


# NewsLEAKS



 **Vermont**  
Rural Water Association  
Winter 2021-22

## **ARPA Funds**

p.3

## **First Apprentice Graduates**

p.5

## **Source Protection Week**

p.8

**Training Calendar** p.6-7



The Vermont Rural Water Association provides training and support to drinking water and wastewater systems to promote healthy communities, rivers, and lakes across Vermont.

## Staff

### Executive Director

Liz Royer, lroyer@vtruralwater.org

### Deputy Executive Director

Tim Russo, trusso@vtruralwater.org

### Water Systems Specialists

Paul Sestito, psestito@vtruralwater.org

Aaron Perez, aperez@vtruralwater.org

### Wastewater Systems Specialists

Wayne Graham, wgraham@vtruralwater.org

Elizabeth Walker, ewalker@vtruralwater.org

### Training Coordinator

Matt Guerino, mguerino@vtruralwater.org

### Source Protection Specialist

Diana Butler, dbutler@vtruralwater.org

### Apprenticeship Program Coordinator

Paula Jackson, pjackson@vtruralwater.org

### Program Assistant

Katherine Boyk, kboyk@vtruralwater.org

## Board

Rod Lamothe, Castleton Meadows

Richard Desautels, Colchester FD #2

Margaret Dwyer, Winhall-Stratton FD

Jon Thornton, Bradford Water & Sewer

John Lazelle, Town of Wilmington

Eric Blatt, VT DEC Facilities Engineering

*Board Liaison*

## Contact

802-660-4988

info@vtruralwater.org

[VTruralwater.org](http://VTruralwater.org)

20 Susie Wilson Road, Suite B  
Essex Junction, VT 05452-2827

## Advertising

For advertising rates and submission criteria, email [info@vtruralwater.org](mailto:info@vtruralwater.org). 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.

© 2021 Vermont Rural Water Association

# Table of Contents

- 3 From the Executive Director
- 5 First Apprentice Graduates in December
- 6-7 Training Calendar
- 8-9 Source Water Protection Week
- 10 Michelle Kolb Joins Wastewater Management Program
- 11 Becoming a Water Operator

**On the cover:** "Stormy Sunset" by Stan Walker. Printed with permission.



**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.**

Weston & Sampson<sup>SM</sup>

## Water Resources

Drinking Water  
Well Rehabilitation  
Pump Repair & Maintenance  
Construction of Large Diameter Wells  
Source Siting / Hydrogeology  
Emerging Contaminants such as PFAS  
Wastewater  
Brewery / Industrial Pretreatment  
Stormwater  
Municipal Pools

98 South Main St. Waterbury, VT 05676  
802.244.5051 | [biscegliok@wseinc.com](mailto:biscegliok@wseinc.com)

**[westonandsampson.com](http://westonandsampson.com)**

offices along the east coast

*an employee-owned company*

**Thank you for choosing  
Eastern Analytical, Inc. for  
your testing needs.**

**40**  
YEARS

QUALITY  
DRIVEN

CUSTOMER  
FOCUSED

EMPLOYEE  
OWNED



**Eastern Analytical, Inc.**  
*professional laboratory and drilling services*

**(800) 287-0525 EasternAnalytical.com**

# ARPA Funds: Your Questions Answered



by Liz Royer  
*Executive Director*

Vermont Rural Water has been working on a list of frequently asked questions regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding available to drinking water and wastewater systems. In this article, I will highlight a few of those topics.

The complete FAQ document and more information are available on our website at [vtruralwater.org/arpa-funds-water-sewer](https://vtruralwater.org/arpa-funds-water-sewer)

## What is ARPA?

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), signed into law March 11, 2021, included \$350 billion in pandemic-related aid for state and local governments. Vermont will receive more than \$1.25 billion of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding from ARPA. The Legislature and the Governor have determined how more than \$1 billion of state funding will be spent. Nearly \$200 million will go directly to Vermont's cities, towns, and villages. Water and sewer infrastructure were specifically called out as eligible uses of ARPA funds.

## How do water/wastewater systems apply for local ARPA funds?

There is not an official application process. We encourage all water and wastewater systems to contact their town officials to continue conversations regarding their infrastructure needs. Template letters

are available at [vtruralwater.org/infrastructure-funding](https://vtruralwater.org/infrastructure-funding)

In addition, many towns are currently holding listening sessions and public input meetings regarding use of their local ARPA funds. We encourage all municipal systems, including fire districts, to attend with a list of your priority eligible projects.

