

TOWA- Insider

The Official Texas On-Site Wastewater Association Publication

Number 4 - 1st Issue 2011



President's Message

John Redfern

As I sit down to write this I am reminded of just how fast time gets away. It seems like only a few weeks ago we were having our annual conference in Mesquite. Now we are preparing for the next conference. The TOWA annual conference will be held February 21st - 22nd in Waco at the newly remodeled Convention Center. We are looking for a conference that is bigger and better than any held in past years and hope you will begin making plans to attend. Last year was a huge success and a lot of positive feedback was given about the conference speakers.

As far as TOWA this year, it has been a full schedule of doing the BMP and AMP courses around the state. Most recently in San Marcos and Waco. I would personally like to thank Tim and Georgia Taylor, Dr. Bruce Lesikar, and Troy Ross for the time they put into the BMP and AMP courses. It is this type of dedication and commitment that allows TOWA to live up to its goal of promoting education and training to the folks in this industry. TOWA is the only organization in the State of Texas that is dedicated to promoting and serving this industry.

With the new year coming into focus, we are reminded that 2011, being an odd numbered year, means the regular session of the Texas Legislature was in full swing. TOWA carefully watched for any bill that would affect our industry, good or bad. It is our belief that any change out of Austin, that affects the job we do or how we do it, needs our professional input. We felt fairly confident that we would once again see the "Insurance Bill" but thanks to input from TOWA Members the bill was not reintroduced. HB 240 was passed. This bill will require rules to prevent accidental access to tanks and was supported by TOWA.

Some of you reading this may be new TOWA members. If you are a new member, THANKS for joining. For the rest of you, THANKS for your continued support. One of the newest additions to TOWA is our new website. It's the same address, www.txowa.org, but has a new look and many new features. Take time to look at how you, as a member of TOWA, can now have an added advantage by being listed on our website in the area you serve.

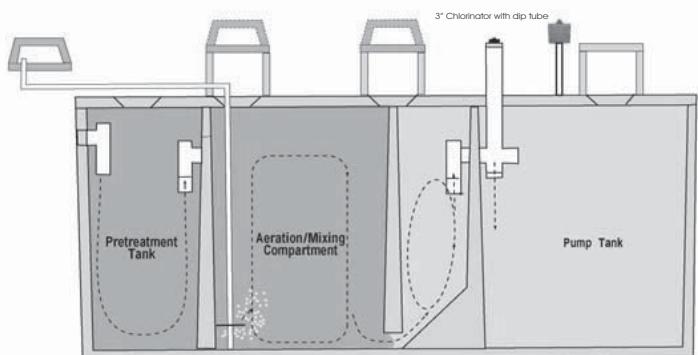
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TOWA Membership Renewal

As with many things, it is time to renew your TOWA Membership for 2012.

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 2009 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 his licence. TOWA was successful in preventing this bill from being reintroduced in 2011.

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 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 are looking forward to a great conference in Waco. I hope each of you are 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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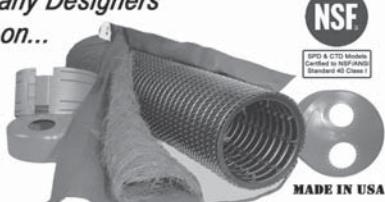
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Newest TOWA member...



Tim and Georgia Taylor are pleased to announce the birth of their grandson Taylor Thomas Daniel. He arrived a month early. Taylor made his appearance at 12:15pm October 13th, 2011. The stats were 5 pounds 15 and 1/2 ounces; 18 and 1/2 inches long.



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The 19th Annual TOWTRC/TOWA Conference

By Tim Taylor

What a show! That pretty much summarizes my feelings from the 19th annual TOWTRC/TOWA Conference that was held in Mesquite on February 22-23, 2011. Once again, the guest speaker hit it out of the park. I heard nothing but rave reviews from the keynote address that was presented by Ellen Rohr of Bare Bones Biz. Her common-sense approach to business and her humorous, but also direct, delivery of her message was welcomed by all who attended.

