

# Lecture Hall

## Session Abstracts

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)  
72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition

### Onsite Wastewater System

Monday, June 23

1:00 – 1:50pm

#### **Remote Wastewater Dispersal Systems: Where We've Been and Where We're Going**

*R. Scott Greene, MS, RS, LSS, Environmental Health Program Specialist, Guilford County Health Dept., NC*

*Heath Ward, RS, Environmental Health Program Specialist, Guilford County Health Dept., NC*

In North Carolina a remote system is a decentralized wastewater treatment and dispersal system in which all or part of the dispersal field is within an easement, common area, or special purpose lot on a separate parcel from the building lot, or a system that is more than 500 feet from the facility. Remote systems were first used in Guilford County, NC in the late 1980's. At that time these systems were used as a last resort to remedy previously approved lots that were in reality unsuitable under the current rules. As land prices have increased and availability has decreased developers have turned to remote systems as a primary development strategy. This strategy has benefits to both the developer and the community. For the developer the number of usable lots is maximized; for the community the amount of open, green space or common area is maximized. Over the past several years Guilford County has been permitting remote systems under a county guidance document. Numerous mistakes have been made, however valuable lessons have been learned. Because of this the Guilford County Environmental Health Division developed a more comprehensive rule regarding remote wastewater systems. This rule addresses issues such as home owners association, tri party agreements, permitting issues, additional inspections, and the possibility of special design issues. In the summer of 2006 this rule was approved by the state (NCDENR) and the local board of health and went into effect on January 1, 2007.

2:00 – 2:50pm

#### **Integrating Rural Wastewater Management: Crow Wing County, Minnesota, Sanitary Management District**

*Craig Gilbertson, RS, Environmental Planner, Ayres Associates, MN*

Double-digit population growths and skyrocketing development has resulted in a dramatic increase in unsewered development in our Minnesota's popular lakes county. The large number of onsite sewage treatment systems that now exist is causing growing concerns over whether adequate wastewater treatment is being achieved. To help assure protection of human health and the quality of the waters, a Joint Powers Board (JPB) of Crow Wing County and the Thirty Lakes Watershed District was established to examine these concerns. Based on wastewater treatment solutions, documented in a wastewater management feasibility plan completed by the JPB and the Implementation Team (citizen volunteer advisory board to the JPB), a county wide decentralized sanitary district with pilot subordinate districts is being established for the region.

The goal of the district is to protect water quality from inadequately managed onsite/cluster wastewater treatment systems. The objective of the district is to develop an effective strategy for implementation of a decentralized wastewater management district on a local level to ensure that onsite/cluster wastewater systems within the district are properly sited, designed, constructed and maintained. This project will accomplish the first steps in achieving the resource protection goal by establishment of a countywide sanitary district with a pilot subordinate district for implementation of a performance management program. The first pilot subordinate district will include five townships.

The purpose of the pilot district will be to ensure that approved systems are installed on each property and that the systems are routinely maintained. The pilot district will inventory and identify all onsite and cluster systems in the district, assess and record the current performance status of each system, establish schedule for routine maintenance requirements for each system and alert system owners of pending scheduled maintenance. The pilot district will use a GIS/database to record the inventory of the existing onsite systems, provide automated maintenance reminders to system owners, and provide a tool for planning of future wastewater infrastructure needs.

3:00 – 3:50pm

**Speaker and Topic TBA**

4:00 – 4:50pm

**Implementation of a Statewide Inventory/Permit Tracking Database in Iowa**

*Daniel Olson, RS, Senior EH Specialist, Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, IA*

The project was initiated with the development of a business plan that provided the map for the development and design of the customized statewide web-based database. The initial focus of design and development of the new database was on capturing basic information from each county regarding onsite treatment systems inventory including property and treatment system information. The database allows for the inputting, storage, retrieval and tracking of the inventory and management categories and elements of OWTS in Iowa. The customized Iowa database will become the central point of reference for information about all of the OWTS installed in Iowa. IDNR and local boards of health will utilize their customized database for the comprehensive aspects of onsite system management.