

# GRANITE STATE OPERATOR

Summer 2007

## GRANITE STATE RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



### State Begins Work on Water Resources Plan

By Paul Susca

New Hampshire is one of the fastest growing states in the nation. The state has a long history of stewardship of its natural environment coupled with effective encouragement of economic development. In order to sustain this balance into the future, a legislative Water Resources Committee was formed in 2003 to ensure the wise management of water resources. A primary goal of the committee is to develop a State Water Resources Plan that will inform the public and guide the state towards policies and actions that will help ensure the availability and quality of water needed to sustain economic growth while meeting environmental and public health goals. The scope of the plan will be broad: surface water and groundwater, quality and quantity, uses, values, and infrastructure.

In 2004, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services secured federal funding for Phase I of the Water Resources Plan process. In June of this year, DES hired Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. (CEI) to compile and summarize existing data on water resources, use, infrastructure, laws, etc. and to conduct a survey of stakeholder groups to identify issues that need to be addressed in the Plan. The information will be summarized on a statewide basis, and according to major river basins.

CEI will compile a report in the spring of 2008 intended for wide public distribution summarizing this information as well as the results from two other projects being undertaken to support Phase I. In the first project, U.S. Geological Survey is preparing a geographically detailed estimate of water use and return flows and projecting demand into the future. In the second, N.H. Geological Survey is identifying existing and anticipated areas where water resources are stressed.

Beyond Phase I, work on the Plan is expected to include the development of additional data, followed by the identification of infrastructure needs and policy recommendations. The process will be coordinated with the legislative Water Resources Committee and will involve extensive stakeholder and public involvement.

## Pembroke Water Works

### Ray Martin receives recognition for 20 years of service at the Commissioners meeting in May

From left: Denny Duford, operator, Paul J. Whittemore, Superintendent, Ed Lavallee, Commissioner, Maurice Lavoie, Commissioner, Ray Martin, operator, Louise Roberts, Commissioner, Christopher Culberson, Commissioner Chair person, Kevin Brasley, Commissioner, Normand Provencher, Business Manager, and Matt Gagne, Operator





## Who We Are

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

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# TRAINING EVENTS

### Operator Field Day

Date & Location:  
8/28/07 at Mt Sunapee Resort  
Credits: 4 TCH *includes lunch*  
Cost: \$75 non-members  
\$60 GSRWA members  
*save more before July 14th*

### Wastewater Microbiology & Process Control

Date & Location:  
10/17/07 at St. Johnsbury WWTP (VT)  
10/18/07 at Hinsdale Fire Station (NH)  
Credits: 5 TCH  
Cost: \$60 non-members  
\$48 GSRWA members

### Water & Wastewater Analysis By HACH

Date & Location:  
10/25/07 at Pennichuck Water Works  
Credits: 7 TCH  
Cost: \$100 non-members  
\$80 GSRWA members

### Basic Electrical

Date & Location:  
9/6/07 at Gorham Fire Station  
Credits: 6 TCH  
Cost: \$60 non-members  
\$48 GSRWA members

### Process Instrument Verification By HACH

Date & Location:  
10/24/07 at Pennichuck Water Works  
Credits: 7 TCH  
Cost: \$100 non-members  
\$80 GSRWA members

### Intro to Access (wastewater only)

Date & Location:  
11/15/07 at Hinsdale Fire Station  
Credits: 5 TCH  
Cost: \$60 non-members  
\$48 GSRWA members

**For more information on training, please call 603-753-4055 or visit our website at [www.gsrwa.com](http://www.gsrwa.com)**



## HAVE WE HELPED YOU?

Has a GSRWA employee helped your system with an issue? Did a circuit rider help you find a water leak? Have you attended one of our training classes and thought the trainer did an excellent job? Well if so, we want to hear from you!

Take this opportunity to show your appreciation by giving "Thanks" or "Great Job" to a GSRWA employee for a job well done.

You can email comments to our office at [info@gsrwa.com](mailto:info@gsrwa.com) or you can send a letter to: 322 Village Street, Penacook, NH 03303

## STAFF UPDATES

As many of you know, we have lost two keys employees recently due to changes in the federal budget. [Jack Shields](#) and [Donny Boynton](#) had over 21 years of combined service to Rural Water and they will be greatly missed.

