Dear Friends,

As NEIWPC’s fiscal year 1992 drew to a close on September 30th, the nation was caught up in a presidential race that in November would lead to the election of a new president and the beginning of a new administration in Washington. The President and Vice President have stated their desire to raise the priority of our environment as a national concern and will soon be instituting change. The stage is now set for implementing effective strategies which should lead to a safer and sounder environment for us all.

Resources have never been sufficient to fund the many environmental programs required to address the needs of our increasingly complex world...and they probably never will be. This year we have seen record budget deficits at the national level, in many states, and in many of our local communities. The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission has long recognized that when needs far outstrip resources, prioritization is essential. With this reality in mind, the Commission continues to work toward developing priorities for the best use of available resources.

Consistent funding mandates placed on states by Amendments to the Clean Water Act remain a high priority. Over the years the Commission has played a prominent role in the appropriations and reauthorization process and continues to do so. The Commission must continue in '93 with efforts to secure stable Federal funding to meet the environmental needs of its member states. As implementation of the 1987 Amendments to the Clean Water Act entered its sixth year, much time in 1992 was focused on making further progress and addressing proposed revisions to the Act.

As we move ahead in the 90's, many questions remain unresolved concerning the direction and level of commitment the federal government will bring to the concept of evolving state administered water protection programs. Reauthorization of the Clean Water Act, currently under consideration in Congress, is likely to be extensive and much debated. Congress and the new administration must address the many needed present and future program initiatives that present difficult funding choices.

The Commission will continue to work with the states, EPA, other interested agencies, and the public to address the issues which are important to us all. We are sincerely thankful for the support we have received over the past year from the Governors, State Legislators, Congress, and EPA and its staff. We enter the next operational year with a resolute commitment to promote the principles of regional cooperation and to address state environmental and health needs.

Sincerely,

David L. Clough
Chairman
H₂O...WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

We need knowledge to care for ourselves, every part of the Earth and life upon it, and all of the future generations as well. This means that education about the environment is of great importance to everyone. Scientific learning and technological progress are essential for improving the quality of life in the modern world. Still more important is the simple practice of getting to know and better appreciate ourselves and our natural surroundings, whether we are children or adults. If we have a true appreciation for others and resist acting out of ignorance, we will take care of the Earth.

THE DALAI LAMA OF TIBET

As modern men and women, we are slowly recognizing that we share this planet with a host of other life forms and life systems which we often-times, heretofore, have sought to dominate and manipulate. Indeed, with all our technological and scientific accomplishments, we now face our greatest challenge, getting our house back in order before neglect and abuse get the best of it.

Ideally, we need to move toward doing what we do with a greater awareness of cause and effect and a sense that we are, after all, part of a living system. As a major industrialized nation, getting in sync with the world we live in will involve some ethical, behavioral, and lifestyle changes. To effect such changes, we, as individuals and as a society, need to be aware of the potential consequences of our actions so that we can seek out and evaluate more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Environmental education, training, technical assistance, and information dissemination have become a NEIWPC/NEIETC hallmark. Commission staff work closely with member states and EPA Region 1 to identify outreach and training needs for a broad range of environmental topics. Over the years, as the intricacies of environmental issues have continued to unfold, the Commission's list of outreach and training needs has lengthened substantially. Clearly not all needs can be addressed and priorities must be determined, but...just take FY-92, for example...a lot has been happening.

THE MR. & MRS. FISH WATER CONSERVATION AND REUSE PROGRAM FOR 3RD & 4TH GRADERS

During FY-92 NEIWPC and NEIETC received a grant from EPA Region 1 to develop the Mr. and Mrs. Fish Water Conservation and Reuse Program for 3rd and 4th Graders. The program, designed to spread the word about why clean water and water conservation are so important and about what people can do to make a difference, premiered in South Portland and Winthrop, Maine in spring of 1992.
To accomplish this, the internationally acclaimed, award winning duo Jeff and Deb Sandler, known as “Mr. & Mrs. Fish,” of Portland, Maine were enlisted to help develop the program and present it in their inimitable style to New England third graders. Using scripts tailored to the location of the presentation, Mr. & Mrs. Fish introduce their audiences to characters like Ebenezer Sewage, who is visited by three aquatic spirits before he truly learns not to waste water.

The Fishes explore the question of where clean water from the faucet comes from and where it goes after it's washed down the drain. Kids from the audience help play the various components of a wastewater treatment plant, including the aquatic animals that either sink or swim depending on the quality of the discharge.

This one-hour interactive program has proven to be an exciting and innovative way of teaching. Each participating student receives a "Certificate of Attendance" that includes a list of conservation tips on the reverse side. Teachers receive a training package which they can use to help integrate this material into classroom curriculum.

