEP, and once

completed, it will be sent electronically to CAC and other interested parties and posted on DPH website.

- Central System Leaching System Sizing for Single-family Homes & Residential Outbuildings: Single-family vs multi-family category, residential outbuildings with and without kitchen, or laundry area
- Water Treatment Wastewater (WTW): In the event the WTW delegation transfers jurisdiction to DPH, the following tentative items will be incorporated into Section X:
  - All WTW shall be authorized to be discharged on-site, including radionuclide treatment discharges. Three WTW disposal systems available: WTW Dispersal System, Subsurface Sewage Disposal System (SSDS), Holding Tank System.
  - WTW Dispersal System storage volume: 1.5 times anticipated discharge volume, stone filled excavations provide 40% void space (storage volume) and conversion calculations for cubic footage volume to gallons to be cited.
  - WTW Dispersal System and Holding Tank System siting (minimum separating distances): sewage system: see Table 1 Item Q, property line: 15 feet\*, open watercourse: 25 feet\*, public water supply reservoir: 100 feet, and water supply wells\*: <10 gpm: 75 feet, 10 to 50 gpm: 150, >50 gpm: 200. \*Local health department can reduce distances on existing developed sites when warranted based on site limitations; however water supply well reduction only applies to private wells and a minimum distance of 25 feet shall be provided.
  - WTW Dispersal System minimum separation above maximum groundwater: 12 inches, ledge rock: 24 inches.
  - WTW Dispersal Systems and Holding Tank Systems in vehicular travel areas shall be H-20 load rated
  - WTW Dispersal System and Holding Tank Systems installations require advance approval from the local health department and 24 hour minimum advance notice shall be provided prior to commencement of installation, sketch showing proposed system and siting to establish compliance with above noted items shall be submitted, no license required for WTW disposal system installers; however installer shall be noted.
  - WTW Disposal System and Holding Tank System as-built drawings shall be submitted to local health department and local health departments may request an inspection prior to covering the WTW Dispersal System or Holding Tank System.
  - Language concerning authorized discharges to SSDSs to be updated, and WTW discharges to SSDSs shall be approved in advance by the local health department and only discharges authorized in the Technical Standards shall be authorized.
  - Pending: DPH review and approval of authorized discharges to SSDSs from Water Treatment Devices. Additional info needed on the nature and of volumes of various WTWs, especially non-softener wastewater. Review of possible WTW discharges to SSDSs to be vetted with CAC, CT Well Water Association, and other interested parties.

## DAVID EVANS OF EVANS ASSOCIATES

David Evans has been monitoring the CT legislature for any proposed bills that might affect our industry. For over 25 years he has looked out for our industry's interests. On March 7, 2017 David and Frank Talarico attended a meeting at the Legislative offices, concerning a proposed bill that might have affected our industry.



## STATE OF CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### Proposed Bills for the January 2017 Session

Proposed Bill No. 6243 LCO No. 2251 \*02251\*  
Referred to the Committee on Public Health

This proposal is an Act concerning Department of Public Health Standards for and oversight of onsite subsurface sewage treatment and disposal systems. This will allow the Public Health Department to create technical standards for and provide oversight of onsite subsurface sewage treatment and disposal systems utilizing advanced technology.

### Proposed Bill to Intergrade Municipal Health Departments into Regional Health Districts

Proposed Bill No. 7170 LCO No. 4097 \_\_\_PH\_\_\_\*  
Referred to the Committee on Public Health

This proposal is an Act concerning the Department of Health's recommendation regarding the integration of Municipal Health Departments into Regional Health Districts.

Health Districts were formed years ago so that smaller towns could share Health Department services. It was a way to, among other things, save money. Currently there are 20 Health Districts and 72 local Health Departments. The original regionalization proposal suggested County Health Districts. It also included an astronomical fee per town to pay for it. This idea went by the wayside primarily because of the proposed cost and opted to go with Council of Governments (COGS) instead of Counties. The idea of regionalization has met with resistance from the Directors as well as the CT Environmental Health Association. There are currently 8 counties and 9 COGS. If implemented, there would only be one Director of Health per COG.

This proposal caused alarm within the septic installer industry and among Sanitarians across the State. On March 7, 2017 there was a public hearing held at the Legislative offices in Hartford. Frank Talarico attended that meeting. Frank said that most of the Health districts throughout the State of CT where represented at the meeting. Most who attended and spoke were against the regionalization of the district health departments. This proposal to integrate the municipal health department into regional health districts was proposed by the DEEP Commissioner. Several other Bills related to this proposal were introduced as a means of preventing Bill No. 7170.

