



NHDES Water Division Update



**Rene Pelletier, P.G.
Director, Water Division**

September 9, 2026



Water Division Organization

Director: Rene Pelletier, P.G.

Assistant Director: Ted Diers

Bureaus and Programs

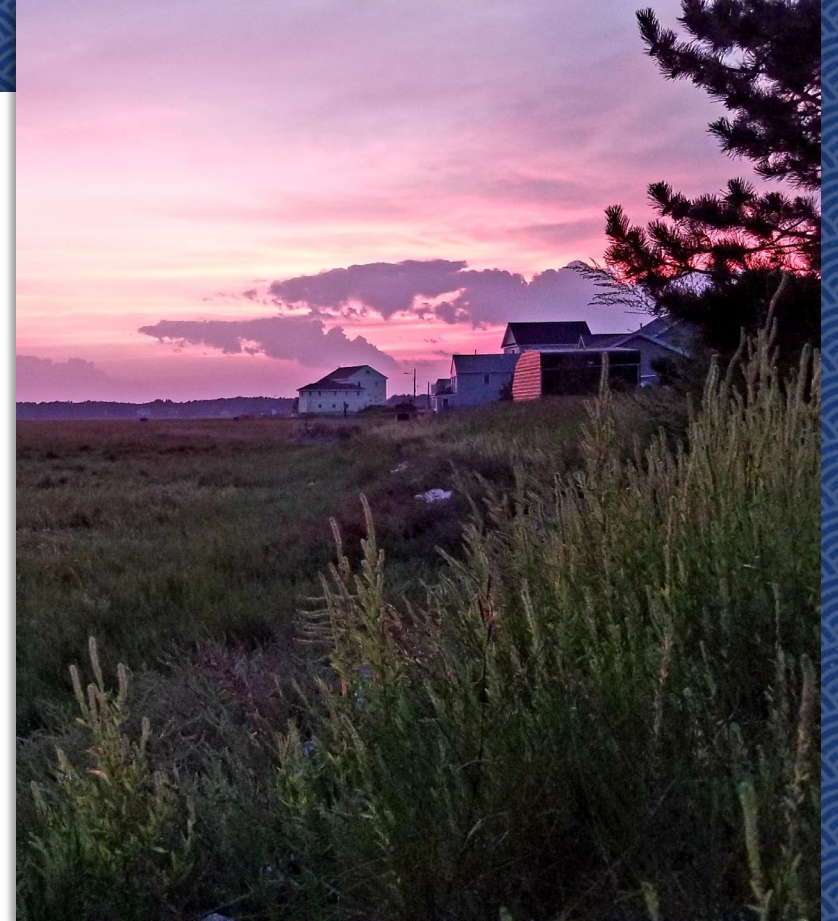
- ☐ **Dam Bureau**
- ☐ **Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau**
- ☐ **Land Resources Management Program:**
Alteration of Terrain, Subsurface Systems Bureau,
Shoreland Program, Wetlands Bureau
- ☐ **Wastewater Engineering Bureau**
- ☐ **Watershed Management Bureau**
- ☐ **Winnepesaukee River Basin Program**



Division Priorities



- ◎ PFAS
- ◎ Cyanobacteria
- ◎ Cybersecurity
- ◎ Wastewater planning and infrastructure
- ◎ SCADA at WRBP
- ◎ WRBP Sewer Repair – NBRC Grant
- ◎ Wetlands and Subsurface Rulemaking
- ◎ Management and maintenance of State-owned dams

