



## Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee

NEIW PCC South Portland  
584 Main Street, South Portland, ME 04106

info@neiw pcc-jetcc.org  
www.jetcc.org

p: 207-253-8020  
f: 207-771-9028

### **Testimony before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

Peter Zaykoski, South Portland Program Manager, NEIW PCC & Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee Program Manager

February 6, 2025

The Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC) has served the citizens of Maine since 1985 by providing initial and continuing education programs for water and wastewater treatment plant operators in Maine. The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIW PCC) has provided support to JETCC by staffing the Committee and coordinating and managing its training catalog from its beginnings.

The Committee is composed of eleven members who are appointed by the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The members of the committee represent Maine DEP, Maine Department of Health and Human Services, the Maine Water Environment Association, industrial wastewater treatment facilities, municipalities and districts, and NEIW PCC, as the training contractor.

JETCC's annual budget is between \$165,000 and \$190,000, depending on the specific suite of programming planned. For each of the state fiscal years 2024 and 2025, JETCC has received \$52,950 from the General Fund. The remainder of its budget is supported by a \$10,000 annual contract with Maine DEP, registration fees for courses and programs, sponsorship funds from the Maine Water Environment Association and the Maine Water Utilities Association, and reimbursement under the Maine DHHS Capacity Development Training Reimbursement Fund.

The support from the General Fund has provided an anchor for the success of JETCC. It has allowed registration costs to remain low and provided capacity for staff to coordinate with state agency and utility partners to understand and respond to current and upcoming training needs.

JETCC leverages the funding provided by the State by engaging the Maine's community of environmental professionals. JETCC relies on volunteers to share their knowledge and expertise as instructors for classes and relies on facilities to donate their spaces to host in-person training. Professional trainers typically cost \$100 per hour of training or more and may charge additional fees for preparation. Every volunteer that contributes to JETCC's mission helps keep our programming at a reasonable cost and increases the reach of our state funding. In a typical year, JETCC relies on about 100 volunteers to accomplish its mission.

Additionally, state funding has helped maintain JETCC as a foundational program for NEIW PCC in Maine and helps justify NEIW PCC's investment in an office in South Portland, from which all of NEIW PCC's work in Maine is coordinated.





## **Core Training Program**

JETCC's core training program is offered throughout the year and consists of at least 24 training opportunities annually. Most of JETCC's trainings are offered in-person, at facilities around the state. Some trainings are offered in a live-virtual setting and, recently, JETCC has expanded into offering trainings in a hybrid style, with multiple locations in the state where the training is live-streamed to a centralized, proctored space.

In the current biennium, JETCC has offered 36 classes as part of its core program, which have had 584 students. JETCC awarded 5,604 training contact hours for those classes. Additional remote and in-person training opportunities will continue to be offered through the winter and into the spring.

## **Management Candidate School**

Since 2009, JETCC has coordinated the Maine Management Candidate School. This program is designed to prepare mid-career water and wastewater professionals for leadership and management roles. Twelve classes have graduated since the program's inception, with a total of 233 graduates. Our current class began in November 2024 and will meet monthly until graduation at the MEWEA Fall Conference in September 2025. JETCC has awarded 1,624 training contact hours in the current biennium as part of Management Candidate School.

## **North Country Convention**

Since 1990, JETCC has coordinated the North Country Convention in Aroostook County. This biennial event is focused on offering training to operators in the northern region of the state. The 2023 North Country Convention was held in Presque Isle on April 5-6, 2023. This conference attracted 96 attendees and 17 exhibitors. JETCC awarded 771 training contact hours to attendees. The next Convention is scheduled for April 2-3 of this year and will once again be held at Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle. The Convention will offer two full days of training for attendees and several opportunities to interact with vendors on the tradeshow floor.

## **Wastewater Operator School**

In 2017, JETCC began offering the Wastewater Operator School. This six-month program is designed for early career professionals and is focused on the fundamentals of wastewater treatment plant operations. The program helps prepare participants for success and longevity in the industry. Since the initial class in 2017, the WOS program has been offered in 2018, 2020, and 2024. The 2024 program attracted 18 students. JETCC awarded 1,408 training contact hours to participants. The next program is expected to be offered in 2026.