Some systems have been hearing their proposed projects will only impact a small percentage of town residents. We encourage you to help your town officials think about the bigger picture: does your system serve a school, major employer, or other essential town businesses? Will infrastructure improvements benefit the overall public health and water quality of the municipality?

## Are fire districts and water districts going to be receiving ARPA funds?

No, special-purpose units of local government will not receive funding allocations; however, a local government may grant or transfer funds to a special-purpose unit of government to conduct eligible activities. Special-purpose districts perform specific functions in the community, such as fire, water, or sewer districts. Fire districts and water districts should discuss their water and sewer infrastructure priorities with the cities, towns, and villages which they serve.

Transferring funds to a fire/water district should be done through a sub-grant agreement or MOU that includes language indicating the amount of funding, payment schedule, scope of work to be per-

formed with deliverable timelines, and pass-through requirements such as reporting.

## What types of water and sewer projects are eligible uses of local funds?

Cities, towns, and villages can use ARPA funds for water and sewer projects that would be eligible to receive financial assistance through the EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Under the DWSRF, categories of eligible projects include: treatment, transmission and distribution, source rehabilitation and decontamination, storage, consolidation, and new systems development. Under the CWSRF, categories of eligible projects include: construction of treatment plants, nonpoint source management, decentralized wastewater treatment systems, energy efficiency measures, security measures, and technical assistance to ensure compliance.

## What types of water/sewer projects are NOT eligible?

The following projects are ineligible uses of local ARPA funds:

- Projects needed primarily to serve future population growth, or primarily for fire protection
- Water system operation and maintenance expenses
- Routine compliance monitoring
- Construction/rehabilitation of dams
- Stormwater projects that do not have a water quality benefit
- Loan repayment

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



**EARN TCHS  
ANYTIME, ANYWHERE  
WITH ONLINE TRAINING**

ALL COURSES ARE MOBILE-FRIENDLY!

POWERED BY  
**SunCoast Learning Systems**  
★★★★★  
Rated 5 stars on Google

at  
**SunCoastLearning.com**

**TiSALES**

Our Warehouses Are Filled With Your Favorite Products.

NEPTUNE TECHNOLOGY GROUP FORD AVR LMI  
AYYEKA REED Smith-Blair SCALETRON ZURN WILKINS

800.225.4616 | [www.tisales.com](http://www.tisales.com) | [info@tisales.com](mailto:info@tisales.com)

**MULTIDISCIPLINARY ENGINEERING  
WATER, WASTEWATER + STORMWATER**

For nearly 60 years, D&K has provided design through construction phase services throughout Vermont.

802-728-3376  
Jon Ashley, PE  
[jashley@dubois-king.com](mailto:jashley@dubois-king.com)  
Galen Hagen, PE  
[ghagen@dubois-king.com](mailto:ghagen@dubois-king.com)

**DuBois & King Inc.**  
[www.dubois-king.com](http://www.dubois-king.com)

**Endyne**  
Laboratory Services

Williston, VT  
802-879-4333

Plattsburgh, NY  
518-563-1720

Lebanon, NH  
603-678-4891

Email us at [info@endynelabs.com](mailto:info@endynelabs.com)



# First Apprentice to Graduate in December



by Paula Jackson  
Apprenticeship Coordinator

Vermont Rural Water's Apprenticeship Program is about to have its first graduate. Max Tier started as a registered apprentice at the Springfield Wastewater Treatment Facility (VRWA System Member) in December 2019. After two years, he will complete the program this month.

His apprenticeship included 4,000 hours of on-the-job training and 288 hours of educational instruction.

"It was not easy considering my apprenticeship ran congruent with the pandemic," Max said, but "we all worked together and in the end it was a success."

Rich Ladrew oversaw Max's on-the-job training as his mentor, along with other coworkers at the Springfield WWTF.

For the education hours, Max attended the Basic Wastewater Course, OSHA safety trainings, and many other classes offered by



Max Tier will complete his apprenticeship at the Springfield WWTF.

Vermont Rural Water and GMWEA. Because nearly all of his apprenticeship occurred during the pandemic, most of these classes were on Zoom.

