

# USEPA Memorandum of Understanding

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On January 12, 2005, the U.S. EPA and eight partner organizations signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with USEPA Office of Water/Wastewater Management. The purpose of this was to address the environmental challenges facing the US in implementing decentralized wastewater treatment systems. The agreement formalizes the collaboration between EPA and its partners to support state and local governments to improve communication about their decentralized wastewater programs. It focuses on the strategies needed among the partnering associations to implement effective communication to the public about the planning, septic system design, and long-term operation and maintenance of septic systems. NEHA looks forward to working with these organizations to further promote and provide education for the onsite wastewater and related industries:

[Consortium of Institutions for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment](#) - This organization encourages research and education focused on onsite/decentralized wastewater treatment. It lists educational institutions and people from citizens' groups, regulatory agencies and private industry who are actively interested in the onsite/decentralized movement and offers information on academic curriculum and training.

[National Association of Towns and Townships \(NATaT\)](#) - NATaT strives to strengthen the effectiveness of town and township government through the education of lawmakers and public policy officials.

[National Association of Wastewater Transporters \(NAWT\)](#) - NAWT members are part of the liquid waste management industry. NAWT works to increase the professionalism and public image of the industry through education of its members and the public.

[National Environmental Health Associations \(NEHA\)](#) - NEHA's mission is to help environmental health officials to protect the environment. Check out this site for relevant publications, upcoming conferences and NEHA newsletters.

[National Environmental Services Center \(NESC\)](#) - Consisting of three sister organizations (the National Small Flows Clearinghouse, the National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities, and the National Drinking Water Clearinghouse), NESC provides technical assistance and information about drinking water, wastewater, environmental training, and solid waste management to communities serving fewer than 10,000 individuals.

[National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association \(NOWRA\)](#) - NOWRA's goal is to promote and advance the onsite wastewater industry. This site contains a comprehensive calendar of events, the Onsite Insite newsletter, and a helpful listing of state associations. NOWRA is in the process of developing a [model performance code](#).

[Rural Community Assistance Program \(RCAP\)](#) - RCAP is a resource for community leaders and others looking for technical assistance services and training related to rural drinking water supply and wastewater treatment needs, rural solid waste programs, housing, economic development, comprehensive community assessment and planning, and environmental regulations.

[Water Environment Federation \(WEF\)](#) - WEF is a nonprofit technical and educational organization with members from varied disciplines who work toward the WEF vision of preservation and enhancement of the global water environment.

## Update:

The EPA MOU Partners for Decentralized Wastewater Management Programs are pleased to announce the addition of four new partner groups in 2008 including:

[Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators \(www.asiwpc.org\)](http://www.asiwpc.org) - ASIWPCA members are the State, Interstate and Territorial officials who are responsible for the implementation of surface water protection programs throughout the nation.

[Ground Water Protection Council \(www.gwpc.org\)](http://www.gwpc.org) - The Ground Water Protection Council is a national association of state ground water and underground injection control agencies whose mission is to promote the protection and conservation of ground water resources for all beneficial uses, recognizing ground water as a critical component of the ecosystem."

[State Onsite Regulators Alliance\(www.nesc.wvu.edu/sora/index.html\)](http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/sora/index.html) - The State Onsite Regulators Alliance is comprised of state-level workers in the onsite wastewater arena. Their annual conference provides a forum for State, Territorial, and Tribal Regulators to meet, exchange experiences and discuss technology with each other, manufacturers and service providers.

[Water Environment Research Foundation \(www.werf.org\)](http://www.werf.org) - The Water Environment Research Foundation, formed in 1989, is America's leading independent scientific research organization dedicated to wastewater and stormwater issues.

A signing ceremony and renewal of the 3-year MOU by all Partners was conducted in Washington D.C. on November 19, 2008. For more information on the signing ceremony and partner activities, please visit:

[http://cfpub.epa.gov/owm/septic/septic.cfm?page\\_id=260](http://cfpub.epa.gov/owm/septic/septic.cfm?page_id=260)