The premiere program was funded by both EPA Region 1 and the State of Maine. NEIETC hopes to be able to continue the program throughout New England on a public/private funding basis and has solicited additional support from private funding sources. The program is offered at no cost to school systems, except for any costs associated with busing students from various elementary schools to a central auditorium location.

**THE SCIENCE TEACHERS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PROGRAM**

In FY-92, NEIWPCC/NEIETC also presented its new Science Teachers Environmental Awareness Program to small groups of teachers in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. NEIWPCC/NEIETC teamed up with Jon Jewett, a Training Specialist with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, to offer junior high school science teachers and/or school systems a series of workshops on what the water pollution control profession is all about.

EPA Region 1, the six New England State water pollution control associations, and the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) also participated in the program. The workshops were developed with the hope that educators would be inspired to promote student interest in the wastewater field and pursue developing an environmental education curriculum in their public school systems.

The half-day workshops provide hands-on training for analytical methods such as pH, chlorine residual, dissolved oxygen, and nitrite and nitrate determination—five tests that typically indicate the quality of treated water discharged into receiving rivers, lakes, and streams. Jon Jewett was the lead trainer at each of the sessions.

Participants were also given a variety of materials, including a Science Kit (a collection of the five indicator tests), a reference guide and procedures, and a video of NEIWPCC's *Preserving the Carefree Flush*. Teachers are also provided with a list of speakers in the water quality field (see "Speakers Bureau" below) who are willing to visit school systems to give presentations on the water/wastewater field. Some of the state workshops included an introduction to the Water Environment Federation’s *Adopt-A-School* wastewater program.

The workshops, which were received with a great deal of enthusiasm on the part of the participants, were offered free to a limited number of science teachers from each of the six New
England States on a first come, interest shown basis. Teacher involvement was solicited through the state Science Teachers Associations. NEIWPCA/NEIETC will pursue funding for future workshops.

**YOUTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

NEIWPCA/NEIETC and EPA Region 1 joined forces for the third summer to offer the *Youth and the Environment* program at 7 locations—Lowell and Boston, Massachusetts; Providence, Rhode Island; and Portland, South Portland, Falmouth, and Scarborough, Maine. NEIETC also entered into a special grant with EPA headquarters to assist the City of Los Angeles, California in implementing two Youth and the Environment programs, one at the Los Angeles Zoo and the other at the Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Facility. Nationally, the program was offered in 22 communities.

New England's Youth and the Environment program began at the Lowell Wastewater Treatment Plant in 1990 to introduce economically disadvantaged youth to career opportunities in the environmental field by combining summer employment with academic training and hands-on experience. In an effort to expose students to the many and varied environmental career possibilities, the program provides a blueprint for establishing youth awareness and training in such fields as water supply, wastewater treatment, recycling, energy, marine environments, hazardous waste, and natural resources protection.

Because Youth and the Environment was conceived to help meet workforce needs in the wastewater pollution control and water supply fields, many work sites are located at wastewater and water supply facilities. However, considerable flexibility is built into the program so that it can be structured to meet the environmental training needs of participating communities. For example, the programs established at city zoos in Boston, Providence, and Los Angeles bring inner city kids into exotic environments where they get to know many of the animals not only by feeding and caring for them, but also by helping to create exhibits that reflect the ecological habitats of the animals.

Because of its success so far, EPA Region 1 and the Interstate are working to expand the

program in New England so that many more students are able to participate through both public and private funding sources. For those who have already participated, the experience has been remarkably fulfilling.

**SPEAKERS BUREAU**

In FY-92, NEIWPCA, in association with NEWEA, created a regional Speakers Bureau, comprised of professionals in the water quality field who are available to provide voluntary presentations in schools or communities in their locality. Presentations typically take one to two hours and help educate young people and the general public on a variety of issues related to water quality, the environment, and career opportunities. NEIWPCA and NEWEA have an assortment of curriculum materials available for loan to assist speakers in developing their presentations.

**WATER CONNECTION**

The *Water Connection* newsletter is one NEIWPCA's vehicles for keeping subscribers abreast of a wide range of environmental issues on the Commission's slate. The publication, available free of charge, addresses emerging and on-going issues related to water and its interaction with air, land, and living organisms. The potential for subject matter is virtually unlimited.

In FY-92, two issues of Water Connection were published. In as much as 1992 was proclaimed "The Year of Clean Water" by the President and Congress, the lead article in the summer issue, "Paradigms Revisited and Unvisited," addressed this topic, zeroing in on the need for both national leadership and individual commitment in environmental protection. Other FY-92 Water Connection topics included a report on efforts to
clean up Russia’s Volga River, chlorine bleaching in paper making, FERC re-licensing, the wetlands manual controversy, the Buzzard’s Bay estuary protection plan, and boat waste.