## NOTICE TO READERS

Granite State Rural Water Association would like to invite you to prepare a short article about your water or wastewater system, or other topics, which would be of interest to our readers. We also welcome articles from our Associate Members.

Send your articles with photographs, if available, to:  
Granite State Rural Water Association  
322 Village Street, Penacook, NH 03303  
or  
[info@gsrwa.com](mailto:info@gsrwa.com)

## Challenges Illuminate Strengths

By Jennifer Palmiotto, Lead Staff Officer

As many of you may now know, GSRWA lost two of our key programs due to several unexpected factors during the 2007 federal budget process. For a number of years the Training and Technical Assistance and the Groundwater Programs have provided necessary services to New Hampshire's drinking water systems and operators. This has been a challenging time for the Association and yet it has demonstrated the strength of our members and highlighted the dedication of many of our supporters.

For example, back in March, Carol Granfield, Town of Meredith, Dave Bernier, North Conway Water Precinct, Paul Whittemore, Pembroke Water Works, and Ken Aspen, Rye Water District took time out of their busy schedules to fly to DC to talk with New Hampshire senators and representatives to express the value of Rural Water Programs. Representative Hodes and Senator Gregg most notably voiced their support for federal funding for Rural Water Programs. Rural Water's success is due to the testimonials written each year by members like you about the value of GSRWA's field services.

Thank you!

We are working to find alternative funding sources in order to provide these program services in the short-term while we work to restore federal funding for FY 2008. We have our work cut out for us! So, if a GSRWA technician has served you well, please write to us about your experience. These letters make a fantastic impression on our senators and representatives.

### **We look forward to seeing you at GSRWA's second annual Operator Field Day.**

Save the date for August 28th. The Field Day will be held at Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury. This event will be filled with hands-on training sessions, opportunities to meet with exhibitors and see the latest products, and lots of fun events and prizes. During lunch the Association will hold its annual membership meeting. See you there!

## What will **you** do with **your** free time?



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## Benefits of Smoke Testing a Collection System - Part 2

By Vinnie Melendez

### Preparing to smoke test

A smoke test may involve many hours of labor, has the potential to affect the occupants of all buildings connected to the collection system, disrupt traffic, and cause people to summon Emergency Personnel. Therefore, advance preparation is essential to a successful smoke-testing program.

You must determine what areas of the collection system you would like to test and choose a reasonable period of time that you can truly devote enough staff to perform this work correctly.

You should obtain a comprehensive map with street names, addresses and the overall picture of the area to be tested. This map will show where the manholes are and which direction the lines flow. It will also show you where there are force mains, storm drains and any other items of importance. This is an excellent map to include your notes on. Good notes will prevent delays on the job. Manholes to be used for the blower placement should be predetermined and accessed prior to commencing the test. This will save a tremendous amount of time. When choosing the manholes to use always try to avoid busy intersections because creating a detour or closing an intersection will upset some drivers causing dangerous situations.

### Notification Procedures

Get a list of all of the property owners that are in the surrounding area of the vicinity that you have chosen to test. The people that do the billing are usually very helpful. You must send them a notification letter approximately two weeks in advance of the starting test date that includes all pertinent information to the homeowner.

This letter should be similar to the following sample:

#### Dear Resident:

The Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) anticipates conducting four-days of leak tests in the sanitary sewer system beginning DATE. A non-toxic smoke will be blown into the system to reveal leaks that allow storm water and other surface waters to enter. Locating and correcting these leaks will conserve expensive capacity at the treatment facility. A video record of leaks will be made.

The smoke is manufactured specifically for this purpose, leaves no residuals or stains, and has no effects on plants or animals. It has a distinctive, but not unpleasant, odor. The visible smoke and odor last only a few minutes, where there is adequate ventilation.

The smoke should not enter your home. However, if smoke does enter your home any of the following items are the probable cause.

The vents connected to your building's sewer lateral are inadequate, defective, or improperly installed.  
The traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers, floor drains, etc. are dry, defective, improperly installed, or missing.  
The pipes, connections, and seals of the building's sewer system are damaged, defective, have plugs missing, or are improperly installed.

During the week prior to DATE pour water down ALL drains in your home or building to ensure that traps are full.

If traces of the smoke or its odor enter your house or building, it is an indication that odor from the sewer system may also be entering. This can be unpleasant, dangerous, and a potential health hazard. The location, identification, and correction of the source of any smoke entering your house is urgently advised.