The general topics that were included in the conference were also upper-shelf quality and were presented by some of the most well informed individuals in our industry. It is easy to see why Texas has one of the best conferences, if not the best, that is offered each year to those individuals who work in this industry.

The one part of the show that is a hit every year is the vendor displays. A lot of people, including me, believe that CEUs should be given for the time spent just visiting with the vendors. No where else can so much knowledge be attained, examples be given, and one-on-one training occur, without being out in the field. We have truly been blessed each year with the quality of vendors that choose to display in our conference. That is why TOWA encourages you to support these companies when it comes to deciding on where to spend your money. Most of these vendors sell their products in many other states where they are approved. But, when they make their decisions on which shows and conferences they will attend, they choose our conference. But let's also not forget those that run a much smaller business. For these vendors, the only conference in which they display their products is our show. We are very grateful to each one of our vendors.

Many of you keep asking, "When are we going back to Waco?" Well, I am happy to say...next year! We are very excited to be returning to Waco, TX for the 2012 conference. The Waco Convention Center has been going through extensive remodeling and is just about finished. I have personally toured the nearly finished conference center and know that next year's show will be nothing less than what you

(Continued on Page 5.)

Meet Michelle Hansen

My name is Michelle Hansen. My husband & I have lived in the Feildstore community in Waller County for over 20 years. We have three children, the oldest is in college at Tarleton state university in Stephenville, the middle one will graduate in May from Waller High School & join her sister at TSU in the fall, & my son will be a junior at Waller High school in the fall. After he graduates we are hoping to head west towards the hill country to hopefully one day retire!

I taught physical education, health, Texas history and life management skills in Aldine ISD for 10 years prior to going into the septic design business, where I have learned a lot about property & property development. I started my septic design business about 10 years ago & in 2003 I decided to quit my fulltime teaching job and give the septic design business my full attention. I enjoy the service side of this business and helping people establish their dreams. This industry as a whole has really been an eye opener for me. I have met many interesting people from all walks of life. I have been introduced to another aspect of politics (against my better judgment). I was encouraged to join TOWA and so in 2003 I became a member.

Over the past few years I have become more involved in the organization serving as president of the three rivers chapter & currently on the state board. The main thing that I have gotten from this industry is the idea of helping people to understand the importance of keeping things safe for the environment.

There are too many people out there that are trying to build their dreams that haven't a clue as to what a septic system is, nor do they know how powerful the impact of improperly disposing of this effluent can be. We live in a world with two main groups of people the ones who know everything & the ones who know nothing. My

goal is to try to help both of them and educate as much of the public as I can to better understand the importance of the onsite system and industry.



Local Enforcement Problems?



Attend a TOWA Chapter Meeting and Report Local Enforcement Problems

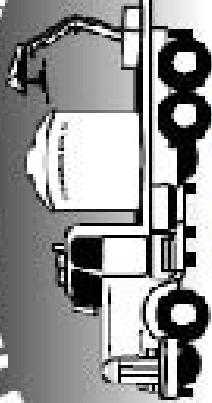
TOWA Chapters throughout the State hold periodic meetings that give 2 hours of continuing education credits as well as offer a forum to discuss local enforcement issues. If an issue cannot be handled locally, your Chapter contact will refer the problem to the TOWA Enforcement Chairmen and legal counsel.

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

(Tim Taylor - Continued from Page 4)

have become accustomed to. The facilities are better than before. More room has been added, and the Hotel and Convention Staff is excited to welcome us back. In fact, they are just as excited as we are. Make plans to attend now, TOWA Conference 2012, February 21-22, 2012.

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Meet Brian Wakefield

My name is Brian Wakefield; President of B & J Wakefield Services, Inc. We are located in Waxahachie, Texas just south of Dallas. We are a septic maintenance, installation and repair company serving Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Dallas and Navarro Counties. We have been a distributor for Desoto Concrete Products (H-Two-O) for several years. We also have incorporated retaining wall installation and excavation work into our business.

