

**Sewage Advisory Committee
DRAFT
Minutes of the Meeting
August 21, 2025**

VOTING SEWAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MEMBERS PRESENT

Adam Browning, Pennsylvania Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (POWRA)
Brian Chalfant, Alternate, Governor's Policy Office
Roger Lehmann, Alternate, Pennsylvania Association of Sewage Enforcement Officers
Duane Mowery, Chair, Pennsylvania Water Environment Association (PWEA)
William Rehkop, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association
Joseph Valentine, Pennsylvania Septage Management Association (PSMA)
Genevieve Kostick, Alternate, County Departments of Health and Health Agencies
John Wagman, American Society of Civil Engineers
Laurel Mueller, Pennsylvania Builders Association
Karen Atkinson, Alternate, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Rebecca Sray, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissions

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Members of the public were present but not identified.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF PRESENT
(CENTRAL OFFICE ONLY)**

Tomisa Kiskadden, Environmental Group Manager, Planning Section, DMF, BCW
Charles Klinger, Water Program Specialist, Planning Section, DMF, BCW
Annamaria Ether De Sanctis, Environmental Engineer, Planning Section, DMF, BCW
Jay Patel, Assistant Bureau Director, DMF, BCW
Richard Wright, Environmental Program Manager, DMF, BCW
Adam Duh, Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel
Brian Schlauderaff, Environmental Group Manager, CW

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Adam Browning at 9:06 A.M. The meeting was conducted both in-person and on-line.

A quorum was present.

Due to the scheduling timeline of these meetings, meeting minutes were not available for formal action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

- Discussion began on the draft regulations. Discussion included proposed Chapter 73.31, Standards for septic tanks, [73.31(b)(1)(vi)], 73.32, Standards for secondary treatment units, 73.32a, Standards for flow-equalization units, 73.36, Standards for ultraviolet radiation units, Subchapter E, dosing and distribution requirements 73.41, General, 73.42, Gravity distribution, 73.43, Pressurized distribution, and discussed through 73.44(a)(5), pressurized distribution design.
- A motion to suspend the meeting to allow discussion with non-SAC members was made by Roger Lehman and seconded by John Wagman. DEP provided details on the SAC bylaws and meeting conduct and the motion was retracted.
- Discussed forming another ad hoc committee to discuss seasonal use of aerobic tanks, vacuum testing and anti-buoyancy measures for buried tanks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Josephine Martin – Josephine would like to draw attention to sending Tomisa Kiskadden two (2) emails. The first email was a press notice that EPA does, there is a onlot septic and water emphasis week every year in September, she sent the notice from 2024. The link has many education links. EPA is doing training for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater areas, she sent a sample notice from EPA on recent webinars available for training. Different universities are putting programs together for this training.

Ron Nauman – Ron is the director of technical support for the National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA). Ron is the Chairman of ASTM C27.30 and on the committee for IAPMO for C1000. Rons Concerns:

- Vacuum test. If a truck driver performs this test, this would need to be a trained person for testing to become qualified. The testing would have to be monitored by someone by the state or by an independent agency. This would require someone very trained to do this that goes through multiple courses to be able to do this testing.
- ASTM C1227 is a standard for design requirements, manufacturing practices, and performance requirements for precast septic tanks. This standard indicates how to make the tanks but also which products to use, etc. to get a quality product. Quality ingredients are required for quality products.
- If testing for watertightness is done in the field by filling a tank with water, it should never go higher than what the specs are. The service level should never be exceeded for the tank, this could cause integrity issues with the tank.
- Precast.org contains information and Ron offered help and assistance.

Dick Bachelder – Regulatory specialist at Infiltrator Water Technologies located in Connecticut. Infiltrator is one of the largest producers of plastic septic tanks in North America.