The WPCF can provide assistance in locating the source of smoke entering your house. However, correction of any defects in the pipes and sewer on private property is the responsibility of the owner. If smoke is observed in your home and the source is not readily identified or you have any questions, please call PHONE NUMBER

Sincerely,  
Superintendent

A news release and smoke testing CAUTION letter is sent out to the media and other officials to let them know your plans. This is usually done one week in advance. The news release should include the days and exact locations, why you are doing the test and where they can expect to see smoke. List your phone number for questions. Remember that this is just a reminder. Your notification letter should have covered all of the necessary details.

The reminder should be similar to the enclosed sample:

### **Smoke Testing of the Sanitary Sewer System**

The Water Pollution Control Facility inspection crew will be conducting a survey of the sanitary sewer system. The survey will involve opening manholes in the streets and easements. A non-toxic smoke will be blown into the sewer mains to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system. The smoke that may be seen coming from vent stacks on buildings or holes in the ground is non-toxic, harmless, and creates no fire hazard. The smoke should NOT enter your home, unless the plumbing is defective or drain traps have dried up. If you have any seldom used drains, pour water into the drain to fill the trap.

If smoke should enter your home or building correction of defects on private property are the responsibility of the owner. A licensed plumber should be consulted to ensure the corrections are properly made. If smoke is observed you may contact a member of the survey crew working in your area. They will be pleased to assist you in identifying the source of the smoke.

Some sewer mains and manholes may cross property line easements or other rights of way. Whenever these lines require investigation, the crew will need access to the sewer mains and manholes. Clearing of some easements to facilitate access may be performed prior to the survey.

Video records or photographs are to be made of leaks that are found. The survey should begin on DATE and require four-days for fieldwork. If you have questions or observe smoke in your home please call PHONE NUMBER.

Advance notification allows anybody with special requirements such as health concerns enough time to inform you of their situation so that the necessary arrangements can be made. Don't forget to include any concerns with your notes.

### **Commencing the smoke testing**

Before commencing work each and every day of the smoke testing be sure to call dispatch and/or the Fire Department to inform them. They also need to be informed when you are done for the day. Even with all of your preparation, you will undoubtedly get a panic call sooner or later. The emergency personnel in your area need to be aware of this so they can sort out a panic call from a real emergency.

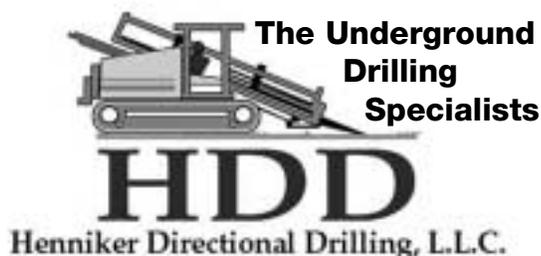
A truck that has been stocked with all of the necessary equipment and materials prior to the morning of the project will once again save lots of valuable time in the field.

### **Concluding a Smoke Test**

All of the notes, pictures and findings that are accumulated in the field should be put into a comprehensive report summarizing the smoke testing work.

Send a letter to all property owners who need to do repair work. Be sure to cite and include the rule or sewer use ordinance that they are in violation of. Give them all the information they need to do the repairs such as permits required, repair methods and a phone number that they may use to obtain any further information. Be sure to set a time limit and always do a follow up inspection.

The Granite State Rural Water Association owns all of the necessary equipment and will gladly assist you with any or all of the requirements involved with a smoke-testing project. Please call the office for details and information at (603) 753-4055.



## [Directional Drilling for Water Service in NH](#)

### [Connecting a New Home to Water Main Across Rt 3 in Boscawen, NH](#)

In Boscawen, New Hampshire, a farmer needed to connect his new home to the water main located across Route 3. He investigated HDD to avoid the expense, extensive permits, and traffic delays that would be required to open cut the road. Martin set the rig on the side of the road and began a 100-foot bore through sandy soil that crossed Route 3, traveled across a tree line, and around power, sewer, and water mains under the road.

### [8-inch Water Main Under the Busy Two-lane Route 114 in Goffstown, NH](#)

A new section of 8-inch water main was needed under the busy two-lane Route 114 in Goffstown, NH. The customer considered HDD for the 70-foot crossing to avoid the long permitting process for cutting through a state road. Without any traffic delays, Martin completed the job in a half day.

