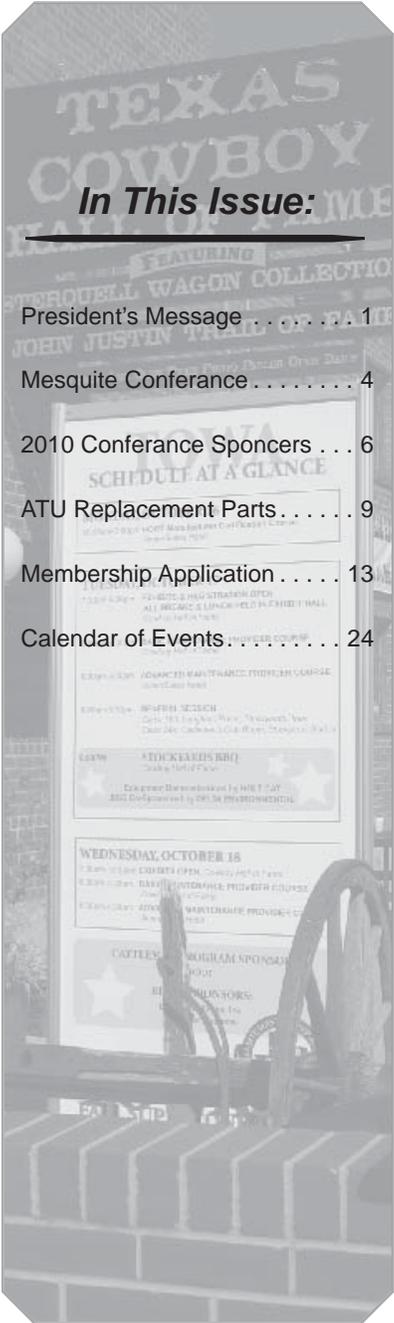


TOWA Insider



The Official Texas On-Site Wastewater Association Publication
Number 2 - 2nd Issue 2010



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President's Message

John Redfern

Let me begin by saying what a privilege it is to serve as the new president of TOWA. I believe this is a needed association and I hope that we can once again prove our worth to our membership by focusing on what is happening around us and by providing beneficial and solid education courses throughout the state.

I was excited at the turnout in Mesquite for the TOWTRC Conference. It seemed like the location change was received well and the opening speech by Rep. Leo Berman got us off to a great start. The individual classes were well attended and as always the luncheon was a big hit.

I have served on this board for several years and I have seen a lot of different issues that have faced our industry. This year will be no different. As we move forward in 2010, we will see things coming out of Austin that will require much

of our time and efforts. This is what Rep. Berman spoke of when he challenged each of us to use our voice in making a difference in our industry.

At the present we already know of one item that we will be dealing with and that is insurance. HB229 was originally presented in 2009 and would have required liability insurance to be carried by installers. It came about due to a system being installed improperly and the installer not making good on it. The bill was tabled but we believe it will be reintroduced in the 2011 Legislative session. This bill will now be written to require liability insurance or a bond to be carried by all individuals and companies that work in the onsite business. This bill, which will be introduced by the original write, Rep. Pitts, has gained much interest in response to the unfortunate death of a 3 year old child in

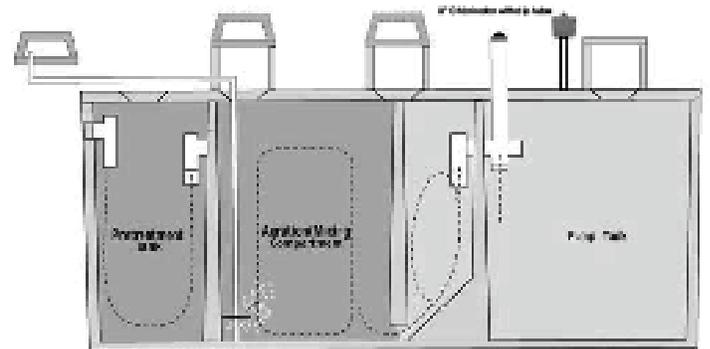
(continued on page 4)

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TOWA Membership Renewal

As with many things it is time to renew your TOWA Membership for 2010.

This is the point where I am always questioned about why should we rejoin TOWA, what has TOWA done for me? My standard answer is that TOWA is the Only Professional Organization that represents the interests of Texas Onsite Professionals.

