



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
REGARDING COOPERATION IN
DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS
BETWEEN THE U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
AND SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS**

National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT)
National Association of Wastewater Transporters, Inc. (NAWT)
National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
National Environmental Services Center (NESC)
National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, Inc. (NOWRA)
Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. (RCAP)
Water Environment Federation (WEF)
Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (CIDWT)

Introduction: This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into and between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the following Signatory Organizations: National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT); National Association of Wastewater Transporters, Inc. (NAWT); National Environmental Health Association (NEHA); National Environmental Services Center (NESC); National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, Inc. (NOWRA); Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. (RCAP); Water Environment Federation (WEF); and Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (CIDWT). These organizations are referred to herein as the Signatory Organizations. Additionally, this Memorandum of Understanding is referred to simply as the MOU.

Purpose: The purpose of this MOU is to formalize the ongoing cooperative relationship between the EPA and the Signatory Organizations in order to effectively address issues pertaining to decentralized wastewater treatment systems. The MOU is intended to facilitate cooperation, collaboration, consultation, coordination, and effective communication between the EPA and the Signatory Organizations.

Objectives: The objectives of this MOU are to:

- Strengthen external partnerships.
- Improve decentralized wastewater treatment system performance through improved practitioner competency, management practices, and technology transfer.
- Improve accountability, control, and oversight through enhanced state, tribal and local program implementation.
- Improve local decision-making through improved public awareness, education programs, and information materials.
- Support the principles outlined in the *Voluntary Management Guidelines and Management Handbook for Decentralized Systems* prepared by EPA's Office of Wastewater Management.

Collaborative Activities: EPA and the Signatory Organizations will collaborate on activities that may include, but are not limited to, the following tasks:

- Develop effective mechanisms for information exchange among signatories on program activities, regulations, and plans for engaging members in decentralized system activities.
- Develop a public awareness effort to promote improved system performance.
- Develop materials and participate as presenters or trainees in conferences and training events held by EPA or other Signatory Organizations.
- Provide feedback on upcoming products and materials.
- Provide technical assistance to members of the Signatory Organizations, as appropriate.
- Conduct outreach activities to stakeholder groups that are not represented in this MOU.

EPA and Signatory Organization Activities: EPA and the Signatory Organizations will provide information to their staff about this MOU, and encourage them to become knowledgeable about decentralized wastewater systems. Specific activities to be conducted by each organization are listed in a separate work plan.

Steering Committee Activities: A Steering Committee composed of at least one representative of EPA and each of the Signatory Organizations will be instituted to provide leadership and direction for the MOU. The Steering Committee activities may include, but are not limited to, the following actions:

- Developing a one year action plan that integrates the activities of the EPA and the Signatory Organizations. Each year, the action plan will be updated to reflect upcoming plans.
- Developing annual reports to track and evaluate progress. The Steering Committee will distribute meeting summaries and reports to their respective organizations. Results of activities conducted under this MOU will be advertised to members of the organizations.
- The Steering Committee will hold annual meetings and communicate regularly via phone or web-based conferencing.

Duration of Agreement: The duration of this document is three years. Any Signatory Organization may withdraw, in whole or in part, with written notice to EPA and the other Signatory Organizations. This document may be updated and periodically amended with concurrence of all Signatory Organizations.

Limits:

1. Nothing in this MOU, in and of itself, obligates EPA or the Signatory Organizations to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or to incur other financial obligations. The Signatories understand that they may not submit a claim for compensation for services to EPA solely on the basis of this MOU. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures, and will be subject to separate subsidiary agreements that will be effected in writing by representatives of both parties.

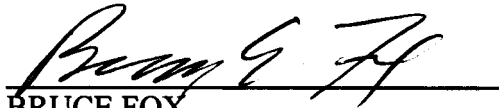
2. EPA may not endorse the purchase or sale of products and services provided by the Signatory Organizations or any of their consultants, contractors or service providers.
3. This MOU does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity against EPA, or the Signatory Organizations, their officers or employees, or any other person. This MOU does not apply to any person outside of EPA or the Signatory Organizations.
4. This MOU does not supercede, alter, supplement, vary or otherwise change financial assistance agreements entered into by EPA with any of the Signatory Organizations. It does not relieve any of the non-Federal Signatories Organizations of obligations or duties contained in financial assistance agreements.

Acceptance: The undersigned agree, on this 12th day of January, 2005, to the program described in this Memorandum of Understanding.



ALLEN R. FRISCHKORN, JR.
Executive Director
National Association of Towns and
Townships

1/12/05
Date



BRUCE FOX
President
National Association of Wastewater
Transporters, Inc.

1-12-05
Date



JAMES BALSAMO
President
National Environmental Health
Association

1-12-05
Date



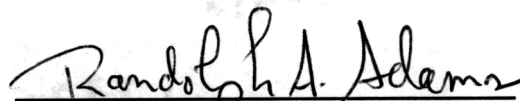
RICK PHALUNAS
Interim Executive Director
National Environmental Services Center

12 January 2005
Date



RAYMOND PEAT
President
National Onsite Wastewater Recycling
Association, Inc.

1/12/05
Date



RANDY ADAMS
Executive Director
Rural Community Assistance
Partnership, Inc.

1/12/05
Date



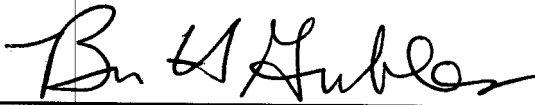
WILLIAM J. BERTERA
Executive Director
Water Environment Federation



KITT FARRELL-POE
Chair Elect
Consortium of Institutes for
Decentralized Wastewater Treatment

Jan 12, 2005
Date

12 January 2005
Date



BENJAMIN H. GRUMBLES
Assistant Administrator for Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Jan. 12 2005
Date