

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

VOTING SEWAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Members of the public were present but not identified.

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

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

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

- Discussion began on the draft regulations. Began with proposed Chapter 73.31(b)(1)(vi), construction and discussed through 73.44(a)(5), pressurized distribution design.
- A motion to suspend the meeting to allow discussion with non-SAC members was made by Roger Lehman and seconded by John Wagman. DEP provided details on the SAC bylaws and meeting conduct and the motion was retracted.
- Discussed forming another ad hoc committee for seasonal use of aerobic tanks, vacuum testing and anti-buoyancy measures with manufacturers to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Josephine Martin – Sent Tomisa Kiskadden 2 emails. Notice for septic week and EPA is doing training in drinking water, storm water, and wastewater trainings.

Ron Nauman – National Precast Concrete Association. Concerns: Vacuum test. If truck driver performs test, need trained person for testing to become qualified. ASTM C27(?) is design requirements, performance requirements, tells which products to use, etc. Testing for watertightness in the field should never go more than what the specs are. Should never go over the service level of the tank, could cause damage. Precast.org contains information and Ron offered help and assistance.

Dick Bachelder – Regulatory specialist at Infiltrator Water in Connecticut. Produce plastic septic tanks. Echo what Ron discussed. Unaware of another jurisdiction that requires vacuum testing onsite for every installation. Not practical. The state should be assured of the quality of the products based on certifications. IAPMO Z1000, updated yearly. Idaho requires any new tank product to ship to them and they tested it in the field to test certification. Well intended but onerous. Infiltrator does not allow stone under tanks. Any regulation requiring aggregate is not attainable.

Peter Gavin – Owner of Polylock. NSF 46 effluent filters. Brief overview. 1500 gallon test that does not use live sewage, uses beads. It is a pass fail for how many beads pass through. 4 companies that have NSF approval. Only standard for effluent filters. 5-year review period, if any changes, NSF retests. One product has shut off ball. The ball does not shut down the system but stops large slug of sewage to escape tank during filter maintenance.

Adam invited Ron to discuss ASTM 1227 – replacement for vacuum testing? Standard specification for concrete tanks. Water holding test and vacuum testing. Water up to the level of design of the tank. 1 of every 20 septic tanks randomly tested. NPCA requires watertightness but if not NPCA not tested for watertightness. IAPMO indicates water test or vacuum test for certification test only, not production test.

Brett Wieber – Norweco. Working group. Concerned about aerobic tanks and seasonal use. Without a definition of what that means. Issue not settled.

SAC REQUESTED ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

NEXT MEETING

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