



## **NEHA UPDATE – November 2015**

This NEHA update shares information with you about many activities and resources the National Environmental Health Association has initiated to support and assist environmental health professionals.

The NEHA website has been redesigned. Hopefully, the NEHA site is easier to navigate to be your source for on-line continuing education and credential building.

Consider attending the 2016 AEC in San Antonio. The conference will start in the afternoon of June 13 and end early afternoon on June 16. It is being designed to increase more networking through less formal social gatherings.

Ned Therien, RS  
NEHA Region 1 VP

### **2015 NEHA AEC Resources**

The National Environmental Health Association thanks all of our fantastic attendees, presenters, and exhibitors for making the 2015 Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition such a success. Use the NEHA website to view the 2015 AEC [wrap-up video](#) and [photo gallery](#). NEHA has received requests from those unable to attend the AEC for Dr. Dyjack's [keynote presentation](#). His vision for charting a new course for the organization and the environmental health profession earned him a standing ovation at the AEC! Many of the 2015 AEC educational sessions may be viewed for additional continuing education credits. They are free to attendees, and available for purchase: Members \$99/Nonmembers \$215.

### **NEHA and HUD Partnering for 2016 Conference**

NEHA and HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) are excited to announce that in 2016, the NEHA AEC and HUD's Healthy Homes Conference will be held jointly in San Antonio, Texas, June 13–16, on the River Walk. We welcome strengthening the healthy homes dimension of our conference and think this will bring great opportunities for additional connections between NEHA members and HUD grantees.

### **2016 Conference Website Is Now Online**

The official NEHA 2016 AEC and HUD's Healthy Homes Conference website is now online. New this year, the conference webpages are part of NEHA's newly redesigned website. To view the latest information about the 2016 AEC, please visit [neha.org/aec](http://neha.org/aec). Please [visit our website](#) to also view registration options and prices. Register soon to take advantage of early pricing.

### **Affiliate Engagement**

Recognizing the many shared goals and objectives NEHA affiliates have in common with NEHA, NEHA has created a new committee to strengthen its affiliates. During the next year members of the Affiliate Engagement Committee will be communicating with affiliate officers and taking actions to provide affiliates with the resources and training that they can use to enhance their organization. The NEHA Affiliate Engagement Committee has surveyed affiliate presidents to better understand affiliate training and resource needs, and is using the information to plan NEHA AEC sessions for affiliate offers.

## **NEHA Is Increasing [Advocacy](#)**

There has always been a need and expectation that NEHA would serve as a voice for environmental health professionals on policy, regulatory and legislative issues confronting this profession. With the growth of NEHA and the ever-increasing complexity of environmental health issues, the NEHA Board of Directors made a commitment to establish a Government Affairs program. The program will identify and research issues. In close cooperation with NEHA's board, the Government Affairs program serves as the mechanism for NEHA to take positions on policy and legislative issues. Furthermore, it establishes and maintains the critical relationships with federal agencies, other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the many coalitions, initiatives and work groups that carry out this important work.

## **NEHA [Position Papers](#)**

One of the National Environmental Health Association's responsibilities is to speak up on issues of concern to our members, and one way of doing this involves adopting positions. By publishing these positions, we strive to keep you informed about where we stand as an association on issues critical to environmental health. If you and/or your colleagues have the opportunity to advance any of these positions, we encourage you to do so. Position papers can be accessed using the NEHA website.

## **Advance Your Career with a NEHA Credential**

Receive the recognition you deserve for your expertise by earning one of the environmental health credentials offered by the National Environmental Health Association. Founded in 1937 by practitioners who wanted to establish a standard of excellence for the profession, that standard has come to be known as the Registered Environmental Health Specialist or Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) credential. Since that time, NEHA has developed additional credentials that evidence mastery of specialized knowledge. NEHA is striving to make the credentialing process as convenient as possible. Interested in maintaining your **RET**, **RHSP** and **RHSS** credentials? Please contact the Credentialing Department at (303) 756-9090 ext. 310, or email [credentialing@neha.org](mailto:credentialing@neha.org)

The [Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian \(REHS/RS\) Credential](#) is the premiere NEHA credential. It is available to a wide range of environmental health professionals. Individuals holding the REHS/RS credential show competency in environmental health issues, direct and train personnel to respond to routine or emergency environmental health situations, and frequently provide education to their communities on environmental health concerns.

The [Certified in Comprehensive Food Safety \(CCFS\) Credential](#) is NEHA's newest credential. The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) has recast the food safety landscape, including the role of the food safety professional. An individual who earns the CCFS credential will demonstrate expertise in how to assure food is safe for consumers throughout the entire food supply chain from farm to fork.

The [Certified Professional - Food Safety \(CP-FS\) Credential](#) is for food safety professionals and is designed for individuals within the public and private sectors whose primary responsibility is the protection and safety of food. The exam for this prestigious credential integrates food microbiology, HACCP principles and regulatory requirements into questions that test problem solving skills and knowledge.

The [Healthy Homes Specialist \(HHS\) Credential](#) signifies the professional direction, achievement and the knowledge to carry out functions and duties of a technical nature in a responsible manner. The HHS exam tests your understanding of the connection between health and housing, enabling you to take a holistic approach to identify and resolve problems that threaten the health and well-being of residents and was developed in partnership with the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH).

The [Certified Installers of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems \(CIOWTS\) Credential](#) was developed through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and various partner groups to develop a national credential to certify installers of onsite wastewater treatment systems. The credential covers all forms of installation and will be offered at both a basic and advanced levels.

The [Certified Environmental Health Technician \(CEHT\) Credential](#) is for individuals who are interested in field intensive environmental health activities such as testing, sampling, and inspections and who are required to provide information on safe environmental health practices to eliminate environmental health hazards. Individuals holding the CEHT provide technical support and assistance to a variety of professionals (environmental health specialists, health officers, sanitary engineers, etc.) and often coordinate sanitation and environmental health activities with state and local public health units.

[Join NEHA](#) and be part of an organization that fosters cooperation and understanding among environmental health professionals. Receive 10 issues of the [Journal of Environmental Health](#) (JEH) and find out why subscribers from some 53 countries around the world go to the Journal to stay current on the latest technological, legal, and research-based advancements in environmental health. NEHA credentials signify a level of expertise and competency based on education and experience that is nationally recognized. NEHA members receive discounts on credential exam and renewal fees, have access to free NEHA e-Learning sessions, and receive discounts for the NEHA AEC, the premiere environmental health education conference where you can network and learn with the best in your field.