

NTNCs

Paul Sestito, Water/Wastewater Systems Specialist

How often do you consume water at home? If you think about it, much of the water consumed by you and your family is consumed away from home. If you travel or dine out, you may be getting water from a hotel or restaurant. If you have children in school, they may be getting their water there.

The majority of water systems throughout Vermont (and the United States) are non-community water systems. Non-community water systems can be either non-transient, non-community (NTNC) or transient, non-community (TNC). An example of a NTNC water system would be a school, serving the same population, but not for the entire year. An example of a TNC water system would be a restaurant, serving a differing population on a daily basis. These “smaller” systems basically serve populations that are different in terms of number and frequency.

Since starting with VRWA in June 2014, I have spent the majority of my time working with the people who own and/or operate non-community water systems. What I have found is that they, like operators of community water systems, are dedicated individuals who realize their roles in the protection of public health by providing safe drinking water to their consumers.

(Continued on page 5)

Lake Day at the Statehouse

Liz Royer, Source Protection Specialist

On February 18th, Vermont Rural Water had the privilege of being invited to take part in Lake Day at the Statehouse. This two-hour summit included fifteen speakers who provided a variety of perspectives on water quality to the Vermont General Assembly. News reports called this event a rare occurrence due to both the House and the Senate being called to full committee. Liz Royer, VRWA Source Protection Specialist, spoke on behalf of our state's public drinking water systems while Chris Robinson, President of the Green Mountain Water Environment Association, shared thoughts from wastewater systems. Here is the text of VRWA's remarks:

Good morning. My name is Liz Royer and I have been working on protecting sources of drinking water at the Vermont Rural Water Association for the past ten years. Since 1982, our non-profit has been providing training and onsite technical assistance to public drinking water and wastewater systems statewide.

My job and my passion involve protecting our drinking water sources – including watersheds and aquifers across the state. Our public water systems provide clean, safe drinking water to over 375,000 Vermonters, and a few flatlanders too. Across the state, 47 of our water systems draw from surface waters, such as Lake Champlain, Mendon Brook, May Pond, and the White River.

(Continued on page 7)



Photo Credit: Elodie Reed, St. Albans Messenger

Who We Are

Since 1982, Vermont Rural Water Association has supported water and wastewater systems across the state. We provide many services, including training, source water protection planning, and onsite assistance.

Board of Directors

Ed Savage, Town of West Rutland
Richard Desautels, Colchester FD#2
Rod Lamothe, Castleton Meadows
Harry Hinrichsen, Town of Barre

20 Susie Wilson Road, Suite B
Essex Junction, Vermont 05452-2827
802-660-4988 voice; 866-378-7213 fax
vrwa@vtruralwater.org; www.vtruralwater.org

Contact Our Staff

Call us at 800-556-3792

Training Specialist

Matt Guerino, Ext. 337, mguerino@vtruralwater.org

Water Systems Specialist

Brent Desranleau, Ext. 322, bdesranleau@vtruralwater.org
Aaron Perez, Ext. 331, aperez@vtruralwater.org

Source Protection Specialist

Liz Royer, Ext. 336, lroyer@vtruralwater.org

Wastewater Specialist

Wayne Graham, Ext. 319, wgraham@vtruralwater.org

Water/Wastewater Specialist

Paul Sestito, Ext. 350, psestito@vtruralwater.org

Executive Director

Shaun Fielder, Ext. 315, sfielder@vtruralwater.org

Publication Staff

Tim Russo, Ext. 305, trusso@vtruralwater.org

News Leaks is the official publication of VRWA. It is published quarterly for distribution to operators, owners, managers and board members of water and wastewater systems in Vermont, as well as to association members, water and wastewater service providers, regulators, and other friends. Opinions expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of VRWA.

For advertising rates and submission criteria, please call 800-556-3792. We reserve the right to reject advertising deemed unsuitable. Acceptance of advertising does not constitute endorsement of the advertiser's products and services, nor do we make any claims or guarantees as to the accuracy or validity of the advertiser's offer.

©2015 Vermont Rural Water Association.