## **Summary By The Numbers**

In total, JETCC has offered 463 hours of training, attracted 641 students, and awarded 8,636 training contact hours across its programs in the current biennium.





## **ABOUT NEIW PCC**

Mission Statement: To advance clean water in the Northeast through collaboration with, and service to, our member states.

Vision: Clean and sustainable water throughout the Northeast.

Values: Leadership • Education • Collaboration • Service • Science

### **Areas of Work and Impact**

- Connections: We engage and convene water quality professionals and other stakeholders across the Northeast to collaborate on clean water and environmental science challenges across shared regions, ecosystems, and areas of expertise.
- Protection: We conduct research into water-related topics, monitor environmental factors, and fund such work by others. We also implement and fund environmental restoration and other on-the-ground projects.
- Training: We develop, coordinate, and conduct training courses that serve water quality professionals regionally and nationwide.
- Education: We fund and/or staff programs that engage the public through events, exhibits, web and print publications, and other outreach activities.
- Engagement: We actively represent the interests of member states at meetings with federal and state officials and in regional and national water and wastewater associations.

### **NEIW PCC's Work in Maine**

In addition to support of JETCC, NEIW PCC works for the state of Maine on several programs.

#### Wastewater Operator Certification

In early 2006, Maine DEP transferred to NEIW PCC all administrative duties of Maine's Wastewater Operator Certification program. These duties include coordinating certificate renewal, record keeping, and applications for Maine's Computer-based Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator exams.

#### Nonpoint Source Training Resource Center Support

NEIW PCC South Portland staff provide administrative support Maine DEP's training and certification program in basic and advanced erosion control.

#### Department of Health and Human Services

NEIW PCC supports the Maine Drinking Water Program by providing nine full-time staff under a contract with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

#### Collaboration & Communication Across the Region

NEIW PCC hosts almost twenty work groups that are composed of state and federal staff from throughout the Northeast region, including many staff from agencies in Maine. These work groups are designed to help state agency staff communicate with our federal partners and share information and success across state lines. NEIW PCC's regional wastewater training and certification work group is coordinated by staff in the South Portland office.





## NEIW PCC South Portland

Maine Joint Environmental Training  
Coordinating Committee  
584 Main Street, South Portland, ME 04106

maine@neiwppcc.org  
www.neiwppcc.org/maine

p: 207-253-8020  
f: 207-771-9028

### JETCC Members

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**Jonathan Helstrom**  
*Chair*  
Caribou Utilities District



**Yarissa Ortiz-Vidal, PhD**  
*Vice Chair*  
Rockland Pollution Control Dept.



**Judy Bruenjes**  
*Secretary*  
Maine Department of  
Environmental Protection,  
Division of Water Quality  
Management



**Christopher Cline**  
Yarmouth Wastewater Treatment  
Plant



**Isreal Colpitt**  
Greater Augusta Utility District



**Jeff McBurnie**  
Casella Resource Solutions



**Dustin Price**  
Portland Water District



**Alex Pugh**  
Division of Environmental Health,  
Maine CDC, Department of  
Health & Human Services,  
Subsurface Wastewater



**Jeff Saucier**  
McCain Foods USA

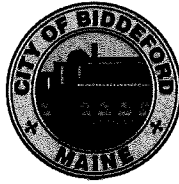


**Christina Stringer, PhD**  
Director of Wastewater and  
Onsite Programs, NEIW PCC



**Gregg Wood**  
Maine Department of  
Environmental Protection,  
Division of Water Quality  
Management





February 6, 2025

Appropriations/Environment & Natural Resources Committees Members  
100 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333  
RE: Support for JETCC

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Biddeford, I am writing in support for the continued funding of the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC). As a provider of training for wastewater treatment operators, JETCC plays an essential role in ensuring the protection of public health and the environment in Maine.

Biddeford is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest city in the state of Maine, with some of the oldest sewer infrastructure. The work that our operators do daily to make clean water is essential and technical work. Most Maine communities are not large enough to provide their own training in something as specific as wastewater collections and treatment. We rely on the collaborative efforts from organizations like JETCC to make sure operators are properly trained. Having well trained operators is not only good common sense, but also a requirement to maintain licensing required to do the job. JETCC not only provides the training but also assists in the licensing process.