Max has taken and passed the Level 1 Domestic Wastewater Treatment Exam. He is currently studying for the Level 3 Wastewater Treatment Exam.

Upon his completion of the program, the Vermont Department of Labor will award Max a journey worker certificate as a Wastewater Systems Operation Specialist.


Vermont Rural Water's Apprenticeship Program has developed and grown since it launched in 2019. There are now 10 registered apprentices training in water treatment, wastewater treatment, and water distribution. We anticipate 10 additional apprentices starting in 2022. We also offer a more flexible, unregistered apprenticeship option for small systems that don't have full-time workers.

"I think it is a wonderful program that has been very useful in my career in wastewater treatment," Max said. "I highly recommend this program to any [systems] that wish to further the education of their employees."

The National Rural Water Association, Department of Labor, and USDA provide funding and support for apprenticeship programs at state affiliates like Vermont Rural Water to train the next generation of operators.

Water and wastewater systems across the country are struggling with staffing shortages and many operators are approaching retirement. Apprenticeships offer veteran operators an opportunity to mentor new hires and pass on their knowledge.

The water resources field is a profession that needs dedicated, environmentally minded workers who are ready to face the challenges posed by climate change and to continue providing clean water to consumers and protecting water quality of our lakes and streams.

Find out more about apprenticeships at [VTruralwater.org/training/apprentices](https://VTruralwater.org/training/apprentices) 

## We've made your Water our Business



We know water, and we know the water business.



Premium Water and Wastewater Storage Tanks

Statewide Aquastore, Inc. • 6010 Drott Drive • East Syracuse, NY 13057 • Phone: 315-433-2782 • [www.besttank.com](http://www.besttank.com)



# Training Calendar

## Winter 2022

Date	Course	TCHs	Cost (Member/Non)
Tue, Jan 11 8 am – 1 pm	Small Water System Operations	4 <b>W</b>	\$0
Tue, Jan 11 9 am – 1:30 pm	Basic Math for Water and Wastewater Operators	4 <b>W WW</b>	\$24 / \$48
Thur, Jan 13 9 am – 1:30 pm	Advanced Math for Water and Wastewater Operators	4 <b>W WW</b>	\$24 / \$48
Jan 18 – March 9 9 am – 12:30 pm	Basic Wastewater Course (CLASS FULL—WAITLIST AVAILABLE)	48 <b>WW</b>	\$497
Thur, Jan 20 9 am – 12:30 pm	Lead Line Identification, Inventory, and Replacement	3 <b>W</b>	\$18 / \$36
Thur, Jan 20 9 am – 12:30 pm	TNC Operations	3 <b>W</b>	\$0
Tue, Jan 25 9 am – 12:30 pm	Water System Sampling	3 <b>W</b>	\$0
Jan 27 & 28 9 am – 12:30 pm	Electrical Basics: AC/DC, VFDs, PLCs, and SCADA	6 <b>W WW</b>	\$0 Funded by City of Rutland for violation settlement
Feb 3 – April 7 9 am – 1:30 pm	Advanced Class 3 & 4 Water Operator Certification Course	48 <b>W</b>	\$215 / \$420 Textbooks sold separately
Feb 3 – March 24 9 am – 1:30 pm	Distribution Operator Certification Course	32 <b>W</b>	\$145 / \$285 Textbooks sold separately
Tue, Feb 8 9 am – 12:30 pm	Board Training	3 <b>W</b>	\$0
Thur, Feb 10 8 am – 12:30 pm	Keep Your System Sustainable	4 <b>W WW</b>	\$24 / \$48
Feb 10 & 11 9 am – 12:30 pm	Electrical Basics: AC/DC, VFDs, PLCs, and SCADA	6 <b>W WW</b>	\$0 Funded by City of Rutland for violation settlement
Tue, Feb 15 9 am – 12:30 pm	Corrosion Control and Polymers	3 <b>W WW</b>	\$18 / \$36
Tue, Feb 22 9 am – 12:30 pm	Level 1 Assessments	3 <b>W</b>	\$0
<b>TCH</b> = Training Contact Hours <b>W</b> = Approved for Water Credit <b>WW</b> = Approved for Wastewater Credit			



Date	Course	TCHs	Cost (Member/Non)
Fri, March 4 9 am – 12:30 pm	TNC Operations	3 <b>W</b>	\$0
March 10 & 11 9 am – 12:30 pm	Pumps and Pump Controls Training: Pump Station Deep Dive	6 <b>W WW</b>	\$0 Funded by City of Rutland for violation settlement
Thur, March 24 9 am – 1:30 pm	Breweries and Your WWTF	4 <b>WW</b>	\$24 / \$48

## Notes

All classes will continue to be online through Zoom. DWGWPD and OPR are accepting Zoom classes for full credit towards certification/license renewal.

