

# 2026 Mega-Conference Call for Abstracts

We are pleased to announce that the **2026 Onsite Mega-Conference** will be held this fall in Westminster, Colorado. The theme for this year's conference is *"Peak to Plains, Elevating the Future of Wastewater"*.

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 host state affiliate, Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater (CPOW). The Mega-Conference is the largest event of its kind and offers decentralized wastewater professionals the highest quality education and training available.

**The 2026 event will be held October 25-28 at the Westin Westminster Hotel, Westminster, Colorado.** Sessions will be held October 26 and 27 with optional field trips on October 28.

## Paper, Presentation, and Poster Options

Your abstract must fit into one of these categories:

**Education**  
**Inspection**  
**Installation**  
**Technical**

**Operation and Maintenance**  
**Policy/Regulation**  
**Rocky/ Difficult Soils**  
**Technology/Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

**Septage Disposal**  
**Soil Evaluation**  
**Safety**

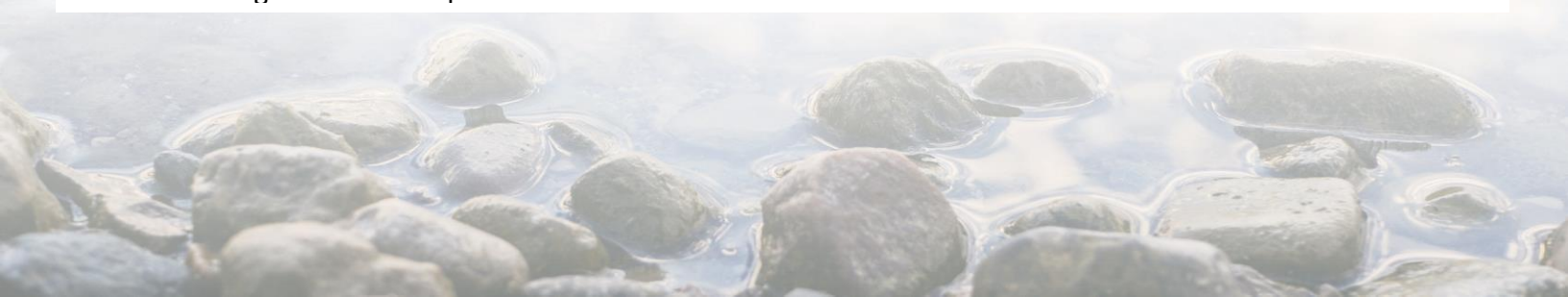
Please consider writing a paper to serve as long-term documentation of the conference and progress made in the decentralized industry. Conference organizers wish to encourage speakers from all aspects of the industry and are offering the following three presentation options:

**Oral research-based presentations:** These may be related to new technologies, monitoring, extension/outreach education, field assessment, case studies, or any topic that is related to onsite wastewater treatment. A presentation could come with or without a paper. (Paper submission highly encouraged.)

**Oral non-research related presentations:** These presentations could be about any onsite wastewater treatment-related topic including installation, maintenance, case studies, science about onsite wastewater treatment, maintenance, AI, safety, septage disposal, environmental impacts, dealing with rocky or difficult soils, and related topics. Presentations must be clearly **non-sales** oriented. A presentation could come with or without a paper.

**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.

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



All presentation slides and papers (if being submitted) will 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 the following disclaimer:

***“The statements made by the speaker either verbally or written are the opinion of the author(s) and do not reflect those of NOWRA or the conference sponsors.”***

### Important Dates

- **March 31, 2026:** Abstract submittals are due. Beginning February 2, 2026, abstracts can be submitted to the Mega-Conference Abstract Portal at:  
<https://www.conftrac.com/#/proposals/?domain=NOWRA26>
- **June 18, 2026:** Authors will be notified of the Education Committee's selection and provided with instructions regarding paper, presentation, and/or poster criteria and format.
- **August 4, 2026:** Draft paper manuscripts due for review by the NOWRA Education Committee.
- **August 11, 2026:** Draft presentations due for review by the NOWRA Education Committee. **August 26, 2026:** Comments and/or edited papers returned to the author. If re-review is required, they will be due on September 4, 2026.
- **September 2, 2026:** Presenters must be registered for the conference and are responsible for covering their own registration and travel expenses. Failure to do so may result in removal from the agenda.
- **September 14, 2026: HARD-DEADLINE FOR ALL POSTERS, PAPERS, and PRESENTATIONS to prep for CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS USB.** 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 ***may be removed from the agenda.***

### Instructions about the Abstract

The abstract can have a **MAXIMUM** of **250 words** and should include the following:

1. A sentence or two to introduce the topic and briefly state why it is important.
2. The objective(s) of the presentation/research.
3. Approximately three sentences describing methods or what has been done.
4. Highlighted results and then end with a final statement.
5. The presentation should **NOT** be a sales pitch but can be a product use presentation.

### Presentation Slots

Each presentation will be allocated 40 minutes. When submitting an abstract, you will be asked:

1. To identify the Category that best fits your submission.
2. To identify yourself as an Emerging Professional.
3. Will you be submitting a paper for the proceedings?



### Abstract Submittal Requirements

When submitting your Abstract, you will be required to submit the following information regarding your presentation:

- **Title of Presentation/Paper**
- **Abstract Category:** Education, Inspection, Installation, Management/Maintenance, Policy/Regulation, Technology/AI, Safety, Rocky or Difficult Soils, Septage Disposal, Soil Evaluation and/or Technical
- **Presentation Format:** Presentation with a paper, presentation without a paper, or poster
- **Brief Abstract:** 250-word maximum description of the proposed paper and presentation
- **Author:** Name of lead author and presenter including email and affiliation.
- **Emerging Professional:** Is the author an emerging professional?
- **List of Keywords:** Must include 3 keywords to describe the presentation.
- **Target Audience:** Will this presentation be better suited for Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, or ALL practitioners?
- **Speaker Bio:** A short bio of the lead presenter (250-word maximum) in paragraph form which includes education and relevant onsite/decentralized industry experience.
- **Completion of Data:** Will all the data needed for your presentation/paper be complete and available at the time of presentation/paper submission?

### Questions about a Topic or Conference?

If you have questions about the applicability of topics for the conference, please contact Education Committee Chair, Gary Hawkins, by email at [ghawkins@uga.edu](mailto:ghawkins@uga.edu).

For questions about the conference in general, please contact NOWRA's Outreach Specialist, Tricia Scott, by email at: [outreach@nowra.org](mailto:outreach@nowra.org). Conference Website: <https://www.nowra.org/conference/mega-conference/>

***To submit an abstract for the 2026 Mega-Conference, please use the following link to submit your abstract(s) by March 31, 2026:***

**<https://www.conftrac.com/#/proposals/?domain=NOWRA26>**

***Thank you for your interest. We look forward to seeing you in Westminster, Colorado in October 2026!***

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

**National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association**

PO Box 982, Westford, MA 01886  
info@nowra.org | www.nowra.org