Letters

Re: Chimney Hill Owners Association, Inc.

Dear Mr. Fielder,

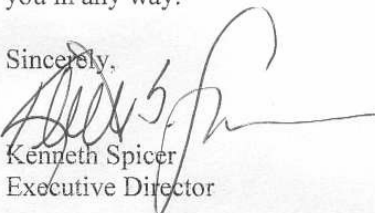
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those at Vermont Rural Water Association (VRWA) for all they do for water systems throughout the state of Vermont; and especially Chimney Hill.

Recently Liz Royer assisted us in completing our State of Vermont required Source Protection Plan update. Liz's expertise, professionalism, and commitment to this project was without equal and much appreciated. You, and we, are fortunate to have someone of Liz's capabilities working for VRWA.

Vermont Rural Water Association has supplied our water system and those throughout the state (both large and small) with the needed technical assistance, training, and source protection planning to assist in all aspects of assuring potable water to our customers. I can attest by personal experience that without the assistance of Vermont Rural Water Association we would have difficulties in meeting requirements without the professional help and guidance of your experienced staff.

Chimney Hill will always be a supporter of VRWA and please contact me if I can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,


Kenneth Spicer
Executive Director

PITTSBURG TANK & TOWER MAINTENANCE CO., INC.

SAVE!
**We have a crew in
YOUR AREA!**


Inspections	Repair	New & Used	Tanks
Wet Dry ROV	In Service Cleaning Paint Insulation	Relocation Erection Dismantles	Elevated Underground Ground Storage

ROV inspections can be viewed on TV console during inspection & DVD provided. All inspections include bound reports, recommendations and cost estimates.

Patrick Heltsley
270-826-9000 Ext. 253
270-748-1325
www.watertank.com


AEEngineers.com

Engineers dedicated to innovative water resource solutions for municipalities.

 Water
Wastewater
Stormwater

From planning through construction.

If it's water; A+E does it!


Aldrich + Elliott
WATER RESOURCE ENGINEERS

6 Market Place, Suite 2, Essex Jct., VT 05452
802.879.7733 www.AEEngineers.com

News on Tap

Rural Water Rally 2015

The week of February 9th, Ed Savage (VRWA President) and Shaun Fielder took part in the annual Rural Water Rally in Washington D.C. Rural water affiliates from all over the country were taking part to continue to advocate for technical assistance, training program, and source protection planning funding with given Congressional offices. Our visits with contacts in Congressman Welch's office and Senator Sanders' office went very well and we were lucky enough to have some face time with Senator Leahy. During the rally debrief, many states—as was the case with us—were reporting positive feedback from Congressional contacts. The final budget amounts are to be determined in the coming months and thank you to Senator Leahy, Senator Sanders, and Congressman Welch for their ongoing support of Vermont Rural Water Association and rural water program funding.

Annual Conference and Trade Show

We are looking forward to another exciting Annual Conference and Trade Show on May 6 & 7 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee. Please see registration information included in this issue and additional information on our website. This year's event focuses on "Building Sustainability in Your Community." A full set of very timely training topics will be offered for all attending. VT DEC Commissioner Mears is invited as our business luncheon speaker and, given all the water sector discussions recently, we look forward to an update direct from VT DEC leadership. We are also very excited to be collaborating with the Vermont Drinking Water Week Committee (Liz Royer and Matt Guerino from our team serve on the committee) on the Vermont

public drinking water taste contest taking place the morning of May 7. Details are on our website. The overall winner will be entered into the NRWA Great American Taste Contest to take place at the February 2016 Rural Water Rally event in Washington.

Two other key points for the May event are reduced registration rates for our members and, for some additional fun, a meter toss contest. After this long winter, I am confident all of us are looking forward to this spring event, and for you golf players, please plan to take part in our golf tournament on Wednesday afternoon. We hope to catch up with many of you at the meeting and look forward to the positive exchange of information, a top notch set of vendor displays, and to most importantly share some face time with all of you.

**NOTHING'S SIMPLER.
NOTHING'S TOUGHER.**



HQd from Hach is the simplest way to get results you trust, with a durable design that is built to last.