Register online at [VTruralwater.org/training](https://VTruralwater.org/training) to pay by credit card or check, or mail in the form below. Registrations received less than 24 hours prior to class are subject to a late fee.

Members receive a 50% discount on registration fees for all employees.

Cancellations received at least 24 hours in advance can receive a refund or transfer to another class. No-shows will be charged the full course fee.

To request accommodations, call 802-660-4988 or email [info@vtruralwater.org](mailto:info@vtruralwater.org) prior to the day of class.

## Register Online: [VTruralwater.org/training](https://VTruralwater.org/training)

## Registration Form

Duplicate this form to register for multiple classes.

Course and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

System/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(number where you can be reached the morning of class)

Payment Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail this form and payment to:

VRWA  
20 Susie Wilson Rd, Suite B  
Essex Junction, VT 05452

### Questions?

[info@vtruralwater.org](mailto:info@vtruralwater.org)  
(802) 660-4988





**Green Bay Water**  
@Greenbaywater

We have to [#ProtectTheSource](#) to ensure clean water for generations to come. [#SourceWaterProtectionWeek](#)



**Milwaukee DPW**  
@milwaukeedpw

We each play an important part in protecting source water. As we wrap up Source Water Protection week, remind your partners of everyday actions they can take to help [#ProtectTheSource](#)



**VT Rural Water**  
@VermontRWA

Communication is key! Educate landowners and community members about how to lower the risk of contamination to their drinking water source. [#ProtectTheSource](#)

## Communication

- Talk with landowners
- Promote voluntary participation
- Attend town/board meetings
- Display at Town Meeting Day
- Annual letters



by **Diana Butler**  
*Source Water Specialist*

Vermont Rural Water recently joined other water sector agencies and organizations to celebrate the first ever Source Water Protection Week from September 26 to October 2. This social media awareness campaign, designed by the American Water Works Association (AWWA), comes as source water protection has been gaining some much-needed attention across the nation.

Drinking water systems were first introduced to the concept of source protection in 1986 by the Environmental Protection Agency when two new groundwater programs were established through amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

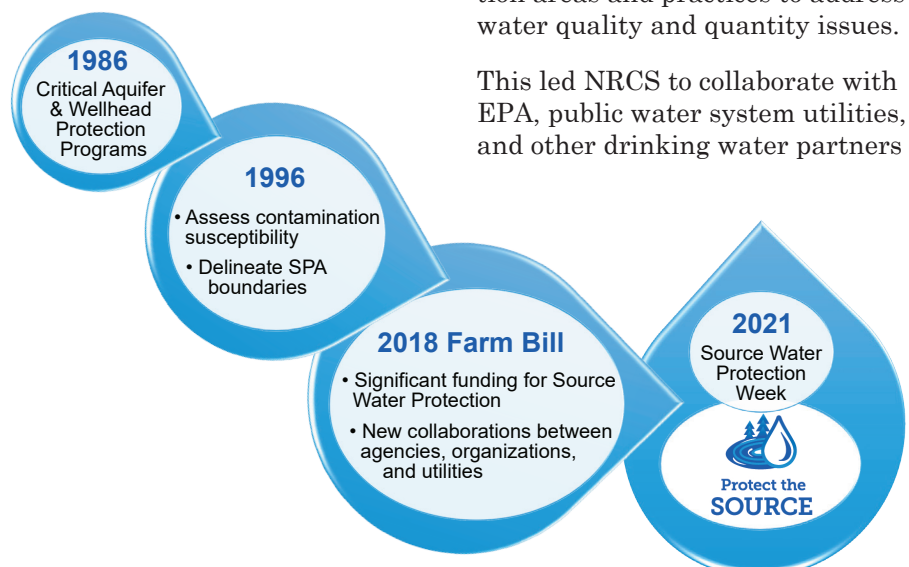
The first, the Wellhead Protection Program, required states to develop a program to prevent contamination to public water systems using

groundwater sources. And the Critical Aquifer Protection Program established a grant to help states and local governments protect “sole source aquifers.”