Here is a little bit about my background in how it all happened. I started out in the trucking industry out of high school and in college. If you would have told me that I would be digging and working on septic systems in college, I would have laughed at you. In 1998, my father, Jerry Wakefield, and I had started a real estate inspection business. Jerry decided to take septic system inspection classes to further his knowledge on inspecting septic systems to aid in our real estate inspection business. After taking these classes he was told that we qualified for obtaining a license from TCEQ to do maintenance on septic systems. He decided to take on some maintenance contracts for people we knew and then word of mouth kept us growing.

I stepped in with a leap of faith leaving a well paying job hoping we could make it work. I then obtained my inspection license and my installer I license and apprenticed under Stacks Construction. I soon obtained my installer II license. We based our business on customer service and honest work. Before long, we had to get out of the real estate inspection business to keep up with our contracts. We eventually got into installations and have grown ever since. We currently have employees to keep up with the work load and enjoy being in the business.

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customers, which is why we have done so well in our business. I am currently chapter president of TOWA in the North Central Texas region and sit on the board of directors for TOWA. I am a firm believer in organizations that support the industry that you are in. I was a member of the Texas Real Estate Commission and am currently now with National Rifle Association, National Eagle Scout Association, TOWA and others.

If no one supports these organizations, they cannot fight for your rights and the government wins and takes control of how your company operates or puts you out of business. I encourage all that see this letter that you must join TOWA and be active in how to change legislation to help you. TOWA is here to help you. The only way to make a difference is in numbers. I pray that everyone has a healthy and prosperous year.

Brian Wakefield, President
B & J Wakefield Services, Inc.



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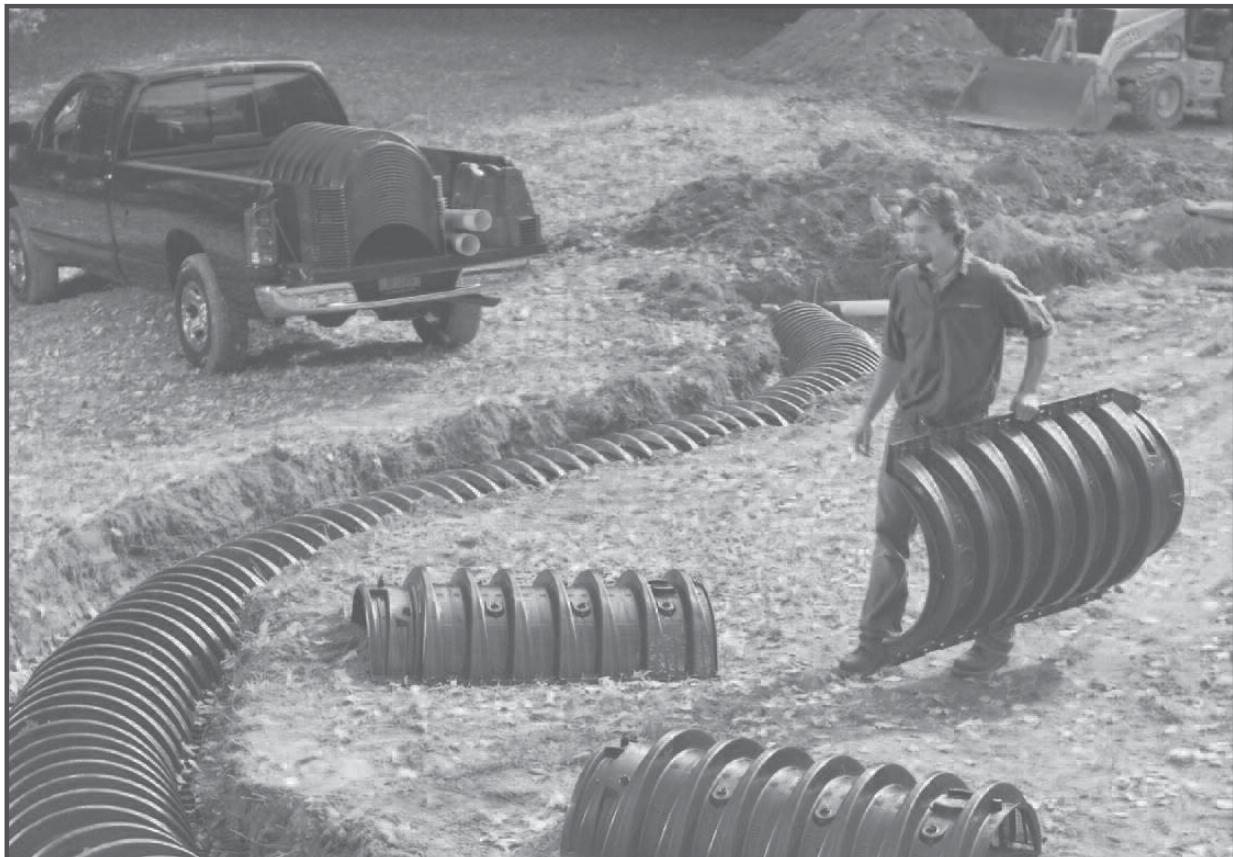
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Members are listed by individual name on TOWA website and in TOWA Directory. For Company listing, see Corporate Membership Application.