A good example of this is TOWA's success in helping to defeat HB 229 during the latest legislation session. If this Bill had passed each individual who holds a TCEQ issued OSSF license would have been required to purchase a 2 million dollar liability insurance policy or lose your licence. TOWA has already received word that this bill or one like it will be introduced during next year's legislative session.

TOWA also keeps our members informed of TCEQ rule changes and provides CEU's for our members. We provide these services and more for \$95.00 (\$0.26 per day) per year for individual memberships and \$160.00

(\$0.44 per day) for Corporate memberships. That is less than you you would spend on a Coke each day. Please fill out the membership form on Page 12 and mail or fax it in today.

Thank you for your past and future support, We had a great conference that we co-sponsor with the Research Council in Mesquite. I hope each of you were there to enjoy it.

Best wishes for good health and prosperity in the new decade.

Many of you may have already renewed, thank you. For those who have not please reconsider and join us as TOWA continues to fight for our industry.

Thanks,

Tim Taylor
Managing Consultant



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Mesquite Conference

By Tim Taylor

The annual March 2010 TOWTRC/TOWA conference was a huge success. Many believed that due to the state of the economy and moving to Mesquite would cause the show to be a flop. This was not the case.

There were over 700 people who attended and received 10 CEU's of credit which applies toward the renewal of their various OSSF licenses. Many who I talked with felt this year's lineup of topic's and speakers was one of the best in the history of the conference.

TOWA was able to recruit 75 exhibitors who filled 107 inside booths and 10 outdoor spaces. The exhibitors, who came from as far away as Canada, were extremely pleased with the turn out. Several committed that they met more potential customers in Waco than at the Pumpers Show. Many stated that Texas was the best attended state show in the Country. This quality of this conference would not be possible without the exhibitors and I urge everyone in the on-site industry to buy from these fine companies whenever possible.

This annual conference accomplishes much more than just providing a place to obtain CEUs to renew OSSF and RS licenses. Many of the attendees already have the necessary CEUs; they come to meet with the exhibitors. This allows installers, maintenance providers, designers and regulators to learn about new products and changes to existing products. I have had many DRs who stated that they visit with the exhibitors and ask questions about the installation and maintenance of various products. This gives them a better feel for what to look for when reviewing designs, inspecting installations and following up on complaints dealing with failing systems. The March show is the only opportunity, in Texas, where all of us in the OSSF industry have a chance to meet face to face with so many of the experts on the products we use in our industry. There were new products introduced which ranged from septic tanks, chlorinators, drip irrigation equipment, aerobic treatment plants, systems for remote monitoring, pump trucks, porta potties, forms for tracking maintenance and even tax advice for maintenance companies.

TCEQ also had two booths with representatives from their OSSF section and licensing section. This gave us all a chance to ask questions and, in most cases, get answers on the latest rule changes which affect our industry. They also got plenty of feedback which, if done in a polite manner, can be valuable to them and our industry.

All things considered this is certainly an event which all On-Site Professionals should not miss. If you were unable to attend this year start planning to make the 2011 show. The proposed dates for the 2011 show are February 22 and 23, the week before the Pumper Show. The Research Council has indicated that we will be back at Mesquite. TOWA will inform our members as soon as the dates are set in stone.

(Continued from page 1 - Presidents message)

Denton County in 2009. It has been my opinion that insurance would not have kept this accident from happening; but education and enforcement could have. I have no problem with insurance as long as the proper limits are set.

But we need to address the problem, not just add something to the list of things we must do to be in business. The problem was caused by HB2482, the bill that allowed homeowners to do their own maintenance and basically lower the standards that had been set in Chapter 285. The straw that broke the camel's back was enforcement.

So how do we get involved? The first thing that you need to do is join an association that represents your industry, an association that gives you the information you need, and an association that gets your voice heard in Austin. We need each and every person who makes their living in this industry to join us as we work with our elected officials to adopt rules and regulations that keep our environment clean and our children safe. The more we have acting as one, the better our chances are at being heard and making a difference. In other words, we need members to give us a larger voice in Austin in the things regarding our livelihood.

