

Call for Abstracts



Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference

2023
Hampton, Virginia



We are pleased to announce that the **2023 Onsite Mega-Conference** will be held this fall in Hampton, Virginia. The theme for this year's conference is "**Clean Water for Healthy Communities**". The Mega-Conference is a combined effort between the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA), the National Association of Wastewater Technicians (NAWT), the State Onsite Regulators Association (SORA), and the Virginia Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (VOWRA). The Mega-Conference is the largest event of its kind and offers decentralized wastewater professionals the highest quality education and training available.

The 2023 event will be held October 22-25 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, Virginia. Sessions will be held October 23-24 with optional pre-conference workshop on October 22 and field trips on October 25. A limited virtual component of the conference may be included for those unable to travel to Virginia, but we hope to see many of you there!

Paper, Presentation, and Poster Options

Your abstract can fit into one of these categories:

Education
NAWT

Inspections
Policy/Regulations

Installation
Soil Evaluations

Management/Maintenance
Technical

Please strongly consider writing a paper to serve as long-term documentation of the conference and progress made in the decentralized industry. However, all organizations involved wish to encourage speakers from all aspects of the industry and are offering the following three presentation options:

1. **Oral research-based presentations:** These may be related to new technologies, monitoring, extension education, field assessment, or any topic that is related to onsite wastewater treatment. A presentation could come with or without a paper.
2. **Oral non-research related presentations:** These presentations could be about any onsite wastewater treatment-related topic including installation, maintenance, science about onsite wastewater treatment, maintenance, environmental impacts, and related topics. Presentations must be clearly non-sales oriented. A presentation could come with or without a paper.
3. **Poster presentations:** These presentations could be on a research or non-research related topic about onsite wastewater treatment and recycling. The posters will be displayed during the conference in a prominent location.

A poster and oral presentation contest for Emerging Professionals will once again be held as part of the conference.

Paper and Presentation Review

The presentation slides and paper to be included in the Conference Proceedings must comply with formatting requirements and will be reviewed by the NOWRA Education and Technical Practices Committees. *Each presentation and poster must include a statement that the opinions expressed in their presentation are their own opinion and not that of NOWRA or any of the other conference sponsors.*

Instructions about the Abstract

The abstract can have a **MAXIMUM** of **300 words** and should include the following:

- A sentence or two to introduce the topic and briefly state why it is important.
- The objective(s) of the presentation/research.
- Approximately three sentences of methods or what has been done.
- Highlighted results and a final statement.

Presentation Slots

When submitting an abstract, you will be asked to:

- Identify the Category that best fits your submission.
- State the time slot (25 min, 50 min, or either) required.
- Consider submitting a paper for the conference proceedings.

Abstract Submittal Requirements

You will be required to submit the following information regarding your paper or presentation:

1. **Title of Presentation/Paper**
2. **Abstract Category**
3. **Presentation Format:** Presentation with a paper, presentation without a paper, or poster
4. **Brief Abstract:** 300-word maximum description of the proposed paper and presentation
5. **Author:** Name of lead author and presenter including email and affiliation
6. **Are you an Emerging Professional?**
7. **List of Keywords:** 3-4 keywords describing the presentation
8. **Target Audience:** Will this presentation be better suited for Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, or ALL?
9. **Speaker Bio:** A short bio of the lead presenter (250-word maximum).
10. **Will all the data needed for your presentation/paper be complete and available at the time of presentation/paper submission?**

Important Dates

1. **May 29, 2023:** Abstract submittals are due. Beginning March 6, abstracts can be submitted to the Mega-Conference Abstract Portal at: http://www.nawt.org/call_for_abstracts.html
2. **June 12, 2023:** Authors will be notified of the Education Committee's selection and provided with instructions regarding paper, presentation, and poster criteria and format.
3. **August 14, 2023:** Draft paper manuscripts due for review by the NOWRA Education Committee.
4. **August 21, 2023:** Draft presentations due.
5. **September 4, 2023:** Comments and/or edited papers returned to the author. If re-review is required, they will be due on September 11, 2023.
6. **September 18, 2023:** Final papers and presentations must be submitted in electronic format to be included in the proceedings and conference. If the paper and/or presentation is not received by this date, the topic and speaker will be removed from the agenda.

Questions about a Topic or Conference?

Please discuss questions about the applicability of topics for the conference with Education Committee Chair, Gary Hawkins, by email at ghawkins@uga.edu. For any questions about the conference in general, please contact NOWRA's Executive Director, Tom Groves, by email at tgroves@nowra.org.

To submit an abstract for the 2023 Mega-Conference, use this link to submit your abstract(s) by May 29, 2023:

https://nawt.org/call_for_abstracts.html

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to seeing you in Virginia in October!

All presenters MUST be registered for the conference and are responsible for covering their own registration and travel expenses to attend the conference.



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Wastewater
Mega-Conference