It was another decade before source water protection got back into the spotlight. The 1996 SDWA amendment included the term “Source Water Protection.” Now states were required to assess the susceptibility of water sources to contamination by delineating protection areas for public water system sources and identifying contaminants within these areas. These assessments were a massive undertaking and, in Vermont, established the foundation for the remarkable source protection program we have today.

The 2018 Farm Bill ignited the recent burst of attention around source water protection. The bill dedicates significant funds from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for source water protection. Each state had to identify priority source protection areas and practices to address water quality and quantity issues.

This led NRCS to collaborate with EPA, public water system utilities, and other drinking water partners





» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

including state affiliates of the National Rural Water Association. Bringing all of these partners together initiated new conversations and education about source water protection. These partnerships and the new funding—which AWWA estimates to be \$4 billion over the next ten years—are a monumental step for source water protection.

AWWA's social media celebration and awareness campaign last month was a big success. Posts were shared by a wide variety of water partners in the US and Canada including federal agencies, water utilities, state agencies, service providers, and water advocacy organizations. The renewed attention toward source water protection is welcomed and needed. 💧

Tweets reprinted with permission.

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

### What kinds of projects will be funded by state ARPA funds?

State ARPA funds are being used for six categories of projects: (1) development of new wastewater systems for unsewered villages, (2) stormwater permitting design and construction, (3) municipal wastewater pretreatment, (4) reduction and elimination of wet weather sewer overflows, (5) financial assistance and loan forgiveness for mobile home parks, and (6) financial assistance for private wells and septic systems. Current information can be

found at [anr.vermont.gov/content/arpa-vermont](http://anr.vermont.gov/content/arpa-vermont)

Note that the majority of water and wastewater systems will not have projects that qualify for state funds and should focus their efforts on local ARPA funds. 💧



**Leveraging Technology for Powerful GIS Solutions.**

11 Pleasant Street  
Littleton NH 03561  
P (603) 444-6768 / (800) 322-4540  
[cai-tech.com](http://cai-tech.com)

**Core Services:**

- Geographic Information Systems
- Municipal Mapping
- Utility Infrastructure Mapping
- Customized GIS Solutions
- Web Solutions



Since 1955, Team EJP has been providing high-quality products, service, and knowledge in the waterworks industry. Relax and trust the experts, call EJP with any of your water, wastewater, and stormwater needs.

**Whatever you need, whenever you need it, no matter what.**

2318 Airport Road  
Barre, VT  
05641  
802-223-2385

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



1235 Airport Parkway  
South Burlington, VT  
05403  
802-865-3958

1-800-EJP-24HR

# Michelle Kolb Joins the Wastewater Management Program



by Elizabeth Walker  
Wastewater Systems  
Specialist

The Wastewater Management Program (WMP) is pleased to announce Michelle Kolb is the new Direct Discharge Section Supervisor. This position opened when Amy Polaczyk moved up as the WMP Manager.

"I'm looking forward to meeting and working with the operating and management community throughout Vermont," Michelle said. "I hope to bring fresh eyes from the private sector that will benefit the WMP."

Her previous experience includes a number of water resources projects around the world. For seven years, Michelle worked as an environmental engineer at Tetra Tech, overseeing water and sanitation projects with a goal of international development. In addition, she managed a water conveyance project in Panama for Engineers Without Borders.

Michelle graduated with a B.S. in Environmental

Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2014. In a senior design course, she managed a team of nine to draft a Conceptual and Preliminary Design Report for a new wastewater treatment plant for the city of Morro Bay, California.

Though she's travelled the world, Michelle always had an eye on Vermont. She moved to the Burlington area three years ago to work from the Tetra Tech office on Church Street. She now lives in Montpelier.

Michelle is an avid outdoors woman, enjoying hiking, backpacking, fishing, cross country skiing, snowboarding, and trail running. 💧



Michelle Kolb is the new Direct Discharge Section Supervisor.