TOWA has several committees in place that are there for your use. One of these is the Legislature committee; this committee's purpose is to work with our elected officials and to carry the concerns of this organization to them in a responsible manner. It is from this organized effort that we develop a working relationship with these people and to be able to come back to our membership and report our findings and if needed, develop our own position and decide what we as an association need to do.

Another committee that we have is the Enforcement committee. This committee works on our members' behalf when a problem or simply a difference in the interpretation of the rule comes up with those in your county or area you work in. This has been

a very effective tool in solving differences between the installer/maintenance provider and the local authorities.

Making a difference in this industry means taking time out of your schedule to do so. I understand that our time is more valuable than ever due to the current economic conditions.

However, choosing to say nothing or by letting someone from outside our industry dictate how we do business is not the answer.

I encourage each of you to join forces with TOWA, not only through your membership, but also by your involvement.



Local Enforcement Problems?

Attend a TOWA Chapter Meeting and Report Local Enforcement Problems

10 TOWA Chapters throughout the State hold periodic meetings that give 2 hours of continuing education credits as well as offer a forum to discuss local enforcement issues.

If an issue cannot be handled locally, your Chapter contact will refer the problem to the TOWA Enforcement Chairmen and legal counsel.

If you do not tell us what problems you experience that impact the industry, we cannot help to solve them!

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A Warm Welcome to ...



John Redfern - TOWA President

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as the new President of TOWA. My name is John Redfern and I am President of Tyler Products Sales, Inc. We are a Pre-Cast Concrete Company, located in Tyler, and have been since our beginning in 1982. Our company was founded by my father-in-law, Lynn White, with a main focus of being a manufacturer of concrete septic tanks. Over the years we have grown into many different areas associated with the pre-cast market of both Texas and Louisiana. We also pride ourselves as a leader in the area of concrete aerobic systems, mainly Aqua-Aire and Aqua-Safe units. Over the past couple of decades, we have grown into other markets such as sanitary manholes, lift stations, drainage boxes, and many unique pre-cast structures. Although we have been blessed with growth, I still spend the majority of my time working with our customers in the on-site business. I have been a member of TOWA since 1996. Like many of you, I was introduced to this outstanding organization by a fellow member. In 2001, I was asked to join the Board of Directors. At that time, I did not know how I could contribute to TOWA, because of the high caliber of members on the Board. What I found was that I could be a voice for

the installers of East Texas. Since 2001, I have been able to listen to installers, service providers, sanitarians, engineers, etc., and taking their suggestions and concerns back to this Board, and trying to make a positive difference in the on-site business for Texans. I have been married to the same beautiful woman, Kim, for 28 years. I also have a son Clinton, who is working on his PhD; a son Heath, who serves our country in the U.S.A.F.; and a daughter, Karina, who Kim and I adopted from Russia over ten years ago, and now assumes the role as “apple of my eye.”

Together we can make a difference; the key word here is “we”. We need your opinions, we need your support, and we need your friends to join TOWA. Encourage others to join us in making our voices heard in this industry.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you!



Randi Weber – TOWA Vice President

I am a Registered Professional Mechanical Engineer in the States of Texas, Florida, and Kansas. I have a Bachelor of Marine Engineering degree from New York State Maritime College graduating in June 1964.

My work experience includes designing and redesigning, as required, of;

- a. Nuclear submarines- Reactor Shielding systems, Steam Propulsion systems, Nuclear Reactor Circulating Systems, Turbine-Electric Generating Equipment.
- b. Nuclear and Fossil Fueled Electric Generating Power Plants – Piping, Supports, Stationary and Rotating Equipment.
- c. Refinery, Petrochemical, Chemical Plants – Grass roots builds, plant upgrades, Additions, equipment rerating for new services.
- d. Skid Mounted Equipment /Systems-designed, fabricated
- e. Septic systems, Detention/retention ponds, Containments for toxic liquids/solids
- f. Water purification systems and solids/waste handling systems.
- g. Engineering of precast concrete septic tanks, grease traps, and other precast items.

Had foreign experience in China, Mexico, Poland, Spain, Thailand.

Resident of Polk County (Onalaska) on Lake Livingston shore with a second home in Montgomery County (New Caney). Hobbies include fishing, gardening, occasional Woodworking activities. Vacations are cruise adventures to Caribbean for a week at A time. Working on the plan for my fourth trip in early 2011.