For more information please contact
Amy Pollock at 603-998-3852.



Offices in:
E. Middlebury
802.382.8522

Rutland
802.747.3080

Water Supply

Otter Creek Engineering provides solutions for public and private clients' water supply needs including system evaluations, source development, facility upgrades, design, permitting, and construction engineering.

We're qualified to meet
the needs of your project.



DYK and Natgun
Generations Strong

Sustainable Infrastructure
Prestressed Concrete Water Storage Tanks

781.246.1133

www.dntanks.com

Chris Hodgson, NE Regional Manager
chris.hodgson@dntanks.com



Yankee Ingenuity

Continuing Stories of System Innovations

By Wayne Graham, Wastewater Specialist

This column details unique solutions to difficult problems that operation specialists come up with every day. Below are several cases of them solving large problems, saving money and making life at their second homes (treatment plants) a little easier.

My good friend Jim Irish of the Swanton WWTF was getting nervous about his 25 year old problematic ultraviolet disinfection system. Unfortunately the cost of an upgrade was going to be around \$400,000. Jim did some research and found that Iron Brook Partners of Ontario was in the business of rehabbing old UV systems. Using the existing building and channels, they replaced controls, racks, bulbs and ballasts with new equipment. The final cost? \$60,000. Now that's saving money and staying in compliance!

As a lot of operation specialists know, lime stabilizing sludge prior to disposal can be messy, create respiratory hazards to operators and add solids to the final product. Chief Operator Tim Mills of Bethel has been using 25% sodium hydroxide to provide for pathogen reduction instead of lime for quite some time and has assisted other systems in swapping from lime. Swapping has saved the Town of Bethel money and even more importantly, time. Tim says to keep in mind that sodium hydroxide has its own hazards and needs to be handled with care and with the proper personal protective equipment.

Utility Partners LLC operations specialists at the St. Johnsbury and Morrisville WWTFs have huge wheel operated slide gates that require many turns to open and close. Cleaning chlorine contact tanks or swapping process tanks becomes very time consuming and labor intensive. St. Johnsbury operators use a portable Ridgid pipe threader and an adapter that their machine shop built for them to open and close the gates. Andy Jones, an operations specialist from the Morrisville WWTF used a different approach to operate his slide gate wheels, using a half inch cordless drill and a 6 inch pipe plug. He puts the rubber seal part of the pipe plug up against the wheel and operates the drill. (see photos) Simple? Yup. Does it work? Yup.



Combine outside unheated electrical panels/enclosures with cold temps and moisture and you have a disaster waiting to happen. Operations specialists from the Shelburne WWTFs, Chris Huestis and Jeff Pillsbury installed 110 volt gun safe dehumidifiers that circulate warm dry air throughout the panels on a continual basis. Keeping door panel seals from freezing, switch gear from sticking and moisture at bay!

If you have interesting ideas that you want to share, send them to me; we will include them in News Leaks in the future. I also encourage you to tour other facilities and share ideas; you will find that networking with other operators can be very beneficial. Several organizations can also help; VTWARN, GMWEA, VT Watershed Mgmt. and of course, VRWA! ●



AQUASTORE technologically advanced, glass-fused tanks, are easily designed for future expansion

When You Grow... We Grow With You

With Aquestore you don't need to find another site location or construct another storage tank.

- We'll design the foundation up front for future expansion.
- Expansion is fast and easy because of the top down Aquestore expansion method.
- Expansion possible in one week.
- A fraction of the cost of a new tank.
- Because Aquestore tanks sustain beauty and NEVER require recoating on the interior or exterior, you can expand your tank even 30 years after installation and not see any difference between the old and the new sheets.



STATEWIDE
AQUESTORE, Inc.

6010 Drott Drive • East Syracuse, NY 13057-2943 • P: 315.433.2782 • F: 315.433.5083 • www.besttank.com

("NTNCs" continued from cover)

What I have also discovered is that they often face challenges, some of which are similar to those of all operators, and some of which are not.