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineer | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic | <input type="checkbox"/> Installer/Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulator |
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✓ Step 2 - Mark the TOWA Local Chapter you would like to join (OPTIONAL):

- | | | | |
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| <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) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hill Country |

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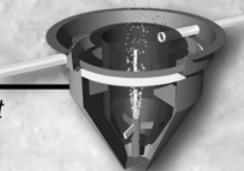
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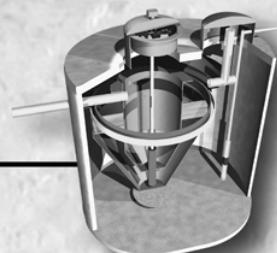


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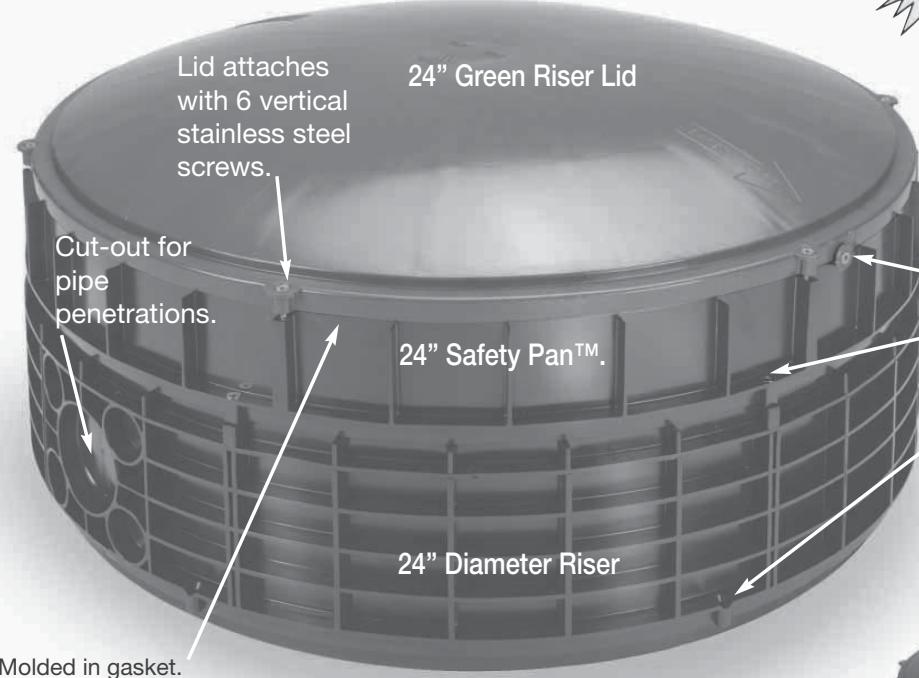
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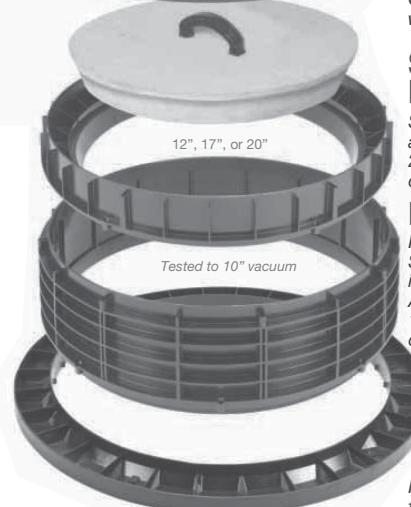
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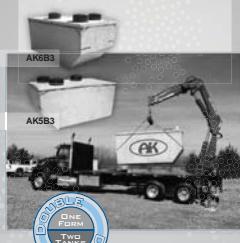
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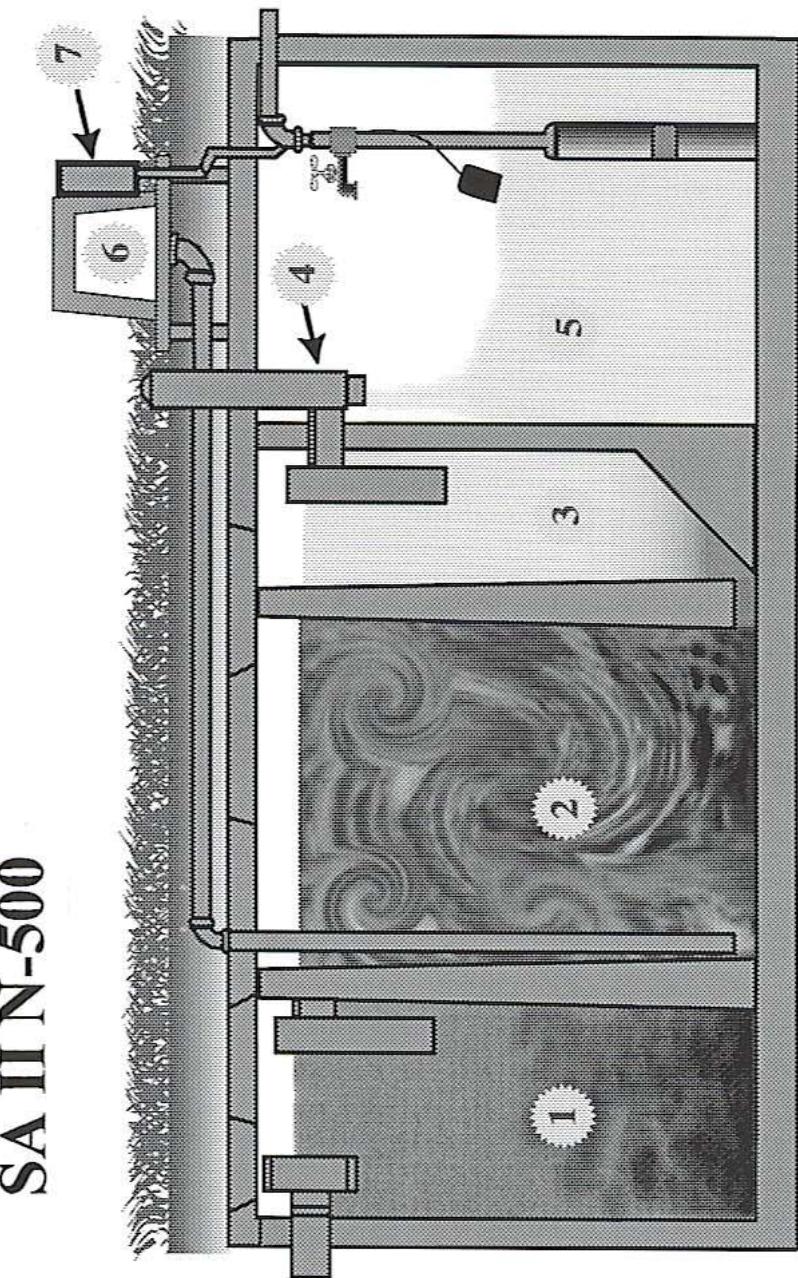
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TOWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ATTENTION TOWA MEMBERS: Nominate a fellow TOWA Member to serve on the Board of Directors. Board Members will be elected prior to February, and will take office beginning at the Annual TOWA Meeting in February 2012.