Am a father of 4 children and grandfather of 7 grandchildren. Wife, Janet, and I enjoy Travel whenever we can but with four dogs at the house, it takes some planning to take off for a week or so. Though eligible to retire, I am having fun working in today's active environment with its many challenges, and will remain employed

in some manner for another five years or more until it's not fun anymore.

Work Experience – R.P.Weber-Consultant – Part Time activities 1996 to present

1. Designs for ASME/API Pressure Vessels, Heat Exchangers, Tanks, Filters and Skid Mounted Equipment-Designs include new designs, rerate of existing designs/ equipment for new services, repairs and retrofits of existing equipment with problems.
2. Designs for Precast Septic Tanks, Grease Traps, other miscellaneous concrete items.
3. Design for TxDOT Commercial Driveways on Texas Highways.
4. Design of Septic Systems for commercial/ residential installations.
5. Designs for Retention/ Detention Ponds for commercial properties.
6. Designs for Toxic Waste Containment systems.
7. Design of specialty machinery for fabrication industries.



Pat Duncan - Secretary

My name is Pat Duncan and I am the new Secretary for the state board of TOWA. I went to work for Montgomery County Health Department in Oct. of 1987, prior to this I worked with my husband installing septic systems and doing

(continued on page 8)

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Pat Duncan, Secretary

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Tim N. Taylor

Managing Consultant

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tntaylor1@msn.com

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Randy Chelette

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Michelle Hansen

Roy Ledger

Jim Prochaska

Gerald Snyder

Brian Wakefeild

(Continued from page 7 - Pat Duncan)

general construction under "Lucky Construction".

In 1987 the Health Department was involved in almost every aspect of a health department. We trapped mosquitoes to look for Culex mosquitoes, we did animal control and tested homes for radon and also permitted and inspected installation of septic systems.

I started part time working in a closet that had been turned into a copy machine room and dispatch for animal control. By April 1988 there was an opening for a permit clerk full time so I applied and got the position. By 1989 I was working full time as an Animal Control Officer and by 1990 I was a full time D.R..

In November of 1999 I was given the OSSF Coordinator position and filled that position until April of 2008. In 2005 after a couple of years of begging and pleading the Three Rivers TOWA Chapter was up and running. We have had 25 to 30 members at most all of our meetings and would like to see membership grow, where else can you get two CEU hours with free refreshments and good company at such a low cost.

I am now Special Project Coordinator and basically do the tasks no one else has time for. I truly enjoy my job and with a whole lot less stress and paper work, I am able to spend all my off time raising my Great Grandson who is 20 months old and has been with me since he was 7 months. I will probably work another two to three years and then will devote all my time to raising him.

ATU REPLACEMENT PARTS

By Jerry Snyder

On May 18, 2010, McLennan County Health Department had a meeting of maintenance providers and installers to address ATU replacement parts. David Jumper, with NSF was the guest speaker. Mr. Jumper explained the procedures used to certify an ATU under NSF Standard 40. The aerobic plant, air blower, control panel and diffusers go through very strenuous testing for six months before being certified or rejected. If the system passes all the tests it is then certified by NSF under Standard 40 and becomes an approved system by TCEQ. In the State of Texas, the system has to remain approved for the life of the system.

This brings us to the maintenance provider and installer. When replacing a blower, diffuser or control panel it MUST be the same exact part the units were tested with. If not, it is no longer in compliance with NSF 40 or approved by TCEQ. All the ATU manufacturers that I have spoken with either tweak the air compressor

ATU REPLACEMENT PARTS

By Jerry Snyder

to meet their needs or the air compressor manufacturer builds it to their specifications. Without the ATU manufacturers label and an NSF sticker it is most likely the wrong part. According to Title 30 TAC Chapter 285, the ATU manufacturer must sell replacement parts to the homeowners and maintenance providers or risk losing their TCEQ approval. Use the correct parts and you should have no problems.

If you have any questions you can contact TOWA or me directly. My contact info is:

Jernan Construction
360 Wandering Oaks
Waco, TX 76712-2536
254-848-4848 Phone
254-848-5970 Fax
js22250@aol.com

Comments on ATU Replacement Parts
From - Tim Taylor

“For many years now I have been hearing DRs state that they don’t have the training to determine if an aeration device (compressor) is the correct one for the ATU it is installed on. According to the facts, as presented by NSF at the meeting discussed above, it should now be easier to make this determination”.