In many circumstances, operating a water system is not the primary area of focus of the operator at these systems. For example, if a school has a custodian or maintenance person on staff who is the designated operator, operations and maintenance of the water system is usually only one of the many duties performed by that person. Another example is the owner of an inn or restaurant, who has a number of different responsibilities, one of which is ensuring that the water system is properly maintained and operated. While it is true that many (but certainly not all) of these water systems are relatively small, and therefore easier to maintain and operate, it is also true that these systems must be operated and maintained properly, just like community water systems.

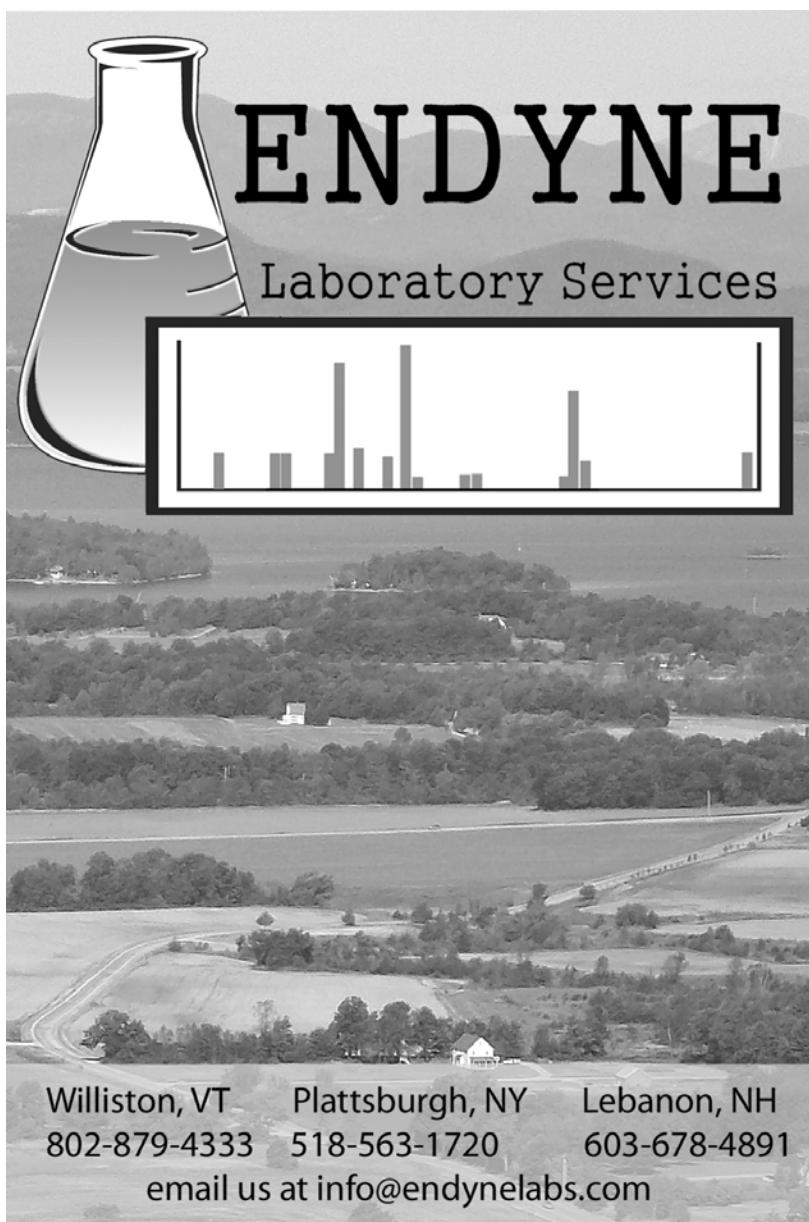
There are other challenges as well. Often times, the operators of these systems are the sole person on site responsible for the water system, with little or no backup or support. In many cases, the operators are not trained in the field to the extent that community water system operators are. Many TNC's and NTNC's operate seasonally, which can have an impact on the operation of their water systems. Finally, like everyone else, they struggle with issues such as budgets and aging infrastructure.