**Proposed Bill No. 5757** Introduced by: REP. STANESKI,

119th District:

***AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FROM REQUIRING THE CONSOLIDATION OF MUNICIPAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES.***

**Proposed Bill No. 5169** Introduced by: REP. CHEESEMAN, 37th District:

***AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FROM CONSOLIDATING THE DISTRICT DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES.***

**Proposed Bill No. 5765** Introduced by: REP. Carpino, 32<sup>nd</sup> District and Sen. Doyle, 9<sup>th</sup> District

**Proposed Bill No. 6011** Introduced by: REP. FUSCO, 81st District

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF DISTRICT DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES.***

**Proposed Bill No. 6033** Introduced by: REP. DELNICKI, 14th District.

***AN ACT PROHIBITING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE DISTRICT DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH OR MUNICIPAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES.*** Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened: That title 19a of the general statutes be amended to prohibit the Department of Public Health from consolidating the district departments of health or municipal health authorities

**Statement of Purpose for Bills No. 5757, 5169, 5765, 6011 and 6033:** To allow for the existing health district structure to be maintained. At this point in time this Proposed Bill No. 7170 did not receive a vote and therefore did not become law. However, this happened because of the outcry from those affected by the potential passing of this Bill. The subsequent onslaught of other proposed Bills to stop Bill No.7170 from being enacted proves that when people raise their voices loud enough, those voices will be heard.

## WATER TREATMENT WASTEWATER

DEEP/DPH Delegation Agreement: Although the draft delegation agreement to transfer jurisdiction for on-site water treatment wastewater (WTW) disposal from DEEP to DPH, on sites with septic systems permitted by local health departments has not been finalized, agreement appears close. A DEEP/DPH meeting is planned to hopefully wrap up the agreement and to coordinate next steps, which include revocation of the existing LFWTW General Permit, development of regulations and revisions to the Technical Standards. WTW ground discharges are not authorized under the latest draft. Filter options to prevent clogging of WTW Dispersal Systems to be allowed but not required.

This will be discussed further at the next Code Advisory Committee meeting.

## COWRA'S 2017 COURSES

COWRA's 2017 Installer School began on January 19, 2017 with 42 students. This was a very dedicated group of students, most of whom work all day and then drive a considerable distance to sit in

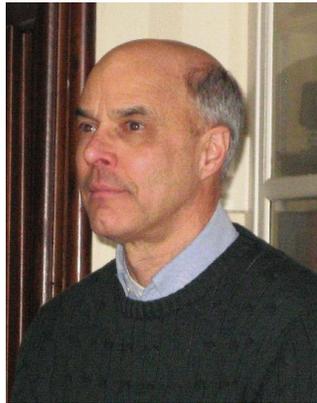
class for another 3 hours, then drive home. Our students come from all over the State of Connecticut. This year we had students who traveled from Massachusetts and New York, as their businesses are near the CT border. I am sure many of our students dragged themselves through their Friday workday, exhausted during the six weeks of the Installer School. However, this year's class was made up of very bright students, who should go on to be excellent installers.

For many years COWRA has been blessed with dedicated members of our organization who volunteer their time to teach both our Installer Course and Pumper/Cleaner Course. These members, who so generously give their time to teach our courses, are invaluable to our organization.

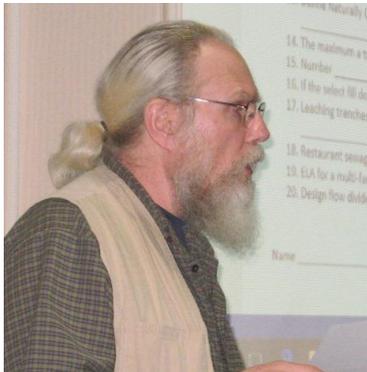
## COWRA'S 2017 INSTALLER COURSES

### **Douglas DiVesta, P. E. of DiVesta Civil Engineering Associates**

Doug is a Civil Engineer and owner of DiVesta Civil Engineering. Doug brings his years of Professional skills, experience and expertise in the area of septic design. He has been teaching our installer course for 30 years. Doug coaches each student through the arduous and complicated process of implementing all the components that come together to create the best septic design for a given property. He is dedicated to helping each student entering the septic industry perform their services with a standard of excellence. Doug's teaching brings to our students his years of experience solving problems found on the site of a septic installation.



COWRA and the installer students are the beneficiaries of Doug DiVesta's dedication to our organization. This dedication to his students helps guide them into their new profession. Doug is an expert teacher with an answer and examples for every student's questions.