The Same Old Rules Problem - Revisited

By Tim Taylor

It seems that it takes forever for news of any changes in the Texas OSSF Industry to be passed on to the people who need them the most, the men and women working in the field. I understand that everyone is busy trying to make a living but the lack of communication in our industry is very hard to understand. What would “seem” to be the natural flow of information does not appear

to be working. The logical progression, as I see it, would be TCEQ passes information to the DRs and the DRs then pass this information on to the Installers, Maintenance Providers and Manufactures in the DRs area of responsibility. In addition TOWA has attempted to have TCEQ personnel attend local TOWA Chapter meetings to directly inform TOWA Members of rule changes and how they will affect day to day business.

This approach by TOWA appeared to be working rather well but TCEQ in Austin is shorthanded and for the immediate future there will be no more appearances by TCEQ Staff at local TOWA Chapter Meetings. Some local DRs are holding meetings in their areas to explain what rule changes have been made and how these changes will affect the local onsite industry. This is a great idea but due to local DRs interpreting the rules, as opposed to Austin sending out a concise interpretation, there is much confusion and a lot of ill will being generated. Perhaps it would be a good idea for local DRs to hold meetings to find out which rule changes are open for interpretation and obtaining a clear, concise interpretation from TCEQ and then hosting a second meeting to explain TCEQ’s stance on these rules.

I certainly do not claim to have all the answers on how to best handle all the questions generated by a TCEQ rule change but I do know that simply leaving the interpretation of a new rule up to local DRs will lead to mass confusion. TOWA was promised, by TCEQ, that we would receive a document which clarified the changes in the rules. We have yet to receive such a document and as a result TOWA has been writing letters to TCEQ asking for clarification on different sections of the rules as these questions come up. This is a slow, time consuming process and does not insure that everyone in our industry gets a copy of TCEQs response. In fairness to TCEQ they have lost two very valuable employees. These individuals were transferred out of the OSSF branch of TCEQ and this branch is operating shorthanded. This however is a problem created by the Agency but one which is affecting most of us working in the field.

If you are not registered to vote please take the time to get registered. This may be the single most important act any of us ever do. If you are not registered politicians at the local, state and federal levels will not pay any attention to your concerns. You may not wish to vote in the national elections but if you are not registered you can't vote in the state or local elections. These local elections are where you can make the most difference and politicians know this.

The next step is to call, write or email your County Commisnors, County Judge, State Representative and State Senator. Let them know you are not happy with State Laws, like HB 2482, and County Control Orders which do not require any training for homeowners doing their own maintenance. You can get the contact info for these politicians from www.txowa.org Once you get to the web site look on the left side of the page for a button named "Political Contact". About there quarter of the way down the page is a link (links show up in Blue) www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Zip.aispx. Click on this link and it takes you to a web site for the Texas Secretary of State. In the upper left hand corner look for a box to enter your zip code. Enter the zip code and all your State Congress People will come up. Use this info to let them know how upset you are with them for voting for HB 2482. If as few as 5 people, from your district, call they will start to investigate. TOWA has discovered, from talking to State Elected officials, that most people who voted for this Bill had no idea the Bill had been changed literally minutes before the vote was called. As one State Rep. stated "I was tricked by people I trusted". Representative Dennis Bonnen was the only person who voted no. Thanks to installers, maintenance providers and local DRs some 70 counties have rewritten their septic control order to put restrictions on

homeowner maintenance.

I don't believe we will ever be able to do away with homeowner maintenance but as we have seen restrictions can be placed on owners doing their own maintenance. This has proven that with restrictions in place, at the local level, very few homeowners will elect to meet the requirements in order to do their own maintenance. When talking to your State and Local politicians stress how dangerous it is to allow owners to do maintenance without training. They can get electrocuted, breathe chlorine fumes, get infections or lose an eye. They also pose a threat to their neighbors. If they don't perform proper maintenance then their system is not going to work properly. If this happens then they are discharging dangerous effluent which a neighbors child or pet may unknowingly be exposed to. Ask them if it is fair that voters in their district who live inside the city limits of a town have to pay a monthly sewer bill. This bill provides money to ensure that the wastewater from these homes is properly treated and disposed of. Why should individuals who have onsite systems get a free ride? If they don't have a maintenance contract or training this is what is happening. They can pollute the environment and create public health problems for those who are paying their fair share.