L.U.S.T.LINE

NEIWPCC’s L.U.S.T.Line, first published in 1985, is a national bulletin on underground storage tanks (USTs), funded by a grant from the EPA Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST). The publication was developed to help keep state and federal underground storage tank (UST) regulators, consultants, contractors, and tank owners informed about state and federal UST and LUST regulatory activities and to track the evolution of remediation and prevention technologies. In FY-92, two issues of the bulletin were published and distributed to a mailing list of over 4,500 subscribers.

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<th>The New England Interstate Environmental Information Catalog FY-92</th>
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<tr>
<td>Audio/visual units purchased..................................492</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audio/visual units loaned......................................146</td>
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<td>Other materials..................................................1,169</td>
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THE NEW ENGLAND INTERSTATE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION CATALOG

NEIWPCC/NEIETC has organized its growing collection of publications, brochures, newsletters, technical reports, slide/tape shows, videos, and training materials into a comprehensive New England Interstate Environmental Information Catalog. The catalog, available at no charge, was prepared for environmental organizations, government agencies, educational institutions, wastewater treatment professionals, and citizens interested in water quality-related environmental issues.

Materials in the catalog were produced by NEIWPCC/NEIETC and selected other sources and span a wide range of water-related topics, such as groundwater, surface water, wetlands, underground storage tanks, and wastewater treatment, and cover a wide range of ages and backgrounds. The sale and distribution of catalog products is handled by NEIETC in South Portland, Maine.

AND THAT’S NOT ALL!

Environmental threats are ubiquitous—in the air, in the ground, on the ground, in corroding steel drums, in barnyards, in homes, in factories, at pit stops, on construction sites and clear cut sites—and inextricably linked to what we do. Many environmental threats can be eliminated or diminished. Many environmental problems can be avoided or mitigated. Environmental “smartness” can be factored-in to just about anything we do—as long as people are aware of the issues and the choices.

This awareness comes about through education, training, and outreach. In this regard, both NEIWPCC and NEIETC have important roles to play. The educational activities mentioned above are just a small part of the expansive NEIWPCC/NEIETC agenda. Here are highlights of some of the NEIWPCC/NEIETC education, training, and outreach activities that you’ll read about in this FY-92 Annual Report:

- Technical training for 2,781 people
- A bench-scale plexi-glass model of a wastewater treatment plant to be used throughout New England and New York as an educational tool
- A regional criteria paper for on-site sewage treatment and disposal regulations
- The Connecticut River citizens monitoring program
- The Regional Septage Management and Treatment Conference
- The National Operators Training and Technical Assistance Conference
- The Third Annual Non-Point Source Conference
- The Operating and Managing Boat Sewage Pump-Out Facilities in New England Conference
- The National Floodplain and Natural Resource Protection meeting in Louisiana.

To find out more about what NEIWPCC and NEIETC were up to in FY-92, READ ON.
The water quality of many rivers, lakes, and streams has improved over the past twenty years. This has happened, in large part, as a result of federal and state efforts to control the quality of discharges from municipal and industrial sewage treatment plants. But in spite of this progress, many of our traditional water quality battles continue and what is more, new battles continue to emerge. For example, stormwater runoff from urban/suburban areas and land use activities such as farming, logging, and construction are now leading causes of water quality problems. Wetlands continue to be destroyed. Combined sewer overflows and stormwater discharges cast a shadow over wastewater discharge quality.

Water quality and public health are also threatened by more insidious and less visible assaults such as industrial smokestack emissions that cause acid rain or toxic substances that find their way to groundwater and surface water supplies. Our own casual disposal of household wastes contributes to water quality problems—things like pouring waste oil down storm drains, flushing hazardous products down the toilet or tossing them into the trash and ultimately a landfill.

Although much has been achieved, a lot more work needs to be done to manage and control pollution sources and protect water resources. NEIWPCCC continues to pursue its mandate and commitment to assist its Compact-member states in addressing the myriad of water quality issues whenever and wherever possible. The following sections describe the Commission’s water quality agenda for FY-92.

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**Work Groups**

One of NEIWPCCC’s most important jobs is to champion and facilitate communication and cooperation among its member states. This has proven most effective when environmental issues common to all or some of the states are identified and examined through the framework of Commission work groups. These work groups enable the Commission staff to work with Commission members and state and federal agencies to maintain and foster regional responsiveness to the growing list of environmental issues.

The work groups are designed to provide a structured forum for the exchange of information, to encourage a cooperative approach for addressing issues of regional importance, and to develop recommendations for regional consensus policies. NEIWPCCC personnel coordinate these meetings and serve as both staff support and an information clearinghouse service.

In FY-92, two new work groups were added to address issues concerning Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and Stormwater. The other ongoing work groups include: Wetlands Protection, Non-point Source Pollution, On-site Sewage Disposal, Underground Storage Tanks, Groundwater Management, and Pollution Prevention.
COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS (CSOs)

In urban, suburban, and rural towns, storm drains are a familiar and visible part of the local stormwater drainage infrastructure. These iron grates or rectangular curbside orifices serve as catch basins for rainwater and assorted sands, salts, greases, and debris that wash down streets, driveways, and parking lots during storms. The trouble is that what goes into the storm drain must end up somewhere. In the case of combined sewer/storm drain systems, this stormwater goes to, and often floods, the local sewage treatment plant. When this happens, sewage, as well as stormwater, is washed into receiving rivers and streams, dramatically impairing water quality.

