

# Happy Holidays



*We wish all of our members a wonderful holiday!*



**CONNECTICUT ONSITE WASTEWATER RECYCLING  
ASSOCIATION**  
SUPPORTING CONNECTICUT AND OUR ENVIRONMENT  
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## Winter 2020

# Season's Greetings

## Letter from the President

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COWRA Brochures are available  
to our Members at \$50.00 per 100  
copies, (this price includes  
shipping).

Dear COWRA Members,

I hope this letter finds all of our members happy, safe, and well. For many of our members and their families, 2020 has been a very difficult year with many changes to our lifestyle. Due to masks, social distancing, cancelations and closings many of us find ourselves scared, angry, and confused. If this describes you and your family you are not alone. Perhaps the vaccines on the horizon will inspire hope for many of us. It is my sincere hope that next year we find the end is near from the devastation that Covid-19 has unleashed on so many families. I am hopeful that 2021 bring all of us peace, health, and safety.

As an organization we have had to roll with the punches. Our annual meeting had to be canceled, board meetings are difficult to hold and our installer and cleaner classes will be moving from a classroom setting to a virtual online program this coming year. Many of us find the technology that comes with these changes equally difficult to digest. However, this too we will master. We have all seen difficult times in the many years we have been in this industry and this too will pass.

I hope all of our members and their families have a Happy Holiday Season, and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Talarico

## New Member Profiles COWRA WELCOMES:

**Yuriy Strus**, was a student in our 2020 installer course and he has recently joined our organization. Yuriy is the owner of Turfpro LLC which is located in Norwalk, CT. Turfpro's services include: septic installation, landscaping, excavation, drainage, construction, and demolition. To contact Turfpro and learn more about Yuriy's company, email him at [turfprollc@hotmail.com](mailto:turfprollc@hotmail.com).

## New Member Profiles continued...

**Ryan Schmidt**, is the owner of Drain Doctor, Inc. which is located in Berlin, Connecticut and has been family owned since it was first established in 1972. Drain Doctor, Inc. services include: septic installation, inspections, septic cleaning, cameras/videos, water jet, drain cleaning, grease traps, proprietary installation, and sewer line installations to name a few. For a complete listing of Ryan's services visit him on the web at [www.draindocterct.com](http://www.draindocterct.com).

**Christopher Socha**, joined COWRA after having taken our installer course. Christopher is currently waiting to take the State Installer exam so that he can begin installing septic systems under his own license. Christopher is the owner of S&W Excavations, which is located in Somers, CT. Christopher's services include: excavation, foundation drainage, construction, demolition and landscaping. To contact Christopher and learn more about S&W Excavation, email him at [socha.124@gmail.com](mailto:socha.124@gmail.com).

## 2021 Technical Standard Revisions

**The following email letter was sent to the code advisory members with regard to the 2021 Technical Standard Revisions.**

"Good afternoon Code Advisory Committee and guests,

I hope this e-mail finds you all well.

Many of you have been contacting DPH regarding the status of the 2021 Technical Standards revisions. As most of you all know, based on previous revisions we typically need a year to properly review and vet the proposed updates and modifications. Due to the global pandemic we were not able to hold the numerous meetings needed for a transparent and thorough revisions process. DPH values your opinions and requires more time to consider and review all the comments we received regarding the 2021 revision.

With the uncertainty of the months to follow, we have decided to postpone the revisions for 2021. This means, we as a committee will have more time to review and discuss the proposed changes. Further, postponing the revision also relieves some stress on our hard-working local health departments who enforce the Technical Standards. Local health department training is a crucial component for successful enforcement of a newly revised Technical Standards and local health department training during a COVID-19 resurgence is not possible. The local health department role in the pandemic is critical.

Please reach out with any questions or comments. The EEP program e-mail is [dph.environment@ct.gov](mailto:dph.environment@ct.gov) or feel free to e-mail Bob Scully or Amanda Clark. We plan to schedule a CAC meeting at the beginning of 2021 to continue the process.

Stay safe and health this holiday season.