The third step in getting involved is to make follow-up calls to be sure your politicians have not forgotten you and your concerns. Also urge family and friends to make similar calls. The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

If you need help locating your politicians are composing letters to them contact TOWA and we will assist you.



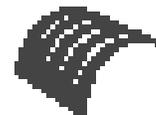
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Please complete the following membership application and return to TOWA along with your dues check or complete the credit card info and fax back. If you need a corporate membership application please download one from www.txowa.org

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM (2010)

Members are listed by individual name on TOWA website and in TOWA Directory. For Company Listing, see Corporate Membership Application.

★ ★ Annual Dues = \$ 95.00 (12 month period) ★ ★

✓ Step 1 - Mark the correct TOWA Membership Category that best describes you (mark only ONE category):

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineer | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic | <input type="checkbox"/> Installer/Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Designer | <input type="checkbox"/> Pumper | <input type="checkbox"/> Supplier/Wholesaler | <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitarian | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislator | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Scientist | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

✓ Step 2 - Mark the TOWA Local Chapter you would like to join (OPTIONAL):

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alamo (San Antonio - \$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Designer (Texas - \$30) | <input type="checkbox"/> Heart of Texas (Waco - \$20) | <input type="checkbox"/> West Texas (\$25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital of Texas (Austin - \$5) | <input type="checkbox"/> East Texas (Tyler - \$5) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pumper (Texas - \$30) | <input type="checkbox"/> North Central Texas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DFW (Dallas/FTW) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf Coast (Houston - \$30) | <input type="checkbox"/> Three Rivers (Montgomery - \$30) | |

✓ Step 3 - Complete the following member information:

Name: _____ (If using a credit card, name as it appears.)
Las. First MI.

Address: _____
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City State zip County

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

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✓ Step 4 - Total Membership/Contribution Fees (please check each category and total) \$ _____

Please include your check or Money Order Payable to TOWA and mail to the address above.
 For further information call TOWA or go online to www.txowa.org Fax (936) 564-9115

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I need something in writing to make sure I am asking the right questions.

The above process works but is NOT the ultimate answer to obtaining a clear, concise interpretation when rule changes take place. There must be a better way! TOWA is open to suggestions.

We are here for you!

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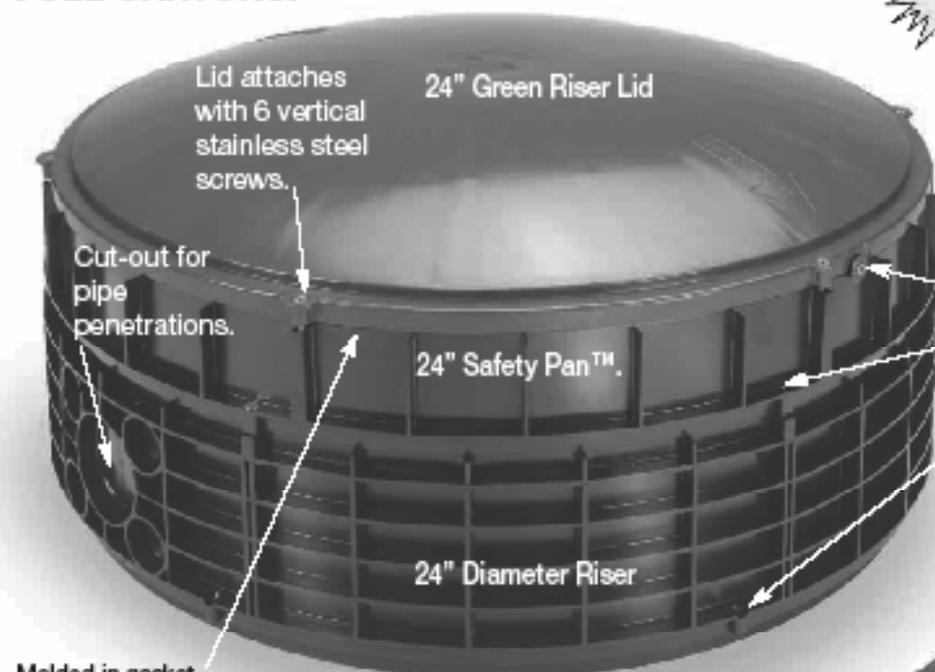
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Patent Numbers
5,617,870 &
5,852,001; other
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Patent Numbers
6,319,403; D 431,622; other
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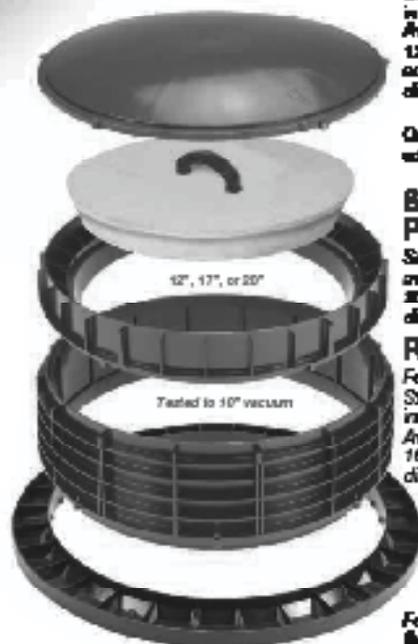