## STRUCTURE. & INTEGRITY.

**PITTSBURG  
TANK & TOWER  
GROUP**  
An ESOP Company Since 1919

*"100 years and still climbing"*

**CREWS  
AVAILABLE  
GLOBALLY**



[WWW.PTTG.COM](http://WWW.PTTG.COM)



**INSPECTIONS REPAIR TANKS**



Wet	Code	Elevated
Dry	Updates	Ground
ROV	Paint	Relocation
In-Service	Insulation	Erection
Cleaning		Dismantles

**NEW TANKS** – Rick DiZinno  
(270) 826-9000 ext. 2601

**EXISTING TANKS** – Jordan Pyles  
(270) 826-9000 ext. 4601



# Becoming a Water Operator in Vermont



by Matt Guerino  
Training Coordinator

There are four steps to becoming a certified Class 2, 3, 4, or D operator. Simple, right? Not necessarily. I am going to try and flesh out some of the requirements of the VT Water Supply Rule, chapter 21-12, that was adopted on March 17, 2020. Operator certification is overseen by the Certification Program of the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division (DWGWP).

The first step is to apply to become an Operator in Training (OIT). An OIT license allows you to gain experience under the supervision of a certified operator, like getting a learner's permit before a driver's license. To receive an OIT license, you must submit an Initial Certification Application and an \$80 fee. An OIT license is valid for the minimum required experience time (see step 2). An OIT license cannot be renewed, but you can apply for a new OIT license if you need more time to get certified.

To get an OIT license, you must have a high school diploma or GED. If you are concerned that you may not meet these requirements you should contact the Certification Program.

Step two is to get experience time, which is defined as time spent performing operational duties at the facility. Requirements for this are found in section 21-12.9 (page 72) of the Water Supply Rule. The amount of experience time required varies by certification level

and is detailed in Table 12-1. Know that your experience time must be at a system of the same certification level as the certification you are seeking to obtain. So if you work at a Class 2 system, this experience only counts towards a Class 2 certification.

You may be able to get partial credit for time working at another system or if you have an equal or higher certification from another state. You must get approval from the Certification Program if you want credit for prior experience.

The third step is to take an exam and receive a passing grade of 70% or higher. Paper exams are offered in Montpelier twice a year, usually the first Fridays in May and November. Computer exams are now offered at certain H&R Block locations—make an appointment online through PSI. You can take an exam as many times as you need to pass, though you have to wait 30 days to retake the exam.

After passing the exam, the final step is to submit the Initial Certification Application. This is the part that most people forget. Attach a letter of recommendation from your supervisor and the \$80 fee. The Certification Program will verify that you have completed all the requirements.

## Helpful Links

### Vermont Water Supply Rule

<https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/dwgwp/DW/Water-Supply-Rule-March-17-2020.pdf>

### Operator Certification Webpage

<https://dec.vermont.gov/water/drinking-water/pwso>

Congratulations, you are now a fully certified VT Water System Operator. Hang your certificate on the wall!

Don't forget to renew your certification every three years. You will need to complete the number of Training Contact Hours (TCHs) required for your certification level, and submit a Renewal Certification Application and pay an \$80 fee. 💧

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!

6 Market Place, Suite 2, Essex Jct., VT 05452  
802.879.7733 [www.AEngineers.com](http://www.AEngineers.com)

**A+E**  
Aldrich + Elliott  
WATER RESOURCE ENGINEERS

# CLOGGED PUMPS?

*Tackle wipes and large debris with these solutions from USABlueBook!*

## FOR SMALLER APPLICATIONS AND LIFT STATIONS

### Goulds GFK and GFV Series Sewage Pumps

- Non-clog impellers handle  
wipes and 2" solids

### FlowRake Rag Catchers

- Catch and retain flushables



**OPERATOR  
DESIGNED**

**USABlueBook  
EXCLUSIVE**



## FOR LARGE MUNICIPAL LIFT STATIONS

### Deming Demersible Chopper Pumps

- Slice the most troublesome solids  
into small pieces

### StationGuard Manual Bar Screens

- Capture damaging wipes and debris

**DEMING®**



**OPERATOR  
DESIGNED**



**USABlueBook®**  
GET THE BEST TREATMENT™

**GET PRODUCT DETAILS AT**  
**[usabluebook.com/NoMoreClogs](http://usabluebook.com/NoMoreClogs)**

**800.548.1234 • [usabluebook.com](http://usabluebook.com)**