

Happy Holidays



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

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December 2009

Letter from the President

Dear COWRA Members,

Happy Holidays to all! I hope that the economy has been gentle on your businesses; these are difficult times for many of our members.

As you read through this newsletter you will find a letter to Governor Rell regarding mega health districts and letters to Commissioner Galvin of the DPH and Commissioner Marrella of the DEP, regarding Advanced Treatment Systems. COWRA welcomes your opinions and concerns on both of these topics. Please email info@cowra-online.com or call us at 860 267-1057.

I wish all of you and your families a wonderful Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
Frank R. Talarico
President

New Members Profile

Christopher Carroll of Carroll Construction Corp joined us in the fall of 2009. Christopher is the owner of his Carroll Construction and is a licensed Installer. Carroll Construction Corp. is located in Ridgefield CT. His services include Septic System Installation, Excavation, Topsoil and Paving. Carroll Construction has been in business for 26 years.

Jesse Tanguay of Jean Tanguay Home Improvement and Excavation joined us in August 2009. Jesse's company is located in Bristol CT. His services include Septic System Installation, Excavation and Home Improvement.

Frank Currivan of CUR-TECH, LLC joined us in the summer 2009. Frank's company provides Septic System Installation services to the entire state of CT. Frank is also a supplier of a new proprietary system that was approved by the State of CT in 2008. His company is located in Greenwich CT. CUR-TECH LLC has been in business for 21 years.

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Inserts

1. State of CT Circular # 2009-62
2. State of CT Circular # 2009-66
3. 2010 CT State Examination Schedule
4. Installer School Form
5. Pumper School Form
6. 2010 Membership Renewal Form

COWRA Brochures are available to our members at \$22.50 per 100, including shipping

New Members Profile, Continued

Daniel Ottenheimer joined us in November 2009. Daniel is the owner of Oakson, Inc. located in Gloucester MA. Daniel has been presenting research papers at leading wastewater seminars throughout the country since the early 1990's. During these travels he realized that many effective wastewater products being used in other parts of the country were not available in New England. Daniel then turned his focus on bringing these quality products to the New England Consumer. His products include Drip Dispersals, Poly Tanks and Poly Distribution Boxes. To learn more about Oakson Inc. visit them on the web at:

www.oaksoninc.com

Joseph Lopez joined us in December 2009, he is the owner of Litchfield Country Landscaping, LLC in Winsted CT. Joseph has been business for over 26 years. His services include Excavation, Landscaping and Drainage. Over the last two years he has been involved in installing septic systems. Joseph is enrolled in COWRA's 2010 Installer course.

COWRA'S 2010 Installer School

COWRA 2010 Installer and Pumper/Cleaner Schools will be held in January and February of 2010. These Schools are not exclusively for those seeking a license. Our Installer School is an excellent tool for our veteran installers, to refresh their knowledge and familiarize themselves with new laws that went into effect last January. This course is also helpful to Sanitarians and Health Officials for continuing education credit.

COWRA's Installer School will begin Thursday January 14, 2010 and will run for six consecutive Thursdays. Students enrolled in our Installers School are automatically enrolled in our Pumper/Cleaners School, held on the last Thursday, February 18. The cost of the Installer School is \$215.00 for Members and \$375.00 for non-members. Employees of Members are charged the lower, Member's fee.

Students attending the Installer School need to bring a calculator and engineering ruler to class. A 2010 Study Guide will be provided.

Pumper / Cleaner School

Students who wish to take the Pumper/Cleaner Course can sign up for the one-night class on the application form provided in this newsletter and on our website. The cost of the Cleaner/Pumper course is \$80.00 for Members and non-members. A 2010 Cleaner/Pumper Study Guide will be provided.

2010 Membership Renewal

All COWRA members will be receiving their 2010 membership renewal forms soon. We have changed the format of the renewal form this year. This year's form will list several categories of services that our members provide to consumers. Members providing septic services currently have several service directories on our website, from Septic System Installation and Excavation, to Portable Rentals and Paving. We have added a few more categories on the 2010 renewal form. Please check the Consumer Page of our website www.cowra-online.org. If there is a category you feel should be added please let us know.

COWRA has been augmenting our website throughout 2009 with changes that will bring Members new business.

Most consumers looking for a service provider look to the worldwide web. COWRA has been working on Member Directories for several months and will be updating and adding Directories with the return of your 2010 renewal forms. Please make sure you check all applicable categories and return the form in a timely manner.

Supplier Members will have a separate page so septic companies can find your products. Links with your website will be arranged by categories of products. We provide key words for internet searches to help septic installers and related companies find your products through our website. Supplier Members should fill out all the information about their products, to provide us with appropriate key words. Some supplier categories will also be included on the Consumer Page.

Please return the membership renewal forms promptly. If you are experiencing a hardship because of our economy and are struggling to pay your membership dues, don't be left out; contact us and we will make arrangements.

November Board Meeting

On November 12, 2009 COWRA held a Board Meeting. Two topics of concern were discussed in depth. First, Frank Schaub discussed his concern that the State is considering mega health districts. The second topic, brought to COWRA's attention by Gary Yuknat, is his concern with Alternative Treatment Systems. It was decided by the Board to send letters expressing our concerns.

The first letter concerns the consideration by a task force, formed by Governor Rell, to explore to possibility of condensing our local Health Departments and Districts into 5 or 6 mega health departments. Board Member Frank Schaub brought this to the attention of the Board of Directors, suggesting that we go on record with Governor Rell, expressing our concerns of how mega health districts could adversely affect the quality of services currently provided.