- Dick echoes what Ron discussed relative to vacuum testing. Dick is unaware of another jurisdiction in North America that requires vacuum testing onsite for every installation. This is, by opinion, not practical. The state and the Department should be assured of the quality of the products based on national certifications. IAPMO Z1000 is a national standard, it is also product quality assurances that is updated almost yearly. (Z1000 will become Z1050) NPCA also has requirements in order to be listed for certification, including vacuum testing requirements. Dick is unaware of any other state that has these requirements on individual sites. Idaho requires any new tank product to ship a tank to them, from normal production, and they test it in the field to test certification. There are intermediate steps that could be taken. These regulations are well intended but onerous.
- Infiltrator does not allow stone aggregate under tanks. The tanks are corrugated, the fill must be filled in between the corrugations, both below and on each side. Any regulation in any state requiring aggregate below the tank is not attainable by Infiltrator. This is a problem for Infiltrator.

Peter Gavin – Peter is the owner of Polylock NSF 46 effluent filters. Peter provided a brief overview of NSF 46 and what has been done and what it entails. NSF 46 is a 1500-gallon test that does not use live sewage but uses beads. It is a pass-fail criteria for how many beads pass through the filter element. There are currently four (4) companies that have NSF 46 approval. NSF 46 was last revised in 2017 and is the only standard for effluent filters. All filters go through a 5-year review period, if there are any changes, NSF is notified and NSF retests. One product Polylock provides has a shut off ball. The ball does not shut down the system, it still allows for 1/16 inch filtration, but the ball stops a large slug of sewage to escape a tank during filter maintenance. NSF 46 is the standard as far as effluent filters go.

Adam invited Ron Nauman to discuss ASTM 1227 –

- Adam is questioning if this could be a replacement for vacuum testing? ASTM 1227 is the standard specification for precast concrete tanks. This includes the scope, reference, terminology, ordering information, materials, design criteria, structural requirements, quality control, performance test methods, and sampling. The performance testing methods calls out 2 possible methods. The two methods are a water filling test and vacuum testing. The water is only filled up to the level of design of the tank. The manufacturer must certify 3 things: watertightness, physical dimension, and strength of structure. Only when the purchaser specified in the bidding documents, the manufacturer shall select (1) of every 20 septic tanks to be randomly tested to determine compliance with the specifications. If this is not requested, NPCA requires watertightness test and tested by either the water filling method or vacuum testing, 1 tank per mold per year. If not NPCA not tested for watertightness.
- IAPMO indicates water test or vacuum test for certification test only, not production test. This is not ongoing.

Brett Wieber – Norweco. Brett would like to work towards a working group for aerobic tanks. Concerned about the question of the efficacy of aerobic tanks and seasonal use. Without a

definition of what seasonal means is problematic. Brett wants to collaboratively discuss. If contemplating forcing septic tank manufacturers for a 11500-gallonwater test at a site it should be reasonable to contemplate taking 5 gallons of sludge from an active system to seed an aerobic tank. Feels this is conclusionary and the issue is not settled.

SAC REQUESTED ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Browning called for any new business from the committee. Discussed ad hoc meetings. Last meeting voted for two (2), shallow LZ issues and SMP's/ malfunctions.

Malfunctions and SMP's – Joe Valentine, Genny Kostick, Roger Lehman, and Laurel Mueller expressed interest. Chair Browning appointed Roger Lehman as Chairperson for this ad hoc committee meeting. Roger will reach out about members.

Shallow LZ/4-year fill – Chair Browning appointed Joe Valentine as Chairperson. Adam will reach out to determine members.

Motion to create a third ad hoc committee for tank issues. Motion made by Roger Lehman, seconded by Joe Valentine. Committee for seasonal use and vacuum testing. Chair Browning appointed self as the Chair.

Motion to create a fourth committee for electrical connections and timed dosing. Motion made by Joe Valentine and seconded by John Wagman. Chair Browning appointed Duane Mowery as Chair.

Discussed scheduling three (3) more meetings in addition to September 15, 16, and November 3. Next meeting will be September 15, 2025, at 9:00am.

ADJOURNMENT

SAC meeting was adjourned at 1:24 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be Monday September 15, 2025, Boyertown Community Ambulance Service Building, 2 E. 2nd Street, Boyertown, PA 19512, to be held virtually and in person. Notice of the meeting and meeting materials will be on the SAC webpage.