

Concurrent Sessions

Track: Policy

Monday, October 14, 2019

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

EPA's Decentralized Wastewater Program Update

Zachary Lowenstein

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Decentralized Wastewater Program, within the Office of Wastewater Management, helps to provide resources, education, and outreach at a national level for managing and maintaining decentralized wastewater systems, from single home onsite septic systems, to community cluster systems. This presentation will highlight the major updates and achievements of the Decentralized Program throughout the past year, including SepticSmart Week, and activities within the Decentralized MOU Partnership. The Decentralized Program's annual outreach campaign, SepticSmart Week, promotes proper care and maintenance of septic systems primarily at the homeowner level. EPA's Decentralized Wastewater MOU Partnership, which consists of associations and experts in the decentralized field, help to promote the messages of SepticSmart Week to their members, as well as play an integral part in product development. Achievements of the MOU Partnership priorities will also be discussed, including an update on the recent decentralized workforce initiative.

Monday, October 14, 2019

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

The Public Health Risks of Inadequate Wastewater Treatment

Danna Revis

Few outbreaks of waterborne disease are documented each year in the US because water and wastewater treatment is well established in urban areas. Many Americans are unfamiliar with the waterborne diseases that caused our forebears to develop these technologies. This topic will review some of the diseases we have conquered in the US but still cause outbreaks in the world. In our global society where air travel allows asymptomatic carriers to visit distant lands



in hours rather than weeks, how can the US onsite wastewater industry help keep these risks under control?

Monday, October 14, 2019

4:00 pm to 4:30 pm

From NSFC to NOWIC

Anish Jantrania

The National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC) was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help America's small communities and individuals solve their wastewater problems through objective information about onsite wastewater collection and treatment systems. Some of us still remember fondly NSFC and the services it provided to onsite industry both in terms of information exchange and technical assistance to all groups of people interacting with onsite systems, from users to practitioners to decision makers. Well, for more than a decade now, most of NSFC's activities have been discontinued. Fortunately, their website is still active and the phone line, not the toll-free number but a regular number, is still being answered. NESC traces its roots to 1979, when two WVU professors lobbied the United State Congress to fund a nonprofit organization devoted to protecting the public health and environment of the nation's small communities. We, at Texas A&M University (TAMU), believe that it's time to renew the lobbying efforts to fund a new generation information center devoted to supporting education, training, research, and demonstration activities related to onsite water

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issues. We would call this the National Onsite Water Information Center, or NOWIC (pronounced as “Now I see”). Just like the initial funding for NSFC that came from Clean Water Act (CWA), we have an opportunity to fund NOWIC through the recently enacted National Water Infrastructure Act (NWIA). This paper presentation will give details on the TAMU’s activities related to Onsite Water and will make a strong case for NOWRA and its membership to support TAMU securing federal grants this year to rejuvenate NSFC into NOWIC.