NEIWPCC’s CSO Work Group was established in FY-92 to help coordinate New England and New York state efforts to control water quality impacts associated with CSOs. The work group is composed of CSO program administrators from the New England states, New York, EPA Region 1, and NEIWPCC. This team will meet four times a year to discuss regional needs and review CSO project progress to ensure regional needs are adequately considered.

STORMWATER

Stormwater runoff is a significant source of ground and surface water pollution. When rain falls or snow melts, water runs off the land. Human water uses, such as washing cars, draining swimming pools, or irrigating crops, can also create runoff. As water runoff travels over land and impervious surfaces, the quality of the water is affected by any new or additional pollutants encountered along the way.

In urbanized areas, stormwater quantity is also a serious concern. Increases in impervious cover and decreases in vegetation increase the velocity and magnitude of stormwater runoff, causing environmental problems such as increased flooding, accelerated channel erosion, and changes in streambed composition.

Stormwater problems can be solved on a site-and project-specific basis using management practices that will prevent or control pollution. The NEIWPCC work group, which will be composed of New England and New York state stormwater managers, EPA Regional staff, and NEIWPCC, was organized to strengthen interstate efforts to deal with stormwater discharges. NEIWPCC and EPA Region 1 will organize and co-chair three work group meetings a year.

The stormwater work group set in motion plans to develop a stormwater design course to be offered in the New England area in June of 1993. NEIWPCC will co-sponsor the program with the University of Wisconsin.

WETLANDS PROTECTION

Viewed as worthless swamps in the past, we have come to understand and recognize that wetland ecosystems are extremely valuable natural resources. The nation’s wetlands provide a full spectrum of irreplaceable environmental values, including flood control, water quality maintenance, fish and wildlife habitats, and recreational uses. The loss of wetlands to development, agriculture, and other land uses continues at a rapid rate. In many northeastern states the protection of our remaining wetlands has become a major priority.

The Wetlands Protection Work Group’s number one call to action during the early part of FY-92 was to evaluate and formulate a regional response to proposed modifications to the federal “Wetland Identification and Delineation Manual,” the target of heated debate nationwide. Concern that the 1991 version of the manual would undermine the accomplishments of the 1989 document prompted NEIWPCC’s work group to forward a New England/New York position to EPA headquarters.

As chairpersons for the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Association’s (ASIWPCA’s) wetlands work group, NEIWPCC staff drafted a national wetland position paper that incorporated the New England/New York concerns with those of the National Governors Association and the Association of Wetlands managers. This paper was reviewed by the NEIWPCC work group, then presented and reviewed by the full Commission during it’s January meeting. The ASIWPCA work group also initiated a national survey of state wetland programs.

The Wetlands Protection Work Group completed its Region 1 Wetlands White Paper in FY-92. The paper addresses state and federal policies
and procedures on wetlands protection and presents suggestions for a coordinated approach to wetlands protection in New England.

Work group meetings included discussion of measures necessary to implement the tasks outlined in the “White Paper,” as well as issues of wetland program funding and permits and enforcement.

NEIWPCC worked with EPA headquarters to organize and present the second National Floodplain and Natural Resource Protection meeting which was held in Metairie, Louisiana in February 1992. Also, by way of an EPA grant, NEIWPCC provided state travel to this meeting.

NEIWPCC prepared agreements for the development of wetlands educational materials for EPA Region 1, consisting of a 3-part multi-media education program geared to middle school students and their teachers. The program, A World In Our Backyard, will include a 2-part video, one for teachers and one for students, and a workbook for teachers that expands on the video themes. The projects should be completed by the end of FY-93.

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION

Surface water pollution stemming from diffuse, non-point sources (NPSs) associated with urban, agricultural, silvicultural, and construction-related runoff is a major concern to both water quality regulators and managers and the general public. Contaminants that wash into our lakes, rivers, and oceans create havoc with the natural beauty and function of these aquatic systems.

NEIWPCC’s NPS Work Group is made up of state NPS program managers, EPA Regional staff, and NEIWPCC. During FY-92, the work group met to discuss such issues as quality assurance/quality control plans for federally funded NPS projects, NPS provisions in the Clean Water Act, and Program Development and Approval Guidance and Management Measures for the Federal Coastal NPS Control program.

The Commission hosted its Third Annual Nonpoint Source Conference in Newport, Rhode Island in May 1992, and began preparations for the Fourth Annual NPS Conference to be held in Connecticut the following May. NEIWPCC staff attended the Coastal Zone Management/NPS North Atlantic Regional Meeting in Boston.

ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Nearly one-third of the nation’s population is served by septic systems. Each year these systems discharge about one-trillion gallons of water into the nation’s soils and groundwater. Besides the important role they play in household sanitation, septic systems also influence community growth and economic development.

Many septic systems do their job well, but many do not. While most correctly designed and maintained on-site systems effectively discharge effluent to the soil and provide many years of satisfactory treatment, there is no shortage of sub-standard systems that fail to do what they are supposed to do.

Improperly designed, installed, or maintained on-site sewage disposal systems are often the root of serious environmental and public health concerns. Poorly treated or untreated effluent can contaminate groundwater and surface water—often important drinking water sources and/or recreational resources. Too often, this contaminated water has been responsible for water-related disease outbreaks.

It's not that septic systems don't work, it's that they have been widely misapplied, mismanaged, and misunderstood. This is why on-site systems must be carefully regulated, and why those involved with the design, installation, maintenance, and regulation of these systems must be properly trained.

NEIWPCC's On-site Sewage Disposal Task Force, comprised of state on-site wastewater disposal directors, was formed to identify and respond to the need for more effective on-site sewage disposal regulatory and management programs at the state level. During FY-92, the Task Force met formally on 7 occasions. Much of the group's time was devoted to finishing its document, Criteria for Regulation of On-Site Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems, which was published by NEIWPCC in August 1992.

Other topics addressed by the task force during FY-92 include:

- Development of a slide show and script on
septic system installation;
• Alternative on-site system demonstration projects for nitrogen removal;
• Future training initiatives;
• Need for a regional on-site technology advisory board;
• On-site seminar videos;
• Results of NEIWPCC’s on-site training survey that had been mailed to system designers, installers, and regulators in New England and New York;

In addition, during FY-92, NEIWPCC/NEIETC staff conducted a 2-day Regional Septage Management and Treatment Conference in Westford Massachusetts. The conference presented perspectives on septage management and treatment from the points of view of federal and state regulatory agencies, local communities, septage haulers, and wastewater treatment plant operators.

NEIWPCC also sponsored, and staff attended and participated in, the Waquoit Bay N.E.R.R.’s Denitrifying On-site Systems Conference in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS (USTS)
The 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments to the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) directed the EPA to initiate a program to regulate the underground storage of petroleum products and hazardous substances. Since then, NEIWPCC Compact-member states have been meeting and exchanging information and experiences pertaining to underground storage tank issues. As a result, Northeast states have benefited from a strong UST communication network. The region has led the nation in developing and implementing UST regulations and programs.

Over the years, UST-related issues have evolved from developing regulations to those of finding better ways to implement regulations and administer programs. In the face of burgeoning numbers of leaking underground storage tank (LUST) sites and dwindling funding for support staff, concepts of “streamlining” and “Total Quality Management” have had appeal at both state and federal regulatory levels.

At NEIWPCC’s UST/LUST Work Group meeting (co-chaired with EPA Region 1) state program directors have the opportunity discuss and exchange information on streamlining administrative and corrective action procedures, as well as a host of other issues. During FY-92, the work group discussed state TQM programs, EPA direction and priorities, the status of state program approvals, cleanup funds, keeping cleanup costs down, alternative cleanup technologies, and TPH as an indicator of contamination. NEIWPCC also serves as an information clearinghouse for the work group members.

UST/LUST OUTREACH
NEIWPCC continues to answer telephone and written inquiries on UST/LUST issues. The Commission also acts as a clearinghouse for regulatory, management, and technical training information for its member states, other states, consulting firms, tank owners, related industries, and the general public upon request.

NEIWPCC materials include:
• A national list of state and federal UST contacts
• A general information UST brochure and slide/tape show
• The LUSTLine bulletin
• Technical training videos and booklets

NEIWPCC staff attended and participated in EPA’s annual UST/LUST conference, “Meeting the Challenge,” in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. NEIWPCC staff also facilitated travel expense reimbursements for state and county personnel to various EPA/OUST meetings across the country.

NEIWPCC received a National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) Gold Screen award for its video entry, What Do We Have Here? An Inspector’s Guide to Site Assessment at Tank Closure at the Association’s award ceremony in Arlington, Virginia. The video is the second of three national UST training videos and companion booklets.
produced by NEIWPCC through grants from EPA’s Office of Underground Storage Tanks.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Increasing incidents of contaminated groundwater source drinking water supplies alerted the nation’s lawmakers that this irreplaceable resource had to be managed and protected. The protection of our groundwater supplies is arguably the most pressing challenge facing environmental managers today. Over the years, NEIWPCC has been working with the EPA and state groundwater staff to facilitate the exchange of technical information and discussion of various groundwater management strategies.