Best regards,  
Amanda J. Clark, RS  
Environmental Engineering Program"

**A copy of the proposed revisions for 2021 are included as inserts of this newsletter. Due to Covid-19, these revisions will be delayed, which give members will more time to contact our Code advisory members if you have any concerns.**

## Executive Order Affecting Licensing Exams

Governor Ned Lamont has issued an executive order allowing remote licensure exams or by other mean determined by the DPH during the Covid-19 pandemic to be held in 2021, see, Executive order No. 9P and Circular letter 2020-85 in inserts in this newsletter.

## Researchers use Wastewater Treatment Plants to Monitor Communities' for Covid-19

Data Shows a Dramatic Increase in COVID-19 In a New Haven Wastewater Plant

**By: Brian Zahn, October 28, 2020**

"NEW HAVEN — Fecal samples collected from a local sewage plant, which are tested as an early indicator of an uptick in COVID-19 infections, are showing a considerable uptick in the concentration of the novel coronavirus, according to data.

Scientists with Yale University found that the concentration of COVID-19 RNA in stool samples correlated with hospitalization rates roughly three days later. "Cases are increasing in New Haven and there is multiple lines of evidence to show that. We're not the only ones saying that cases are increasing," said Jordan Peccia, professor of environmental engineering at the Yale School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and a leader of the fecal testing project.

Peccia said the actual numbers are less important in data collection and reporting than the general trend, which he said is unmistakable. "Things are trending up," he said. He said that as a general rule of thumb, 1,000 to 2,000 copies of coronavirus RNA in a sample would equal one new daily case. He said that because of the speed with which his team is able to collect and report data, the sewage data often leads the rest of the state by about three to five days in reporting new cases.

The waste tested from the East Shore Water Pollution Abatement Facility would include samples from municipalities within the region but outside New Haven city limits, such as East Haven, Woodbridge and Hamden. "We have been following the wastewater numbers and other COVID indicators closely and are very concerned about the uptick," said New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker. "We have been having meetings this week and anticipate some actions later this week in response to the increase in cases in the region."

Elicker declined to specify what actions the city was considering. "I'm trying to avoid that," she said. "We cannot do this individually. We have to do it collectively." Bond said the city's guidance around reducing transmission is mask wearing, social distancing and regular hand washing.

Mark Abraham, executive director of the local nonprofit Data Haven, monitors COVID-19 data. He said the latest development with sewage “looks bad.” “On Friday of last week, I noticed a substantial uptick in the levels of the virus that causes COVID-19 in the public data report on New Haven area wastewater, which is one of the data sources that we look at each day,” he said. “The report suggests that they have climbed to much higher levels since then. It can take a few days to establish a clear trend, but the degree of increase this week, which has also been seen in Boston, is certainly concerning.

City officials announced this week, prior to the significant uptick that infections were increasing in the city. As of Monday, the city reported 3,438 documented cases of the virus, an increase of more than 200 cases within the last two weeks. City Health Director Maritza Bond said the city was also waiting on reporting data from two laboratories, so the city may have been underreporting the number of cases. Elicker said contact tracing efforts found that much of the transmission was coming from small social gatherings of family and friends where people were not as cautious about protocols such as mask wearing and meeting outside.

On Tuesday, Gov. Ned Lamont reported the state had an average rate of 16.5 new cases per 100,000 residents per day over a seven-day span. New Haven’s average rate is lower than that, with Bond reporting it to be between five and nine new cases daily per 100,000 people.”

## Yale’s Covid-19 Surveillance Initiatives

The data published by COVIDTrackerCT shows the number of copies per mL of sludge has risen from no higher than 10,000 with three daily exceptions between June 30 and Sept. 30 to samples exceeding 20,000 copies per mL of sludge four times in October. On samples tested on Oct. 26, the tracker reported more than 50,000 copies per mL of sludge, a sharp increase from all other days of data.

## COWRA’s 2021 Installer Course

COWRA is accepting applications for our 2021 Installer School. Students enrolled in the Installer School are automatically enrolled in the Pumper/Cleaner School. Both Schools will be held live in a virtual Zoom classroom. Classes for the Installer School will begin on Thursday, February 18, 2021 and run for 7 consecutive Thursdays.

