

What We Do

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What do “We” do? Occasionally, in one form or another, this question is asked. Usually not by the operators, you guys and gals know what we’re all about. Village/town clerks, elected officials and the regulatory community, most commonly raise the question. I am going to attempt to explain what

we, NYRWA wastewater people, are all about. Please remember, I am speaking solely about wastewater. Although I do keep my water certification up to date, my focus within New York Rural Water is wastewater. I can not speak for the water programs. I AM WASTEWATER, HEAR ME ROAR.

Now that we understand each other, let me continue. First and foremost, “We” (wastewater, remember) are all about training. Classroom training is pretty much self-explanatory. We provide a good portion of the training required to keep your certification current. This is not an issue. As far as the on-site technical assistance, that also is training based. Whether it’s smoke testing or process related, “Our” emphasis is on training. “We” don’t just ride into town and solve your problem. “We” work with you to identify the problem. “We” teach you how to correct the problem. “We” show you what to look for before it becomes a problem. You are very much involved in the process. Continuing education!

During times of emergency (ice storms, floods, what have you), “Our” (remember, wastewater) mission is two-fold. “We” are not only there to provide any assistance “We” possibly can, be it helping you clean out a tank or providing information on emergency funding, “We” are also there as the eyes and ears for Rural Development. (RD) “We” are conducting, dare I say, basic damage assessments for RD. When I say damage assessments, I’m not talking assigning dollar amounts. “We” are not qualified to do that. “We” are merely looking at the scope of the damage, flooded pump stations, sheared collection drives etc., so “We” can report back to RD and they, in turn, can go to Washington and seek supplemental funding. “We” are not there to complicate matters. “We” are not competing with FEMA, SEMO or any other organization that is offering assistance. “We” are there to assist you, the municipality, to get up and running, back in compliance. As with much of “Our” technical assistance, more so during times of emergency, the caveat “check with your inspector, check with the region, let DEC know” comes with the advice. The last thing “We” want to do is advise you to do something that the regulatory community may not approve of.

“We” also provide assistance in regulatory issues. When an Order on Consent is issued, “We”, along with the help of EFC and RCAP Solutions, can assist you, teach you, educate you on what to expect, what you can do and what you can’t do. Again, training based.

In the end, we all want the same thing. Properly trained operators and administrators who properly operate and maintain their wastewater systems to achieve and, hopefully exceed, compliance requirements. “We” are but a small piece in that puzzle. I hope this helps to clear up any confusion about what we do. “We” train. “We” assist. “We” are here for you. 💧

Attention Operators!!

All future training announcements will be mailed First Class. Be sure to register early. Don't forget you can register online at www.nyruralwater.org for all one day training sessions.

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