As many others have stated, Investing in JETCC is an investment in our state's water community, which directly impacts public and environmental health. I strongly encourage you to continue supporting JETCC at its current funding level or consider an increase to further enhance its capacity to serve the needs of Maine's wastewater treatment professionals.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Alex Buechner  
City of Biddeford Wastewater Superintendent  
[Alex.buechner@biddefordmaine.org](mailto:Alex.buechner@biddefordmaine.org)  
207-282-1350

Brunswick Sewer District  
Brunswicksewer.org  
[info@brunswicksewer.org](mailto:info@brunswicksewer.org)  
207-729-0148



February 6, 2025

Appropriations/Environment & Natural Resources Committees Members 100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Support for JETCC

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the Brunswick Sewer District, I am writing to express our strong support for the continued funding of the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC). As a critical provider of training for wastewater treatment operators, JETCC plays a vital role in ensuring the protection of public health and the environment in Maine.

Our District, like many others across the state, relies on certified operators to manage our wastewater treatment facilities effectively. The training provided by JETCC equips these operators with the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain compliance with environmental regulations, optimize treatment processes, and safeguard our water resources. The comprehensive curriculum covers a wide range of topics, from basic laboratory techniques to advanced technologies, ensuring that operators remain up-to-date with industry best practices.

In addition to its core training programs, JETCC serves as a valuable resource for operators seeking continuing education and professional development opportunities. The organization's commitment to providing high-quality, accessible training is essential for maintaining a skilled and knowledgeable workforce in the wastewater treatment sector.

As Maine's economy continues to grow and evolve, the demand for skilled wastewater treatment operators will only increase. Investing in JETCC is an investment in the future of our state's water infrastructure and the health of our communities. We urge you to continue supporting this vital program at its current funding level or consider an increase to further enhance its capacity to serve the needs of Maine's wastewater treatment professionals.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Pontau', written in a cursive style.

Robert A. Pontau Jr., PE  
General Manager  
Brunswick Sewer District

**Jonathan Helstrom**  
General Manager  
**Sue Sands**  
Office Manager, Clerk  
**Fred Page**  
Water Superintendent  
**Derek Dufour**  
Wastewater Superintendent



**Caribou Utilities District**  
Water & Wastewater  
P.O. Box 10 Caribou, ME 04736 (207) 496-0911

Trustees  
**Gary Aiken**  
President  
**David Martin**  
Treasurer  
**David Belyea, P.E.**  
**Jay Kamm**  
**Matthew Till**

2-4-2025

Environment and Natural Resources and Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committees  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**RE: Support of JETCC**

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC) and its mission to provide high-quality, affordable training for environmental professionals throughout Maine. As the General at Caribou Utilities District, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that JETCC's training programs have on our industry.

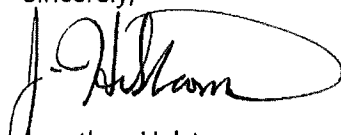
JETCC's commitment to protecting the environment, public health, and quality of life in Maine is commendable. The comprehensive training and certification programs offered by JETCC equip professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively manage and operate water and wastewater systems. This, in turn, ensures the safety and well-being of our communities.

The collaborative efforts of JETCC, supported by NEIWPCC and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, have been instrumental in advancing the standards of environmental management in our state. The training programs, such as the Wastewater Operator School and the Management Candidate School, are invaluable resources that prepare the next generation of environmental leaders.

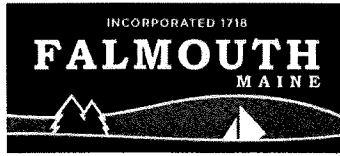
I wholeheartedly support JETCC's mission and encourage others in the industry to do the same. The continued success of JETCC's programs is vital for maintaining the high standards of environmental protection and public health in Maine.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work in supporting our environmental professionals. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further assistance or information.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Helstrom



February 4, 2025

Appropriations & Financial Affairs Committee  
Environment & Natural Resources Committee  
100 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333  
**RE: Support for JETCC**

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Town of Falmouth Wastewater Department, I write today in strong support for the continued funding of the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC). Falmouth Wastewater Staff regularly turn to JETCC for the training needed to understand current trends in our industry. JETCC training provides our operators with the knowledge and skills needed to optimize treatment processes, maintain compliance with environmental regulations, and safeguard our water resources. Many of our Staff have completed JETCC's management school, which is an opportunity for operators to understand all facets of the work we do to protect the environment.