Topics for the Installers Course include: Septic Tanks: design, structure, function; watersheds and drainage profiles; Soils: physical characteristics, profiles and types, identification; Site Conditions: deep hole and percolation testing, plumbing and pipe configuration; Distribution Systems; Leaching fields; Trenches, Dry wells, Galleries; Curtain Drains; Biomat; Septic Failures; Transit work and Surveys; Septic Design: MLSS, plans and sketches, forms, etc.

The School will cover all sections of 19-13-B103 and 19-13-B100a of the CT Public Health Code, Technical Standards and the Design Manual for subsurface sewage disposal systems. Example questions of the type encountered on the Installer exam will be covered.

Practical exercises will be assigned for classwork and field encountered problems will be discussed. Students will need to bring a calculator and an engineer’s ruler for the course.

### Materials for School

The materials you will receive include the updated CT Public Health Code 19-13-B103 & Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems (SSDS), Design Manual for SSDS, a Study Guide & other handouts.

**All material will be mailed to each student prior to the first day of class. Because of this, student will need to sign up for our courses well in advance of the first night of class to ensure that they receive their materials in a timely fashion (see application provide in the insert for more detail).**

**The Cost of the Installers School is \$295.00** tuition fee for COWRA members & their employees. Non-members tuition fee is **\$505.00**. Manuals are included in the cost of each course.

## COWRA 2021 Cleaning Course

This year, classes will be held online in a Zoom classroom format held Thursday April 1, 2021 beginning at 6:30pm and ending at 9:00pm. The cost for members will be \$90.00 and non-members \$100.

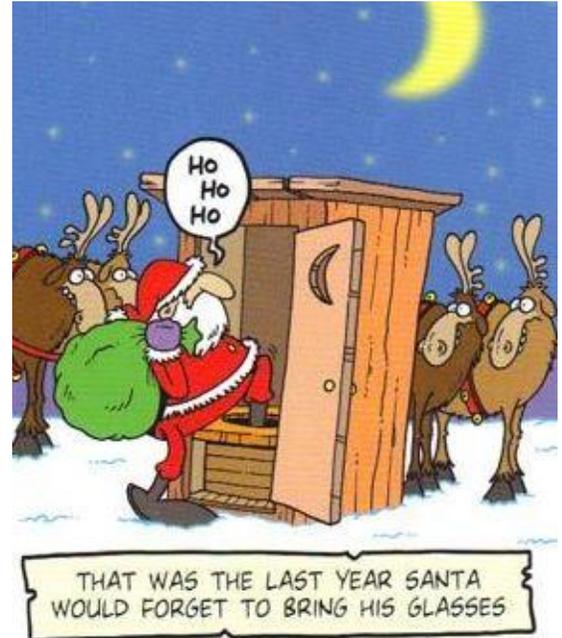
**All Students enrolled in our 2021 courses will be given detailed information on how to join the Zoom platform prior to the first night of class. Please send your application promptly to guarantee your place in the class.**

## WWETT 2021 Pumper & Cleaner Environmental Expo Indianapolis IN, May 3 - 6 2021

The annual Pumper and Cleaner Environmental Expo is the world’s largest annual convention and trade show for liquid waste. This year’s expo will begin on May 3, 2021. The Conferences are May 3-5, the Marketplace is May 4-6 at the Indiana Convention Center. To learn more about the Pumper/Cleaner Expo and how to register to attend, please visit them on the web at [www.wwettshow.com](http://www.wwettshow.com)

WWETT Show attendees will find the best in education for our industry. There are over 100 sessions spanning three days, covering a wide variety of industry and professional topics and all are included with a full education package. Sessions are led by top industry experts and professionals from leading associations, businesses, and manufacturers. Many of the sessions count toward fulfilling required continuing educational units (CEUs) and professional development hours (PDHs).

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## FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

**UPDATES!!** Due to Covid-19 the State of Connecticut DPH under Executive Order from Governor Lamont will be offering remote licensing examinations for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems Cleaner and Installer exams. Further information regarding Licensing exams will be posted on the DPH website as soon as the details and methods for are worked visit [DPH.EHLicensing@ct.gov](mailto:DPH.EHLicensing@ct.gov) for more information.

**Wishing a Holiday of Peace and Happiness to all our Members**



**Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association**