Directional drills are relatively compact with a small footprint, allowing them to get into tight spaces and situate on the side of the road without impeding traffic. A small crew is required: a drill operator, mud mixer/vacuum operator and a tracking equipment operator. The tracking operator electronically tracks the progress of the drill head beneath the surface using a hand held tracker. He then gathers data from the sonde located in the drill head just behind the drill bit. The sonde gathers data such as location, depth, roll angle, pitch, and temperature to help the driller adjust the direction of the bit and control the bore path.

To prepare for the installation, the drill operator must first calculate the route, or bore path, of the pipe along a shallow, underground arc. The operator must also estimate the load applied to the pipe during pullback and select an appropriate pipe for the project. As he bores the path, a bentonite polymer mix is injected into the hole to stabilize the hole, remove cuttings, reduce torque, lubricate the pipe, and cool the bit.

When the pilot hole has been bored and the bit emerges in the exit pit, the drill bit is removed. A reamer is placed on the end of the pipe string and pulled back to enlarge the borehole. Generally the reamed hole is about 50% larger than the pipe.

Lengths of polyethylene pipe are then fused together. The pipe is heated and the molecules are transformed into a crystalline state that enables a seamless joining of the pipe. The end result is a fusion joint that is as strong or stronger than the pipe itself. Strong fusions are essential, as service pipe is subject to soil loads without side support from the surrounding hole. This load requirement is a major difference between HDD pipe and pipe installed in a trench. The Henniker Directional Drilling crew is certified in pipe fusion.

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## WITH SYMPATHY

With deep regret we have learned that the following operators have passed away. All at GSRWA would like to express our deepest sympathies to their families and colleagues.

**Thomas Chandler**, our "Meet the Operator" representative in the spring 2007 edition of Granite State Operator, passed away suddenly on April 14, 2007 after battling an illness. Thomas' upbeat personality and dedication for the wastewater industry will be greatly missed in the Town of Warner and at the Warner Village Water District.

**Gerald "Jerry" Young** - 07/26/1942 – 04/07/2007

Jerry was hired by the Plymouth Village Water & Sewer District on August 11, 1997 as a water system operator. Jerry held certification as a Grade 2 distribution and treatment operator, along with his New Hampshire Master Plumbers and New Hampshire Master Electrician's licenses. Jerry was promoted to Water Superintendent on February 15, 2000. Since that time he initiated many system improvements, most recently the construction of a new water booster station and locating an alternative well site. In his spare time Jerry enjoyed motorcycle trips with his wife Pam.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

March 1, 2007-May 25, 2007

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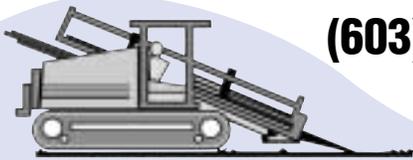
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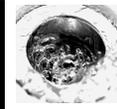
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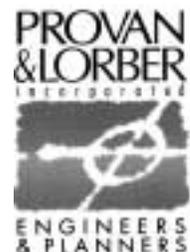
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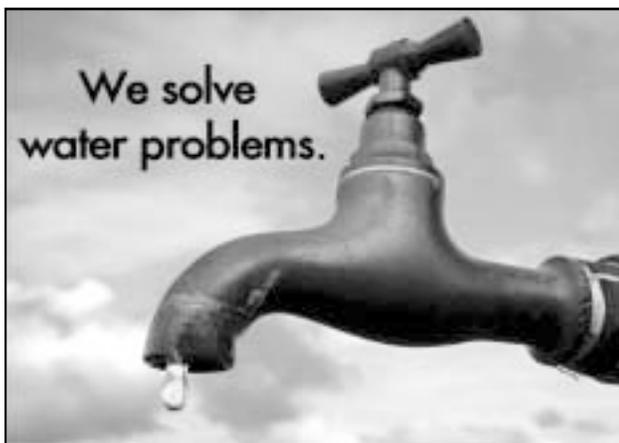
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Granite State Operator is the official publication of GSRWA. It is published quarterly for distribution to operators, managers and board members of water and wastewater systems in New Hampshire, as well as to associate members, regulators and other friends. Opinions expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of GSRWA.

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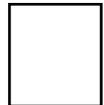
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