NEIWPCC’s Groundwater Management Work Group met three times during FY-92. Work group discussion topics included: state and EPA updates, EPA’s “Comprehensive State Ground Water Protection Program,” Massachusetts’ “Wellhead Protection Program and UIC Integration,” water management issues for the “Pequot Indian Tribe Casino Project,” pesticide and groundwater strategies, non-point source programs, wellhead protection demonstration projects, the Farm*A*Syst program, and UIC.

NEIWPCC co-sponsored and staff attended two EPA Groundwater Roundtables (a Northern Roundtable for Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, and a Southern Roundtable for Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York) to discuss EPA’s Comprehensive State Ground Water Protection Program.

NEIWPCC also revised and reprinted its brochure, Groundwater, Out of Sight, Not Out of Danger.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

To keep a finger on the pulse of issues that pertain to water quality, NEIWPCC staff continue to participate in EPA Region 1’s Pollution Prevention Task Force. EPA organized the task force, which is co-chaired with the Northeast Waste Management Officials’ Association (NEWMOA), to facilitate the institutionalization of pollution prevention approaches to to environmental protection in all Region 1 activities. EPA has promoted pollution prevention as a means of shifting environmental protection efforts away from the traditional emphasis on controlling and cleaning up existing pollution to anticipating and avoiding the generation of pollutants in the first place.

In FY-92, NEIWPCC staff oversaw the production of two brochures for EPA Region 1’s Pollution Prevention in Light Industry Project. The publications, one for automotive service repair businesses and the other for dry cleaning businesses, were completed and are available through NEIWPCC’s environmental information catalog.

Coastal Waters Projects

THE LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY

The Long Island Sound Study (LISS) is one of the National Estuary Programs funded by EPA under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. The study, which began in 1985, is charged with creating a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the protection and enhancement of the Long Island Sound.

NEIWPCC continues to serve as fiscal manager for the LISS. Over the years, the Interstate has contracted for a variety of services pertaining to the study. In FY-92, NEIWPCC contracted for such services as land use characterization analyses, water quality modeling, nutrient scenarios, recalibration of the East River model, CCMP development and consultation, GIS development, and bacteriological indicators and lab protocols.

The final draft of the Long Island Sound Study Nutrient Removal Research Project was completed during FY-92. The study was initiated because during the LISS it became clear that the amount of nitrogen entering the Sound should be reduced sooner than later. To this end, it was important to determine the maximum amount of nitrogen that could be removed with existing treatment plants without spending significant amounts of money on capital improvements.

Thus, in 1989, the LISS provided funds to the City of Stamford, Connecticut and the City of New York to conduct nutrient removal research at their existing wastewater treatment plants. This grant program was managed and coordinated by NEIETC Director Kirk Laflin, who
co-authored the study along with Jeannette Semon, Supervisor of the Liquid Wastes Division of the Stamford facility.

The nutrient removal project has proven that with little or no capital investment, and only minor process changes, secondary treatment plants may be able to effectively reduce the amount of nitrogen being discharged into the Long Island Sound.

THE CASCO BAY ESTUARY PROJECT

Maine’s Casco Bay was designated an estuary of national significance in 1990, and was included in EPA’s National Estuary Program. In FY-91, NEIWPCC entered into agreement with EPA and the State of Maine to provide financial management services to the Casco Bay Estuary Project. As part of its continuing scope of work, the Casco Bay Estuary Project will characterize the estuary, define and prioritize the estuary’s problems, and develop a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The Commission continued to provide financial services for the project through FY-92.

THE NEAR COASTAL WATERS PROGRAM

The EPA Near Coastal Waters Program is part of a long-range strategic planning effort by the Agency to restore and protect the water quality and natural resources of the nation’s coastal areas. In Region 1, pollution of estuarine and other near coastal waters has been identified by both federal and state environmental agencies as a priority problem in need of immediate attention. While point sources such as sewage treatment plants, industry, and CSOs contribute to the problem, non-point sources are now recognized as a major cause of coastal water pollution.

NEIWPCC provides financial management and administrative support for a variety of Near Coastal Waters projects, including a New England Boat Sewage Management Initiative, education and outreach videos, and a Casco Bay Household Hazardous Waste/Used Oil Management program.

As part of this Near Coastal Waters grant, NEIWPCC co-sponsored with EPA Region 1 a conference on Operating and Managing Boat Sewage Pump-Out Facilities in New England, which was held in July in Taunton, Massachusetts. In conjunction with this focus on boat sewage and marine pump-out facilities, NEIWPCC also produced and distributed a 4-page flier, Boat Sewage: The Catch-22 of Using Your Head Responsibly, to be handed out at the conference and distributed by EPA at coastal locations.

NEIWPCC handled a series of mini-grant agreements to help fund municipal boat sewage pump-out facilities. In FY-92 the municipal mini-grants included Marblehead and Duxbury, Massachusetts; South Kingstown and Jamestown, Rhode Island; and Rockland, Maine.