So, the next time you are dining out, on vacation, or dropping the kids off at school, remember that there is someone operating and maintaining a small water system with the same dedication and sense of pride that all of our community water system operators have. ●

Utility Management Certification – Great Round of Training

VRWA Wrapped up a round of VT DOL sponsored utility management certification training this past February. Congratulations to those folks to date who have passed the online certification test (as of News Leaks press time). This includes; Gerald Campeau, Kim Smith, John Lazelle, Ed Savage, Robert Whitten, Robert Fischer, Patrick DeMasi, Paul Sestito, Nathaniel Fredericks, Kendall Chamberlin, Christopher Cox, Walter Arsenaault, Thomas Elwood, Jon Jewett, Ken Lacasse, Jefferson Tolman, James Jutras, Randy Mayhew, Paul Tice, Erik Bailey, and Brandon Mayes.

Many more who attended the training are testing out in the near future. VRWA anticipates offering another round of two day UMC training in the second half of 2015.



ENDYNE
Laboratory Services

Williston, VT Plattsburgh, NY Lebanon, NH
802-879-4333 518-563-1720 603-678-4891
email us at info@endynelabs.com

Wastewater Permits

Wayne Graham, Wastewater Specialist

Now that we are getting permits again, it is critical that you take a very good look at your draft permits as they come across your desks. You only have a short time to comment on changes that you are sure to see. If you need help putting together comments, contact your consulting engineer or Wayne Graham at Vermont Rural Water Association.

We are seeing additional testing requirements in draft permits that include in-stream monitoring, nitrogen, phosphorous, oil/grease, dissolved oxygen and total dissolved solids. Some of this sampling and testing can be very

expensive and time consuming especially for small facilities with limited staff and staffing hours. If you have evidence to suggest that some of the proposed new testing may not be warranted, this should be addressed in your comment letter (write one!) Plants in the Long Island Sound watershed will see a new requirement for nitrogen removal optimization plans and will be tracking and submitting annual pounds of nitrogen discharged. Everyone will have to update existing Operation Management Emergency Response Plans and electric power failure plans.

Not following your permits can result in ticketing and fines, so pay close attention to due dates as well as to testing that you may not have had to do in your previous permit. Compare your current checklists against the new permit! If you do have a violation, it needs to be reported as directed in your permit. We are seeing 24 hours as a requirement now; if it occurs after hours, leave a voice message and send an email to your inspector detailing the violation.

In closing, read your draft permits and comment on them. If you have a new permit, read it from beginning to end and put those due dates on calendars. ●



Old-fashioned SPECS may look cool. But they won't keep the water running.

Time to sharpen your vision.

**E.J. Prescott
Beyond
SPECS**
The Next Generation of Waterworks
Products & Service
ejprescott.com/Beyond-Specs
1-800-EJP-24HR

TEAM EJP's new Beyond SPECS ensures that your waterworks partner brings all the elements you need to manage your infrastructure, today and for decades to come:

***Safety Certifications • Smarts about Water
Training for the Future • Delivery Capabilities • Emergency Service***

*Call or email us for your free **Beyond Specs** package today!*

Ask the experts at

**TEAM
EJP**
Pipeline Specialists

WATER, WASTEWATER & STORMWATER SOLUTIONS

If I drink eight glasses of Dasani bottled water (sold in the state-house cafeteria), it would cost me over \$1700 per year. For the same amount of tap water from right here in Montpelier, the cost would be \$1.55.

"Lake Day At The Statehouse" continued from cover

But there are also over 1200 public water systems that draw from our groundwater through drilled wells, dug wells, and springs. Protecting all of these public water sources, along with private wells, involves partnerships with many groups such as state agencies, municipalities, local watershed organizations, and the agricultural community.

My own drinking water comes from Lake Champlain through the Town of Williston and the Champlain Water District. By a show of hands, how many of you are served by a public water system? How many of you have a private well or spring? It shocks me how many Vermonters don't know where their drinking water comes from. While water quality is often cited as one of the biggest public concerns, it's surprising how many times drinking water isn't part of the conversation for solutions.