### **Robert Smith, Sanitarian with the Torrington District**

Bob Smith has been Sanitarian for the Torrington Health Department for over 25 years. For the last four years Bob has generously donated his time to teach COWRA's Installer Course. I could be wrong, but I truly believe that Bob could recite most of the Technical Standard in his sleep. And

Bob is dedicated to making sure that each and every student understands the Technical Standard and how to apply it. Before students finish our course, they will know all aspects of the standard. They will understand what section of the standard they need to apply to each septic installation. Bob gives many examples as he leads each student through the Technical Standard. Students emerge from the Installer Course with a comfortable understanding and a confidence of application with regard to the

Technical Standards. As a Sanitarian, Bob understands the process of installation and the importance of nurturing a good relationship with the local health departments that an installer will work with. Bob understands the need to bridge any gaps in understanding and the need to maintain a professional perspective.



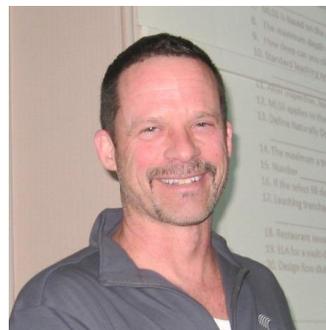
Doug and Bob have choreographed a program to teach our students all aspects of the septic installation process.



From the identification of soil layers, understanding the function of test holes and percolation rates, hydraulic factors and set-back distances, to the relevant provisions in the Technical Standard, they teach our students what they must know to leave prepared with the knowledge and understanding to succeed in this industry.

We are very grateful for Bob and Doug's generous gift of time.

## COWRA'S 2017 PUMPER/CLEANER SCHOOL



### **Jon Skipper of Wastewater Services, LLC**

On February 23, 2017 COWRA held our Pumper/Cleaner course. The course had 47 student attending students. The course includes all the installer students plus additional students who come for the pumper/cleaner course only.

This year this course was taught by Jon Skipper and Drew Gilbert. And as always there was a lot of laughter during the cleaner course.



The combination of Drew and Jon inspires both an educational and entertaining evening. Jon and Drew have many years of experience in the septic industry and therefore bring our students a bounty of stories and events that enlighten and inform.

Our students are exposed to the different baffles and filter replacements in the industry. Drew and Jon bring to our students a bounty of stories and events that enlighten and inform them.



**Drew Gilbert of Wastewater Services LLC**

Students leave with an in-depth understanding of the complete process of septic tank cleaning and inspection.

All students taking this course learn the necessary safety polices, along with the proper procedure for pumping and cleaning. They learn to prepare the Permit to Discharge forms.

This is a generous gift of time on behalf of Drew and Jon who have designed an in-depth program of cleaning and pumping procedure to prepare our student for the State exam. Both Jon and Drew are licensed installers who have years of experience to share with the students, exposing them to the skill and knowledge they will need in their new profession. They send our students forth to provide quality workmanship for the consumers they serve.

Each year they educate our students with the skills they need to secure their Pumper/Cleaner License. Our organization is fortunate to have Jon Skipper and Drew Gilbert generously donate their skill and knowledge to guide our students through this process. And, each year the night of the cleaning course is filled with laughter and stories of adventures in septic pumping.

We are very thankful for Jon and Drew's dedication to our organization.



### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **SOIL WORKSHOP TRAINING October 18 -19, 2017**



The CT Environmental Health Association (CEHA) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), Environmental Engineering Program is proud to offer the 2017 Soils Training Workshop.

Peter C. Fletcher will be returning as the keynote speaker and will be conducting a soils texturing activity and providing instruction in reading test pits. The workshop will consist of both field and lecture components with a focus on identifying restrictive layers for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems.

This training workshop will be held Wednesday October 18, 2017 at 8:30am and will end Thursday October 19, 2017 at 4:00 pm. The Location is DEEP's Session Woods Wildlife Management Area, 341 Milford Street, (Rte 69), Burlington, CT.

Registration for CEHA members is \$80.00, Non-CEHA members \$125.00. Seating is limited to 75, so register early to guarantee your place in this workshop. There will be no refunds after October 1, 2017.

All questions concerning registration and payment information should be directed to Jeff Polhemus at [polhemusjw@ehhd.org](mailto:polhemusjw@ehhd.org).

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Doug and Bob stay late to help student.

## FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

**UPDATES!!** Registration Information for 2017 State Installers & Cleaners-Exams:  
You MUST contact the Department of Public Health to register for the Installers & Cleaners Exams.  
Please Note: attendance at the COWRA Installer School DOES NOT register you for the State exam.  
Please contact D.P.H. at 860-509-7296 for any information pertaining to your results and license.  
You may also contact them by going to [www.dph.state.ct.us/licensure/apps/subsew.pdf](http://www.dph.state.ct.us/licensure/apps/subsew.pdf)

### 2017 Examination Schedule Subsurface Sewage Installer/Cleaner

Exam Date	Application Deadline
September 8, 2017	August 28, 2017
December 1, 2017	November 20, 2017

**Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association**  
For a copy of COWRA's 2017 Study Guide please call (860 267-1057)