Also under the grant, NEIWPCC contracted out video production services for an EPA video, Turning the Tide: Keeping Pollution at Bay. The video, which focuses on Buzzard’s Bay, was completed in FY-92.

Rivers & Lakes Projects

MERRIMACK RIVER INITIATIVE

In the 1960s, the Merrimack River was considered one of the 10 dirtiest rivers in America. Today, after two decades and the infusion of millions of dollars, the river is much cleaner. As a result, the Merrimack River is being rediscovered and viewed as an attractive area for new growth and development—a development that has placed increasing demands for the river’s resources. Unless these competing interests in the watershed are managed, progress in improving and maintaining river quality could backslide.

The Merrimack River Initiative (MRI) was created because no single community or government agency has the authority, money, or staff to protect and restore all the resources along the 118-mile river and its associated 5,010-square mile watershed. Because of this, a collective effort is necessary. The role of the Initiative is to coordinate and maximize the efforts of various agencies to establish a framework for continued coordination and action at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. The initiative is in a position to help integrate many of the existing federal, state, regional, and local
management efforts already underway in the watershed, as well as to promote grassroots involvement and public education.

The MRI got off to a flying start in February 1992 when a one-day Merrimack River Consortium of representatives of over 40 different interests, including NEIWPCO staff, met to produce an organizational structure for the Initiative. Through the Consortium a series of committees and subcommittees were created: a Management Committee, Information Management/GIS Subcommittee, Water Quality Subcommittee, Resource Use and Value Subcommittee, and an Instream Flow Subcommittee. These groups began meeting formally in June of 1992. As a start, they established goals and objectives, ideas for projects, and began plans for organizing a Merrimack River Watershed Conference for June 1993.

NEIWPCO has been involved with the Initiative since inception in 1988, when an agreement to protect the watershed was signed between EPA, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and the Interstate. With a grant from EPA, NEIWPCO is able to provide a full time Watershed Coordinator for the Initiative. The NEIWPCO Executive Director serves as chairman for the MRI Management Committee, and NEIWPCO staff participate on the subcommittees.

Related to MRI, NEIWPCO staff attended a meeting of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) in Hershey, Pennsylvania to speak about both NEIWPCO and its programs and the Merrimack River Initiative.

THE RUNNINS RIVER INTERSTATE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Development in the Runnins River watershed, which spans five towns in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island, has created non-point source pollution problems in the river and its associated wetlands. The continued alteration of wetlands for development uses has created vast tracts of impervious cover which lead to increased stormwater flow and decreased natural flood control capacities that wetlands naturally provide.

Water quality data and visual inspection of the area indicate that stormwater has a significant impact on the river and its receiving waters. To help mitigate these impacts and to address pollution coming from failing or inadequate septic systems, EPA Region 1, NEIWPCO, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts initiated the Runnins River Interstate Implementation Program. The program will initiate such activities as water quality sampling and monitoring, septic system evaluations, and the promotion of best management practices for controlling non-point sources in the watershed.

With grant funding from EPA Region 1, NEIWPCO hired a Runnins River Coordinator in FY-92 to facilitate coordination and cooperation among the various local, state, federal, and private entities involved and ensures that a consistent and coherent watershed management approach is implemented. During FY-92 NEIWPCO participated in several meetings aimed at accomplishing the goals of the Runnins River program.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

In 1991, as mandated by Congress, the EPA convened the Lake Champlain Management Conference (LCMC) for the purpose of developing a comprehensive pollution prevention, control, and restoration plan for the lake and its 8,234-square mile basin, which includes the states of New York and Vermont. NEIWPCO assisted EPA in organizing the convening of the LCMC, and has since served as fiscal manager for the program. The LCMC is expected to continue with annual appropriations from Congress for a period of five years.
THE NEW ENGLAND INTERSTATE
ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING CENTER (NEIETC)

In 1969, NEIWPCCC established the New England Interstate Environmental Training Center (NEIETC), located on the campus of Southern Maine Technical College (SMTC), to provide the region with wastewater-related training and educational opportunities. Over the years the training center has fulfilled its purpose successfully—so successfully that it has, in recent years, taken steps to expand its wastewater training expertise to other water-related environmental spheres, such as on-site sewage disposal, industrial waste, water supply, sludge composting, and underground storage tanks. In FY-92, NEIETC provided training to 2,781 environmental professionals.

NEIETC staff have also become more and more involved in developing environmental education programs and curricula for elementary and high school age youth. The center continues to help organize and operate the successful Youth and the Environment summer program for inner city high school age kids. In FY-92, NEIETC was also instrumental in developing the Mr. & Mrs. Fish Water Conservation and Reuse Program and the Science Teachers Environmental Awareness Program.

NEIETC also serves as the distribution center for NEIWPCCC’s growing collection of outreach materials available through the New England Interstate Environmental Information Catalog. (See page 4 for more about the New England Interstate’s Environmental Information services.)