A total of 4 positions + officers on the Board of Directors are up for election.

Available positions are:

- Officers (one year term, or until a successor is elected)
 - Secretary – Pat Duncan
 - Treasurer - Tim Snyder
- Directors at Large (two year term, or until a successor is elected)

To be nominated to the Board, a person must be nominated by a fellow Member and be a TOWA Member in good standing (Bylaws Article 4.02-.03).

To serve as an officer (Secretary or Treasurer) a person must also have served at least one year as a Director at Large on the Board. (Bylaws Article 5.01).

NOMINATIONS FORM

I nominate _____ to the position of:

(Print name of nominee)

Director at Large

Please send all nominations to the TOWA Office or to Tim Taylor by December 31, 2011.

TOWA Office: 3205 N. University Drive, Suite D, PMD #411, Nacogdoches, TX 75965
936-564-9116 (fax)
Email: tntaylor1@msn.com

Please do not nominate anyone who has not committed to work at least 10 hours a month toward the promotion of TOWA. This includes attending Board meetings, working on various committees and directly helping to increase TOWA membership.

Your Name_____

Your Signature_____

Date_____

Alternative Compressors for NSF Standard 40 Certified Wastewater Treatment Units

By David L. Jumper

Background: As the test facility manager for the NSF International Waco test facility, I am occasionally asked to speak to industry groups about the testing and certification process and specifics of Standard 40 requirements related to field application and on-going certification. One issue that comes up during questions from these groups which appears to cause some confusion for designers, installers and regulators is that of alternative compressor applications for NSF Standard 40 certified treatment units incorporating compressors in their treatment design. The purpose of this article is to provide clarification regarding the requirements, approval and use of compressors on certified units alternative to those used during the actual Standard 40 performance and evaluation testing.

Testing: Residential wastewater treatment systems submitted by manufacturers for evaluation under NSF Standard 40 are installed at the test facility, filled with influent wastewater, compressor specification is documented and the compressor is activated (in systems incorporating compressors in their design) and dosing under Standard 40 protocol at the prescribed gallons per day capacity is initiated. During the minimum twenty-six-week test (including four weeks of non-ideal conditions of stress) in-situ measurements of dissolved oxygen concentration are taken in the aeration chamber and of the unit effluent. These measurements become a permanent part of the evaluation documents used to certify the treatment unit, if it passes the test. Sizing and design application of compressors is one of if not the most critical design parameters for aerated treatment units. Systems that fail to maintain sufficient concentrations of dissolved oxygen in the aeration compartment typically do not perform well to reduce influent organic loading

during the Standard 40 evaluation, allowing suspended solids to accumulate in the aeration compartment. Once accumulated, these solids will carry over into composite samples, adversely affecting effluent quality.

Compressor Restrictions: Under sections of Standard 40 and NSF policies addressing product modification, following successful completion of the Standard 40 performance evaluation and subsequent certification by NSF a treatment unit may only be constructed, marketed, installed and operated with the exact same design, geometry and dimensions with which it completed the Standard 40 evaluation. This includes the brand, model and CFM produced by the compressor present during administration of the test.

Alternative Compressors: Alternative compressors may be approved by NSF for the certified unit. This process must be initiated by the manufacturer of record only and consists of application and review of the proposed compressor by NSF engineering. Factors under consideration for this review include the CFM, pump curve and operation of the proposed alternative compressor, air distribution system design, diffuser specifications and PSI at diffuser depth in the aeration chamber tank. Even the documented dissolved oxygen concentrations measured during the six-month performance evaluation may be reviewed.

Critical Requirement: Why is modification of certified products, such as that represented by alternative compressors, so important? This requirement is critical and goes to the heart of certification and specifically to continued or on-going certification of certified treatment systems. The very basis of standardized testing and evaluation rests upon the trust which can be placed in the process of certification (uniformity, empiricism, reliability, repeatability) by regulators, industry and end users. An unbroken chain

must exist between the design of units as tested and the design as installed and operated. This applies directly to the significance of alternative and replacement compressors.