Investing in JETCC is an investment in our State's public and environmental health. I strongly encourage you to continue supporting JETCC at its current funding level or consider an increase to further enhance its capacity to serve the needs of Maine's wastewater treatment professionals.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Marks".

Dan Marks, P.E.  
Falmouth Wastewater Superintendent  
96 Clearwater Drive  
Falmouth, ME 04105  
(207) 781-4462  
[dmarks@falmouthme.org](mailto:dmarks@falmouthme.org)

**TOWN OF FALMOUTH  
WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT**

96 Clearwater Drive • Falmouth, ME 04105 • 207-781-4462  
[www.falmouthme.org](http://www.falmouthme.org)

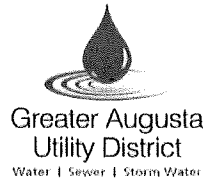


Brian Tarbuck, General Manager  
btarbuck@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org

Ken Knight, Board Chair  
kknight@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org

Pat Paradis, Clerk  
pparadis@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org

Bob Corey, Treasurer  
bcorey@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org



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Cecil Munson  
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Bradley Sawyer  
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Keith Taylor, Hallowell voting member  
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Keith Luke, Augusta ex-officio member  
kluke@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org

Kara Tudman Walker, Hallowell ex-officio member  
ktwalker@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org

February 4, 2025

Appropriations/Environment & Natural Resources Committees Members  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Funding Support for JETCC

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the Greater Augusta Utility District (GAUD) and as an appointed Maine Commissioner of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), I am writing in support of continued funding of the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC). JETCC is supported by NEIWPCC's South Portland office. JETCC plays an essential role in providing training for certified drinking water and wastewater operators critical to ensuring the protection of public health and the environment in Maine.

JETCC also manages wastewater operator certification in Maine. In 2024, 265 wastewater operators renewed their licenses while 44 operators were certified for the first time. There are 609 active wastewater operators in Maine.

GAUD serves the wastewater treatment needs for Augusta, Hallowell, Manchester, Winthrop, Monmouth, Togus and parts of Chelsea, as well as the drinking water needs for Augusta, Manchester and parts of Chelsea and the stormwater needs for the City of Augusta. Our organization has a staff of just over 40 employees with varied responsibilities, including drinking water and wastewater treatment, collection and distribution operations, engineering and laboratory analysis. We are required to retain a highly skilled workforce to support our operational needs, which depends on a wide variety of certifications which require continuous education. JETCC plays a critical role in workforce development and provides certified operator training opportunities throughout Maine.

I strongly encourage you to continue supporting JETCC at its current funding level or to consider an increase to further enhance its capacity to serve our drinking water and wastewater professionals.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Brian Tarbuck  
General Manager

**Letter of Support  
for the  
Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC)**  
February 4, 2025

I have been in the wastewater field for nearly 43 years as a Certified Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Operator here in the State of Maine and I have relied on the JETCC program for nearly all of the required continuing education units (CEU's) of training that I have received.

As per the requirements of the State of Maine, certified WWTF operators must receive 18 CEU's of Maine Department of Environmental Protection approved training every 2 years to keep their certifications current and active. Certified Water Operators must receive between 18 to 24 CEU's (based on their level of certification) of Maine Department of Health and Human Services approved training every 2 years to keep their certifications current and active. The JETCC program is one of the largest sources of approved training for approximately 750 Certified WWTF Operators and approximately 950 Certified Water Operators across the State of Maine.

Since 2017, the JETCC program has offered individuals new to the wastewater industry a multi-week course of studies entitled "Wastewater Operator School" (WOS) where students learn the basic principles of wastewater collection and treatment. To date, 78 students have graduated from JETCC's WOS program.