The following letter will be sent to Governor Rell:

Re: Reorganization of Health Departments into Large Health Districts

Dear Governor Rell,

The Connecticut On-Site Wastewater Recycling Association (COWRA) has been made aware of the State Department of Public Health effort, under Commissioner Robert J. Galvin, to consolidate many small local health departments into large and ultimately very large mega-health districts. This reorganization is currently underway as the State cuts funding to small, full time health departments and funds only large cities with populations more than 50,000 and districts with three or more towns. Commissioner Galvin has expressed his desire to ultimately see five or six mega health districts in place. COWRA is writing to you at this time to express our concerns. We are small local business owners who provide essential services throughout our State.

Reorganization based upon study and predetermination of efficiency and cost savings can be a valid consideration but should not be the sole driver of this major proposed change. An article written by Steven Lanza for the CT Economy UConn Quarterly Review, states that there may not be any advantages to having larger regulatory agencies as compared to a competent full-time department relating to costs or services. For us business men and

women, it frequently results in elimination of local health offices and increases travel time for us to satellite district offices for routine permits and doing normal business. Even though the big districts may have larger staffs, their staff travel time is increased as they travel in their large domain and additional supervisory positions are needed thereby increasing costs to taxpayers. We currently work well with the many local officials serving our towns.

Connecticut has always been proud of the local home Town rule that lets voting residents decide what is best for their community given their particular financial and political preferences. We certainly realize the importance of public health and protection of the environment we all must share but forcing change where change may not be beneficial or needed is not wise. COWRA would support programs to improve the qualifications and experience of local directors of health and sanitarians to maintain and establish efficient *local* health agencies. We seek your support to identify qualified local health agency regulators and keep them in place even though they may be small. This may be in contrast to the "bigger is better" drive underway and in the long run, better protect the residents of our State.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter.

Sincerely,
COWRA

Frank Talarico
President

Board member Gary Yuknat spoke of his concerns with how the town of Old Saybrook is handling the maintenance of Advanced Treatment Systems. The Connecticut Water Co, had a meeting with Old Saybrook officials to contract the management of their AT System. Throughout the country these large utility companies have taken over pumping the Advance Treatment Systems. The effect is that smaller local companies, who could compete for these jobs, are being pushed out of the competition, due to the requirement for a Class One Advanced Treatment Operators Licenses to maintain these systems. The following letter was composed by a COWRA committee of Bill Hall, Dave Potts, and Gary Yuknat and will be sent to Commissioner Galvin of the CT DPH and Commissioner Marrella of the CT DEP.

Dear Commissioners Galvin and Marrella,

Our organization, the Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (COWRA), represents individuals and businesses that are involved in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of onsite wastewater treatment systems in Connecticut. We have recently become aware that your agencies may be supporting action to require that individuals operating and maintaining small, individual, onsite, Alternative and/or Advanced Treatment (AT) systems be required to be certified as Class 1 Wastewater Treatment Operators. We certainly understand the desire to ensure that these systems are operated in an appropriate manner; however, we are concerned that this specific certification may not be effective and could risk further degradation to the waters of the state.

While Class 1 Operators may be appropriate and qualified to operate and maintain large Municipal Treatment Plants, these are very different systems than those that serve smaller flow facilities.

We believe that it is important the individuals operating these small AT systems are properly trained, knowledgeable and experienced with this specific type and scale of system; often with intermittent and seasonal flows. These smaller systems require a very different set of skills and experience than that required for operating a large plant.

Our neighbors in Rhode Island have already developed a training and licensure program for these smaller types of AT systems. We believe that it would be advisable to follow this already proven program, rather than reinventing the wheel. The training organization for RI is the highly respected and accredited University of Rhode Island (URI). URI has offered to come to Connecticut to provide training courses, if this would be helpful.

Some of our Members have experience operating and maintaining these small AT systems, in and out of Connecticut. Before the State moves ahead with the development of a licensing program, we request a meeting with your respective agency to discuss our suggestions and offer our insight gained through experience with these smaller systems.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,
COWRA

Frank Talarico
President

Dates to Remember

Pumper & Cleaner Environmental Expo will be held in Louisville Kentucky, beginning Wednesday, February 24 and continuing through Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Kentucky Exposition Center. There will be over 500 exhibiting companies, 10,000 industry professionals, and 60 education seminars. For more Information you can call 866 933-3100 or visit them on the web at www.pumpershow.com

Installer School begins Thursday January 14, 2010 and runs through, February 18, 2010.

Pumper / Cleaner School will be held February 18, 2010.

COWRA Membership Renewal COWRA's dues are due February 15, 2010. Membership Directories will be updated with the information provided on the renewal forms by the end of February please return you renewal form prior to the end of February so that your information will be available for consumers and companies to find. Updating to the directories is very time consuming. We plan to update the directories quarterly. Don't be left out. Please return your Membership Renewal forms promptly. Thank you.



Happy Holidays to all our COWRA Members and their families

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

UPDATES!! Registration Information for 2010 State Installers & Cleaners-Exams:
You **MUST** contact the Department of Public Health to register for the Installers & Cleaners Exams.
Attendance at the COWRA Installer School **DOES NOT** register you for the State exam.
Please contact D.P.H. at 860-509-7559 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

PLEASE NOTE:

COWRA is accepting application for our Installers and Pumper/Cleaner schools which will be held in January - February of 2010,
(See application inserts in this newsletter for details).

2009 / 2010 State of CT Examination Schedule Subsurface Sewage Installer/Cleaner

Exam Date December 18, 2009

Exam Date March 5, 2010

Exam Date June 11, 2010

Exam Date September 3, 2010

Exam Date December 10 2010

Application Deadline October 31, 2009

Application Deadline February 5, 2010

Application Deadline May 7, 2010

Application Deadline August 6, 2010

Application Deadline November 5, 2010

Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association
or a copy of COWRA's 2010 study guide please call (860 267-1057)