NSF Standard(s) Impacted:

None

Background:

Concern has been expressed that there is a lack of awareness of on-site wastewater treatment system regulators.

The Regulators Committee decided to develop an awareness document that NSF could use to publicize the benefits of referring to the suite of NSF’s on-site wastewater treatment standards.

The attached document has been drafted by the Regulators and is submitted for the general information and possible comment by the Joint Committee.

Recommendations:

Joint Committee members should review the document overleaf, and if they have comments to offer, communicate those comments to Mindy Costello.

Supplementary Materials (photographs, diagrams, reports, etc.):


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Email completed form to the Standards Department: standards@nsf.org.
Benefits of Standards.... Why should Regulators reference NSF Wastewater Technology Standards?

Regulators of wastewater treatment units and their installation and use have serious legislated mandates and responsibilities to protect the environment and public health within their jurisdictions.

This involves having and maintaining an extensive knowledge of treatment system designs, functioning, and performances as well as installation options, operational requirements, and the public and environmental health aspects affected by each of these knowledge areas. These are topics of considerable complexity, for which new information based on experience is often forthcoming.

NSF International (NSF) ([www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)) is an organization authorized by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) ([www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)) to prepare standards in the public health, environmental health, and sustainability areas. NSF’s is The Public Health and Safety Company™. It is advised by a Council of Public Health Consultants which approves all standards produced by NSF through its technical committees. One of which, the Joint Committee on Wastewater Technology has produced a series of standards addressing this crucial subject1.

NSF has also produced a standard on wastewater reuse2 which will serve an increasingly necessary application as water supplies become scarce and the opportunity to reuse wastewater for other purposes becomes both desirable and necessary.

Standards developed by NSF conform to the consultation and consensus requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) ([www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)) which requires the participation of experts representing three major stakeholder categories: regulators and public and environmental health officials, manufacturers, and users. All draft standards or modifications to standards go through a public comment period whereby any stakeholder with a registered interest can receive copies of drafts and provide comments on them. NSF particularly ensures that a wide distribution of the draft standards is circulated to all stakeholders in the subject area of the standard being developed. Their significant contact with the National Environmental Health Association ensures public and environmental health review and input. All Joint Committee meetings are also open to any interested stakeholder to attend. Revisions to the standards may be submitted at any time to the committee for review. This process enables the Joint Committees to keep track of all developments in the field and to maintain the standards in an up-to-date state reflecting new technologies and experiences.

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2 NSF/ANSI 350-2012 - Onsite Residential and Commercial Water Reuse Treatment Systems
Adopting NSF International’s nine Wastewater Technology standards:

1. enables regulators to tap into a constantly updated source of information and experiences;
2. provides the regulator the benefit of the consolidated opinion of experts without having to call on their services directly;
3. provides the regulator with the assurance that the treatment systems conforming to the standards will protect public and environmental health;
4. can be a vital resource when developing regulations;
5. can provide harmony of terminology used in regulations, and
6. gives assurance that the adopted provisions of the regulations have been soundly developed, represent best practices, and reflect a consensus of regulators, manufacturers and users from across the country.

Regulators may also take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the standards development process either as a member or as an observer of the Joint Committee by contacting standards@nsf.org.

Other benefits of NSF Standards

Standards bring general and specific technological, economic and societal benefits within the country, the State, and the community and to businesses.

Standards help to harmonize technical specifications of products and services allowing industry to be more efficient and breaking down barriers to trade thus enabling competitive processes to emerge in many existing and new markets.

Conformity to Standards helps reassure consumers that products are safe, efficient and good for the environment.

Standards increase profitability by improving business efficiency and reducing costs, increasing consumer confidence and providing a foundation for growth.

Standards are strategic tools and guidelines to help businesses tackle some of the most demanding challenges of the modern economy. They ensure that business operations are as efficient as possible, increase productivity and help company’s access new markets.

Businesses also benefit from taking part in the standard development process by providing their input to improve and advance the industry.