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4,951,914,
5,024,123
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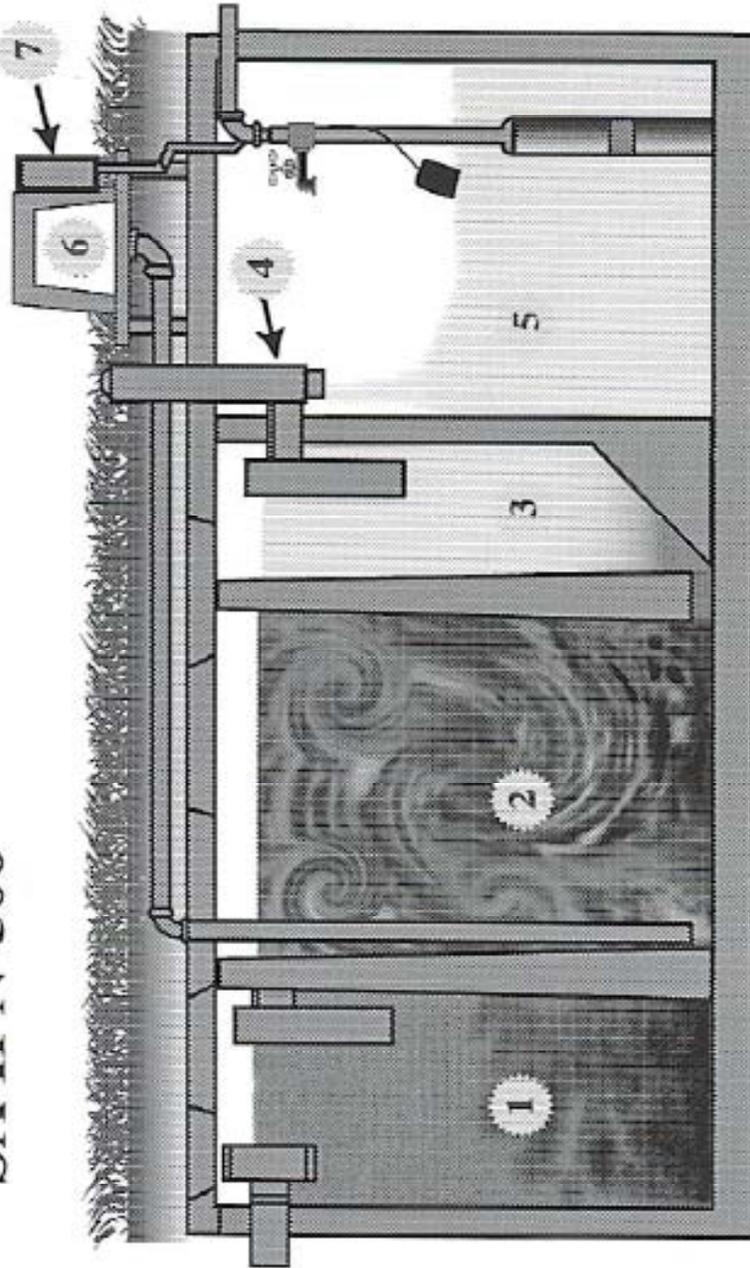


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