Since 2009, the JETCC Program has offered individuals interested in becoming future Superintendents and Business Managers in the water and wastewater fields a multi-week course of studies entitled "Management Candidate School" (MCS) where the students learn the intricacies of budgeting, licensing, personnel, and related management strategies pertaining to the overall operation of Maine's Water and Sewer Departments and Districts. To date, 233 students have graduated from JETCC's MCS and the class is full once again this year with 20 students attending the program.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic a few years ago, the JETCC program transitioned to a virtual on-line training platform for both the MCS and WOS programs to assure the training needs of our water and wastewater industry professionals were being met. The other training programs offered by JETCC to keep the water and

wastewater industry professional's certifications and general industry knowledge up to date were transitioned to an on-line platform as well. The transition from the in-person training to an on-line training platform was performed in a timely manner so that the industry's professionals were able to maintain their certifications and stay up to date with current issues and resolutions during the Covid-19 pandemic. This was a tremendous feat to accomplish because nearly all the training offered prior to the Covid-19 pandemic was attended in person. Transitioning to an online platform, in only a few short months, is a testament to the dedication, depth of knowledge, and overall quality of the Staff of the JETCC Program. If not for the funding from the State of Maine, coupled with the bottom-line budgeting savvy of the JETCC staff, the required training would not have reached Maine's certified water and wastewater professionals. Today, JETCC offers both on-line and in-person training options to meet the State of Maine's training needs.

Without the training that has been provided by the JETCC Program over the past four decades, today's water and wastewater professionals would not be able to obtain the necessary training at an affordable cost. Attaining quality training that is pertinent to the day-to-day operation of the facilities at a reasonable cost is important to all Maine communities to keep local usage rates as low as possible while keeping staff well trained and up to date on trending issues.

Supplying affordable and relevant training has been, and will continue to be, the type of training that the JETCC Program offers Maine's Water and Wastewater Operators. However, JETCC relies heavily on the funding received from the State of Maine to keep the cost reasonable for its trainees. This is why it is important for the JETCC program to receive its requested funding annually from the State of Maine.

Please consider this my request for the State of Maine to continue, at a minimum, its current level of financial support for the Maine JETCC Program.

Respectfully,

Mark L. Holt

Superintendent, Livermore Falls & Jay Sewer Departments

Maine Grade 5 WW Operator, Grade 4 Coll. System Operator, & Grade 2 Lab Analyst  
Former JETCC Board Member & Vice-Chair



February 6, 2025

Appropriations/Environment & Natural Resources Committees Members  
100 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333  
RE: Support for JETCC

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the Lewiston Auburn Clean Water Authority (LACWA), I am writing in support for the continued funding of the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC). As a provider of training for wastewater treatment operators, JETCC plays an essential role in ensuring the protection of public health and the environment in Maine.

LACWA is the second largest wastewater treatment plant in the state and relies on trained and certified operators to manage our treatment processes effectively. The wide range of course topics as well as the various skill levels (beginner to advanced) offered by JETCC directly benefits our operators, and our entire facility. JETCC's ability to pivot during the COVID-19 pandemic to virtual trainings, was instrumental in allowing operators to obtain the required training credits to maintain their operator certificates. JETCC still offers many virtual classes, which allows more operators to attend and learn. LACWA has a long-standing relationship with JETCC and considers their service an invaluable one.

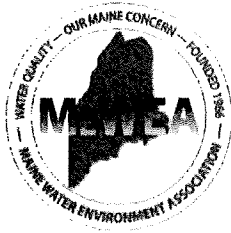
Investing in JETCC is an investment in our state's water community, which directly impacts public and environmental health. I strongly encourage you to continue supporting JETCC at its current funding level or consider an increase to further enhance its capacity to serve the needs of Maine's wastewater treatment professionals.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Peaslee".