NSF administers performance evaluations for treatment units with documented system designs and certifies that they will perform as they were documented to perform as long as they are manufactured, installed and operated in a manner consistent with the configuration and conditions under which they were tested. To simplify, if any aspect of the treatment unit design is modified from that as tested without subsequent review and approval by NSF, the chain of certification integrity is broken, "all bets are off" and technically no certification exists. Install a replacement compressor on a certified Standard 40 unit that was not on the unit as tested or not as subsequently approved by NSF as an alternative compressor shown in the NSF listing for that treatment unit and the unit is no longer considered to be a certified unit.

Compressor differences: It is important to consider the specifics of variation between the many compressors which may be sourced as alternative replacements in the field and the potential impacts upon treatment unit performance represented by these differences. When taking into consideration, factors such as air distribution design, diffuser size and specification, diffuser depth and compressor design (some linear compressors I have tested will actually fall off the stated pump curve by as much as 1 CFM after running for 24-hours), and aeration chamber geometry and especially compressor performance during testing, it is more than obvious that selection of a replacement compressor should not be taken lightly.

With the increase in aerobic treatment system installations has come an attendant increase in the availability of replacement compressors through multiple sources. Following are some but not all points which should be taken into consideration when replacing compressors:

Price: In a brutally competitive market, pricing is no doubt important. If, for example, a service provider could purchase the same exact approved compressor more cheaply from one source than from another why would he or she not do so? Price alone, however, should not be the only criterion considered in selection.

Compressors from Treatment Unit Manufacturers: Comments made during other presentations I have made complained about some treatment unit manufacturers who require authorized representatives, installers and service providers to purchase compressors only directly from them. In some cases these compressors may be marked with the manufacturer's brand, color and model number but appear to be exactly (CFM) like one manufactured by a major compressor manufacturer and available without treatment unit manufacturer branding through other sources at a lesser cost. Some disgruntled presentation attendees have suggested that this requirement by the treatment unit manufacturer is simply an opportunity to profit from sales of compressors.

There are two points to be made regarding the issue of compressors from treatment unit manufacturers: first, manufacturers of certified treatment units are held ultimately responsible by NSF policies for warranty performance of a unit for the first two years of life. Authorized Representatives and installers are first in line for this responsibility but failing this event the manufacturer is required to step in to ensure warranty for the two-year required period. This fact means it is incumbent upon the manufacturer to see that everything provided with the unit, including the compressor, is a component or materials the manufacturer is confident will withstand the use environment.

The second point to be made is that manufacturers have invested considerable time and money to accomplish certification of their product and in a never-ending quest to improve

products some manufacturers have actually worked with compressor manufacturers to produce a customized compressor which contains components or a design that affects system performance that are not available for use on other treatment unit brands. These compressors have been approved by NSF and may be required by the manufacturer for use on some units, available only from the treatment unit manufacturer and excluding all other compressors.

CFM: In considering CFM differences alone even a seemingly small difference can have a negative impact. For example, the difference between a compressor rated at 3 CFM and one rated at 2.8 CFM. The 0.20 CFM difference might seem small at first glance. Given that there are 1,440 minutes in each 24-hour day, a continuously operating compressor producing 3.0 CFM will produce 4,320.0 cubic feet of air in a 24-day. A 2.8 CFM rated compressor will produce just over 4,000 cubic feet. If the smaller compressor is used to replace the larger one the treatment unit will now be under-aerated by approximately 8% for each 24-hour day. Can 8% be that critical? After all, aren't there times when the unit is being dosed with less than normal capacity or not being dosed organically? Yes and there may be times when the unit is being dosed in excess of capacity. After 15 years of administering Standard 40 testing to over 100 treatment units it has been my experience that even minor volumes of CFM air may very well be critical. I have seen several units fail that could have used another 8% of aeration supply during stress sequences. There were a number of others that I am sure would have failed if there had been 8% less aeration supply. Replacing a 2.8 CFM compressor with a 3.0 CFM compressor may have other unpredicted adverse affects on aeration mechanics.