JOINT TRAINING WITH SOUTHERN MAINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

NEIETC staff worked with the SMTA faculty and administration to develop an expanded recruiting program for the 9-month basic wastewater treatment professionals entry level Pollution Abatement Technology program, which was suspended for the 1990/1991 academic year because of low enrollment. As of August 1991, the program was re-instituted with an impressive enrollment of 31 students, 25 continued on to graduate in May '92. As of September 1992, 25 students with a wide range of ages and backgrounds had enrolled for the 1992/1993 academic year.

The NEIETC/SMTC 2-year associate degree Environmental Technology program has also been quite successful. Twenty-five students completed the 1991/1992 academic year and 34 students were enrolled at the onset of the 1992/1993 year.

MOBILE TRAINING FACILITY

Using NEIETC’s Mobile Training Facility (MTF), a variety of 1-to 3-day courses were presented at locations throughout New England and New York for upgrade training of water/wastewater personnel. Although MTF courses focus primarily on water pollution control topics, such as management, operations, maintenance, laboratory, and safety, NEIETC plans to expand the programs into other environmental disciplines. Training schedules are published in the MTF Fall and Winter/Spring Calendar. During FY-92, MTF staff conducted 13 training courses for a total of 322 environmental professionals.

In FY-92, NEIETC cut back on MTF course offerings so that staff could provide, through special training contracts, specialized training programs to the States of Rhode Island and Vermont, as well as other special EPA grant projects.

SHORT COURSES & SYMPOSIA


<p>| Summary of NEIETC’s FY-92 Environmental Training Programs |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEIETC Program</th>
<th>Number Attended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Short Courses</td>
<td>1,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Training Facility</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Training Contracts</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JETCC</td>
<td>794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,781</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING COORDINATING COMMITTEE (JETCC)

The Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC) was established in 1985 under a grant from the State of Maine to coordinate the environmental training needs of Maine's environmental professionals. JETCC continues to meet this goal by networking training needs with the best instructional and technical support available and by conducting annual training needs surveys. In FY-92, JETCC staff offered 26 programs to 794 wastewater professionals at locations throughout the state. JETCC training topics included: Contract Operations, Respirators/SCBA, Legislative Process, Laboratory Standards, Hazardous Substances, Marina Pump-Out Facilities, and NPDES.

JETCC was one of many programs that fell victim to the Maine Legislature's budget cuts. As a result, training activities were reduced during the last quarter of FY-92 so that the JETCC Board could make some program adjustments.

OTHER NEIETC ACTIVITIES

SPECIAL TRAINING
In FY-92, NEIETC entered into special training contracts with the following industries and organizations:
- Scott Paper Co., Winslow, ME
- S.D. Warren Co., Skowhegan, ME
- Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Boston, MA

Under a grant from EPA, NEIETC offered a series of Industrial Pretreatment Pollution Prevention Symposiums at locations in Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. A total of 505 people attended these symposiums.

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION:
Under a grant from EPA Region I, NEIETC is assisting the Agency in implementing a Municipal Wastewater Pollution Prevention program. EPA has directed states to require every wastewater treatment plant to do a self-evaluation of their facility, essentially an annual report of the facility, describing present status and future direction. The intent of the program is to allow states to get a sense of existing and potential compliance problems. States will require local officials to sign off on these reports to ensure that key community decision makers are in the treatment facility loop. NEIETC's job is to provide guidance and coordination to the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont and to develop a tracking mechanism for the whole process. The program was still in a start-up mode during FY-92.

BENCH SCALE WWTF MODEL:
Because the dynamics and operations of a wastewater treatment facility are difficult to explain unless trainers and educators either take people to a facility or present the subject 2-dimensionally with slides or videos, NEIETC staff felt that this problem could be solved by means of a portable and operable wastewater treatment system model that could demonstrate flow-through simulations. NEIETC received an EPA grant to develop and construct such a bench-scale plexi-glass model of a wastewater treatment facility to be used as a teaching tool. During FY-92, NEIETC received the first prototype and tested it to determine if any changes were needed. Once all the glitches are sorted out, each of the EPA Region I states will receive a unit.
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Vice Chairman: Stephen W. Groves, Maine D.E.P.
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Susan J. Sullivan, Environmental Analyst (1989- )
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Ellen Frye, Outreach Coordinator (1980- )
Sidney D. Kallman, Comptroller (1982- )
J. Patricia Conway, Secretary (1975- )
Elizabeth A. Haffner, Secretary (1990-1992)
Eleanor Bassett, Assistant Comptroller (1992- )
Carolyn Jenkins, Project Assistant (1992- )

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Thomas Morton, Instructor/ETCC Coordinator (1987- )
Gregory Kidd, MTF Coordinator (1987- )
Theresa Davis, Secretary (1984- )
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