

Lecture Hall

Session Abstracts

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
72nd Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition

Onsite Wastewater Systems

Tuesday, June 24

8:00 – 8:50am

Point of Sale Inspections of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

Kit Rosefield, Business Owner/Operator, On-site Wastewater Management, Inc., CA

Point of sale inspections have been touted as an ideal way in which to gradually identify septic systems with operational problems and get them repaired prior to the sale or transfer of a property. The question is, do they work and who should be performing them?

9:30 – 9:45am

NEHA's Certified Installer Credentialing Program

Christl Tate, OSWS Coordinator, NEHA, CO

The Certified Installer credential that is administered by NEHA is designed to help establish national guidelines for the installation of onsite wastewater treatment systems. As the nation realizes that sewers are not the only solution for wastewater, state and local health departments are tasked with designing and implementing new programs to support the onsite industry. Training and certification help to support and promote those programs. This presentation will briefly cover the goals of the credential and then discuss examples of how it is being used on a voluntary and regulated basis. Exam locations and industry support will also be covered.

9:45 – 10:20am

EPA Update: The Latest from the Office of Wastewater Management

Joyce Hudson, Environmental Engineer, Decentralized Program Manager, EPA, Washington, DC
R. Scott Greene, MS, RS, LSS, Environmental Health Program Specialist, Guilford County Health Dept., NC

In this presentation, attendees will be able to identify the basic components and goals of EPA's Decentralized Wastewater Program and characterize the needs of the environmental health field. They will also have the opportunity to provide input on the future of EPA's Decentralized Wastewater Program.

11:00 – 11:50am

Hygiene in the 21st Century: The Need for Innovation

Charles P. Gerba, PhD, Professor, University of Arizona, AZ

The continued emergence of new infectious microorganisms (SARS, MRSA) and re-emergence (influenza) along with major changes in life style have created a need for a better understanding of the role of environment in their transmission. Perhaps as much as 80% of all common illnesses (cold, flu, and diarrhea) are spread through the environment (air, water, food). Major changes in life style (i.e. larger buildings, malls, cruise ships, travel, less time cleaning) have actually increased our exposure to a more variety pathogens than previous generations. It is important to understand this exposure so that we can target environmental interventions (proper use of disinfectants and cleaning tools) that provide the greatest reduction in risk. To do this we must understand where we are exposed and use this information to assess our risk through a proper risk assessment. Recent studies are reviewed on the occurrence of pathogens in offices, homes, and public places to demonstrate how this information can be used to target hygiene interventions.