Let's look at the idea of drinking the recommended eight glasses of water per day. If I drink eight glasses of Dasani bottled water (sold in the statehouse cafeteria), it would cost me over \$1700 per year. For the same amount of tap water from right here in Montpelier, the cost would be \$1.55. **\$1.55 for the year.** Treatment plants need to be upgraded and distribution pipes are deteriorating. But when clean, safe water is underpriced and undervalued, it makes it hard to gain the funds to keep the infrastructure working as it should.


Vermont's tap water should be a source of pride. Several systems have won national awards for the great taste and quality of their drinking water.

One water system in Brandon undertook a lengthy effort to plan for the protection of its aquifer. This will preserve healthy drinking water for generations of town residents. A new brewery was even attracted by the fact that Brandon made groundwater planning a priority.

Remember the incident in Toledo last summer: blue green algae and cyanotoxins caused the city to tell half a million people to not use their water over four hot summer days. When trust in drinking water is broken like that, it's difficult to convince people that their water is ever safe again. In Vermont, public water system operators monitor algal blooms and test their water when they see potential issues developing. This summer, we want to give the public the reassurance of additional surveillance and sampling, but resources are limited and that may hinder monitoring efforts.

Clean, safe drinking water is needed by Vermont families, Vermont farms, Vermont tourism, and Vermont industries. From beer to baby formula and granite counters to wood furniture, water is vital to many of our local manufacturing processes. Drinking water is not something that is going to go out of fashion. For generations before us and generations to come, clean and safe drinking water has been and will remain essential. In closing, I urge you to consider the following question: how will we provide a safe and sustainable source of water for the health of Vermonters and our state's economy in future years?

Thank you for your time. ●








800-225-4616
www.tisales.com

WATER and WASTEWATER SUPPLIES

Everyone knows
We're the meter guys...

Neptune
AMR
Gateway

More than 20,000 different water and
sewer products from main to meters.
You order it today and have it tomorrow.



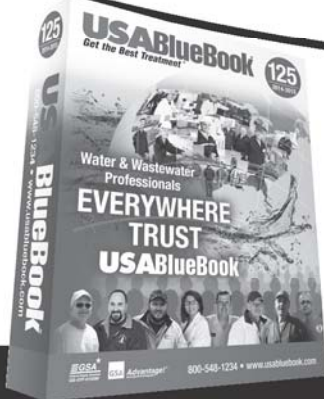
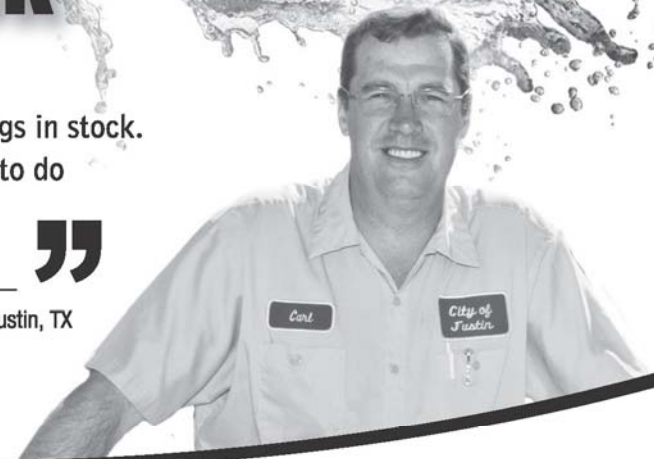
**Quality
On Tap!**
Our Commitment Our Profession

Water & Wastewater Professionals **EVERYWHERE TRUST USABlueBook®**



“USABlueBook helps us avoid having to keep things in stock. I don't have the space, and I don't have the time to do inventory. If I need something, I can just call up USABlueBook, and you guys will get it to me.”

Carl Naumann—W & WW Superintendent at City of Justin WWTP • Justin, TX



Unsurpassed personal
customer service and
expert technical support

95% of customers receive
their in-stock orders
in 1 to 2 days!

Over 27,000 items
in stock for
same-day shipping

Call **1-800-548-1234** & request your
FREE USABlueBOOK CATALOG 125

USABlueBook®
Get the Best Treatment™

800-548-1234 • www.usabluebook.com