Travis Peaslee  
General Manager  
[tpeaslee@lacwa.org](mailto:tpeaslee@lacwa.org)  
Lewiston Auburn Clean Water Authority  
535 Lincoln St. Lewiston, ME 04240  
207-782-0917



# Water Environment Association

www.mewea.org

## 2025 Executive Committee

### **President**

Terry Tucker  
York Sewer District

### **President Elect**

Rob Pontau  
Brunswick Sewer District

### **Vice President**

Amanda Smith  
Bangor Wastewater

### **Immediate Past President**

Emily Cole-Prescott  
City of Saco

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Jeff McBurnie  
Casella Organics

### **Deputy Treasurer**

Travis Peaslee  
LACWA

### **Outreach Council Director**

Phil Tucker  
York Sewer District

### **Treatment Systems Operations**

#### **Council Director**

Paula Drouin  
LACWA

### **Personnel Advancement Council**

#### **Director**

Stacy Thompson  
City of Saco WRRD

### **JETCC Representative**

Peter Zaykowski

### **MWUA Representative**

Andy Begin  
GAUD

### **MEWEA State Director**

Andre Brousseau  
Sanford Sewerage District

### **Committee Chairpersons**

#### **Awards**

Mike Guethle

#### **Collection Systems**

Ashley Jones

#### **Communications**

Bryanna Denis

#### **Convention**

Justin Barnett

#### **Government Affairs**

Amanda Smith  
Dan Marks

#### **Laboratory**

Vacant

#### **Membership**

Jennifer Nicholson

#### **Personnel Advancement**

Charlene Poulin

#### **Pretreatment**

David Dane

#### **Public Relations**

Evan Pereira

#### **Residuals Management**

Travis Peaslee  
Andre Brousseau

#### **Stormwater**

Ali Clift  
Jodie Keene

#### **Treatment Plant Operators**

Alex Buechner

#### **Young Professionals**

Sierra Kuun

#### **Maine DEP Representative**

Gregg Wood

#### **Legislative Advocate**

Jim Cohen

February 4, 2025

Appropriations/Environment & Natural Resources Committee Members  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Support for Maine JETCC

Dear Prestigious Members of the Appropriations & Financial Affairs and the Environmental & Natural Resources Committees:

The Maine Water Environment Association (MEWEA) represents a diverse group of water quality professionals throughout Maine. Presently, there are 650 licensed operators within the State. According to state law, these operators are required to complete 18 hours of training biennially. The training provided by JETCC encompasses a broad range of topics, including blue print interpretation, pump maintenance, laboratory skills and day-to-day operations. Notably, the training often incorporates the most recent technological advancements in our field.

The clean water sector is currently facing a significant employment challenge, as a large portion of our operators are approaching retirement age. It is crucial to ensure that adequate training is available for new operators entering this essential field. The State of Maine depends on clean water to sustain its economic activities, ranging from small businesses that bolster tourism to large manufacturers producing a wide array of goods. Every business and resident contributes to wastewater generation, which necessitates effective collection and treatment to maintain the purity of our waterways. Operators play a vital role as the first line of defense in safeguarding public health.

The Maine Water Environment Association respectfully requests that you maintain the current funding level for JETCC. Furthermore, it would be advantageous to contemplate an increase in funding, given the critical role that operators fulfill on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Theresa Tucker, MeWEA 2025 President

Follow us on



Water Resource Recovery  
Saco City Hall  
300 Main Street  
Saco, Maine 04072-1538



Howard Carter  
Director  
[HCarter@sacomaine.org](mailto:HCarter@sacomaine.org)  
Phone: (207) 282-3564

February 4, 2024

Appropriations/ Environment & Natural Resources Committees Members  
100 Sate House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Support for JETCC

Dear Prestigious Members of the Appropriations & Financial Affairs and the Environment & Natural Resources committees,

My name is Howard Carter Director of the Water Resource Recovery Department for the City of Saco, ME. I am writing to you to express how important JETCC training is to drinking water and clean water professional development. The City of Saco has 9 certified clean water professionals on the front lines protecting public health and the environment 24/7. The state statute mandates the operators obtain 18 hours of training every two years. Training provided by JETCC includes a wide variety of subjects from blueprint reading, pump repair, basic laboratory skills and much more. More importantly, the training usually includes the latest technological advances within our industry.