Compressor Design: It would seem intuitive but without testing or prior NSF engineering approval it would not be prudent to replace a vane type compressor with a linear one or a

linear with a vane. Even if the CFM is the same there may be performance characteristics of one which precludes use on a specific treatment unit. Factors such as air distribution sizing and design, diffuser size, design and specification, diffuser depth and other treatment unit specifications must be taken into consideration before such a change could be determined to adhere to the original design as tested. Repeating, unless a unit has been tested or approved with a specific design, brand and model of compressor there is simply no way to certify that it will perform in a satisfactory manner.

The main point to be made here with regard to differing CFM production, price, restrictions, design or any other consideration, whether large or small, is that unless a treatment unit has been performance tested or subsequently officially approved with a specific brand and model of compressor there is simply no way to certify that it will perform in a satisfactory manner.

Two-year Warranty and Beyond: One question repeated during presentations was about the time limitation in applicability of this on-going certification issue. Does this limitation of compressor replacement apply after the two-year warranty required by Standard 40 when the manufacturer no longer has responsibility for replacement? Under reading of Standard 40 and NSF Policies the implied answer is yes. Under state codes such as that promulgated in the State of Texas the express answer is yes, a unit must have an approved alternative compressor in place to be considered certified. Current enforcement of this rule by county regulators is reportedly not uniform.

Summary: Although there may be numerous comparable compressor brands and models which can be used to replace original equipment on NSF Standard 40 certified residential wastewater treatment units only those brands and model numbers which were actually a component of the treatment unit when it was tested or which have subsequently been approved by NSF as alternative compressors will maintain a "certified" designation for the treatment unit if installed.

For a complete listing of all NSF certified residential wastewater treatment systems, along with effluent filters, disinfection devices and others, visit www.nsf.org. For further information, please contact Sharon Steiner, Business Unit Manager at Steiner@nsf.org

David L. Jumper – Bio

David has been the test facility manager for the NSF International Waco Wastewater Test Facility since 2003, administering tests of residential wastewater treatment systems under NSF Standards 40, 245 and 350, Disinfection Devices under Standard 46 and Marine Sanitation Devices under USGS codes. He has also performed wastewater distributor audits for NSF Field Services Program and restaurant audits for NSF Food Services Program. For nine & one-half years prior to that time, he was program manager for the Baylor University Testing and Certification Program where he was test facility manager and responsible for field audits, certification and compliance assurance.

David also taught classes with a focus in water and wastewater treatment and managed the science labs in environmental science at Baylor.

Additional experience includes that as project manager for industrial wastewater treatment design and application for electrochemical, ozone and thermal desorption technologies, completion of several TCEQ mandated seven-year reviews of graveless and alternative

disposal technologies in Texas and as an environmental consultant performing indoor air quality and site assessments, risk management and hazmat assessments.

David was also a Licensed Master Plumber in Waco for 15 years. Education: Master's Env. S. – Baylor University

TOWA Needs Your Input.

The question of topics and speakers for the 2013 Annual TOWA conference is already being discussed and TOWA's Board of Directors is actively seeking the opinions of our members as to what topics would be of interest to the membership.

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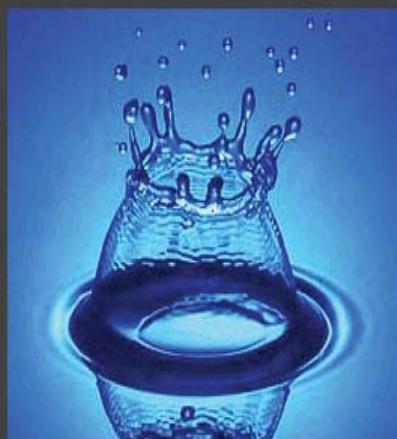
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- Dec. 9 - 10** *Basic Maintenance Provider Course*
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Location:
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- Feb. 21-22** *TOWA Annual Conference*
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