The water industry is in a precarious employment situation where our professionals are now retiring. It is vitally important to continue to provide the necessary training for the new operators who are entering the field. The State of Maine relies on clean water for economic commerce from the small businesses that supports tourism to the large businesses that manufacture a multitude of products. Every business and resident generates wastewater that must be properly collected and treated so that our water ways remain pristine. It is the operators who provide the first line of defense in the protection of the health of humans and wildlife therefore training for our operators is vital.

I am in hopes that this committee will continue to fund JETCC at its current level. Additionally, it would be very beneficial to consider an increase with regards to the essential roll clean water professionals play every day in the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Carter", written in a cursive style.

Howard Carter  
Director-City of Saco Water Resource Recovery Department

District Office  
Telephone: 324-5313  
Fax 324-5087

Treatment Plant  
Telephone: 324-0047  
Fax: 324-9830

## SANFORD SEWERAGE DISTRICT

281 River Street \* P.O. Box 338  
SPRINGVALE, ME 04083-0338

February 4, 2025

Appropriations/ Environment & Natural Resources Committees Members  
100 Sate House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Support for JETCC

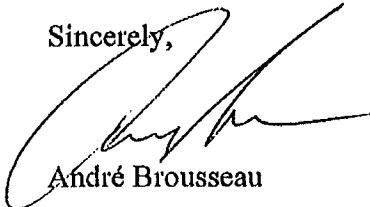
Dear Prestigious Members of the Appropriations & Financial Affairs and the Environment & Natural Resources committees,

My name is André Brousseau – Superintendent for the Sanford Sewerage District. I have been employed in the wastewater field for 31 years. I am writing to you to express how important JETCC training is to the water and wastewater field. The District has eight certified operators. The state statue mandates the operators obtain 18 hours of training every two years. Training provided by JETCC includes a wide variety of subjects from blue print reading, pump repair, basic laboratory skills and much more. More importantly, the training usually includes the latest technology advances within our industry.

The water industry is in a precarious employment situation where our operators are now retiring. It is vitally important to continue to provide the necessary training for the new operators who are entering the field. The State of Maine relies on clean water for economic commerce from the small businesses that supports tourism to the large businesses that manufacture a multitude of products. Every business and resident generates' wastewater that must be properly collected and treated so that our water ways remain pristine. It is the operators who provide the first line of defense in the protection of the health of humans and wildlife therefore training for our operators is vital.

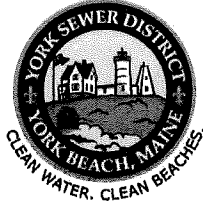
I am in hopes that this committee will continue to fund JETCC at its current level. Additionally, it would be very beneficial to consider an increase with regards to the essential roll wastewater operators play every day in the State of Maine.

Sincerely,



André Brousseau

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:  
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ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
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(207) 363-4232  
TREATMENT PLANT  
106 MAIN STREET

**YORK SEWER DISTRICT**  
PO. BOX 1039  
YORK BEACH, MAINE 03910

February 6, 2025

Appropriations/ Environment & Natural Resources Committees Members 100  
Sate House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Support for JETCC

Dear Prestigious Members of the Appropriations & Financial Affairs and the Environment & Natural Resources committees,

My name is Phil Tucker - Superintendent for the York Sewer District. I have been employed in the clean water sector for 27 years. I am writing to you to express how important the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC) training is to the drinking water and clean water sectors. The District has seven certified operators. State statute mandates that operators obtain 18 hours of training every two years. Training provided by JETCC includes a wide variety of subjects including blueprint reading, pump repair, basic laboratory skills and much more. More importantly, these training courses include some of the latest technology advances within our industry.

The water industry is in a precarious employment situation where our operators are now retiring. It is vitally important to continue to provide the necessary training for the new operators who are entering the field. The State of Maine relies on clean water for economic commerce from the small businesses that supports tourism to the large businesses that manufacture a multitude of products. Every business and resident generate wastewater that must be properly collected and treated so that our water ways remain pristine. It is the operators who provide the first line of defense in the protection of the health of humans and wildlife, therefore training for our operators is vital.

I am in hopes that this committee will continue to fund JETCC at its current level. Additionally, it would be very beneficial to consider an increase regarding the essential roll operators play every day in the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Philip J. Tucker'.

Philip J Tucker  
Superintendent