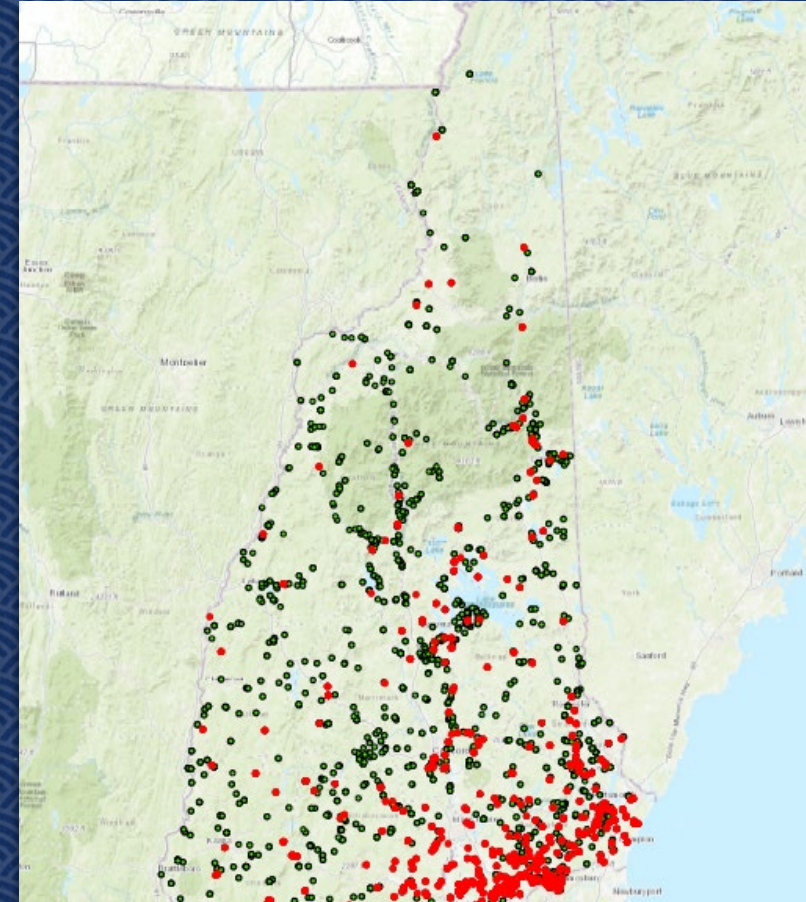


Hampton Seabrook Estuary at sunset, unknown

PFAS in Drinking Water

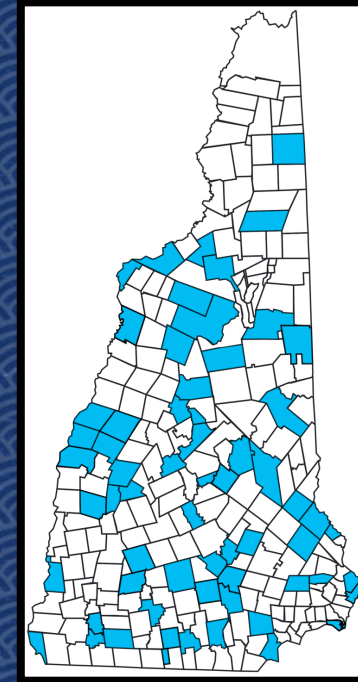


- 1/3 of all sources of water for public water systems detect PFOA or PFOS
- PFAS compensation fund – Settlement funds arriving in NH
<https://www.pfas.des.nh.gov/funding/pfas-compensation-fund-public-water-systems>
- Private Wells – Approx. 16,000 wells sampled and 57% were above EPA MCL of 4ppt.
- Water supply efforts in Southern NH

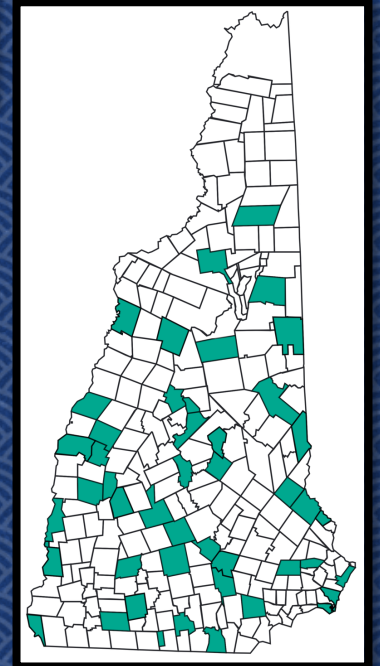


Cybersecurity

- Cyber Threat - Targeting Water and Wastewater Sector Internet-Facing Programmable Logic Controllers, Causing Operational Disruptions
- NH Water Sector Stakeholder Meetings
 - March 2026 and September 2026
- New training contact hour policy for DW Operators
 - mandatory 2 hours of cybersecurity training
- Cybersecurity rules for DW & WW
 - SB 589 effective June 2026



Drinking
Water Utilities



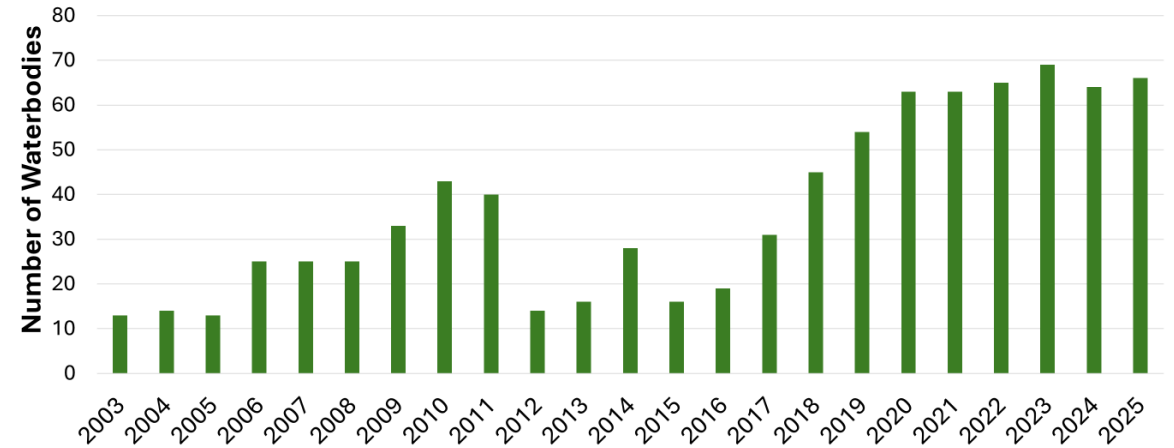
Wastewater
Utilities

Cyano



- ◎ Cyanobacteria plan in 2022
- ◎ Blooms occur on ~50-60 waterbodies per year
- ◎ 4th lake-wide remediation project in 2026
- ◎ ~1.5 million spent on cyanobacteria projects
- ◎ Healthy swimming mapper updated in 2025 and 2026 to be more informative

Waterbodies with Reported Blooms



Wastewater Planning and Infrastructure



- ◎ \$435M Total demand in 2026
- ◎ “Free” energy audits and vulnerability assessments
- ◎ Asset management w/ WWEB On-Call Eng’g Contracts
- ◎ HB1275
 - Signed into law (Chapter 298); Effective July 10, 2026
 - Provides civil liability protections for farmers for PFAS-related impacts in soil, water, or agricultural products.
 - Directs NHDES to develop concentration-based PFAS standards for biosolids land application sites.
 - Initiate rulemaking by June 2027
 - Final standards effective by 1/1/2028



SCADA at WRBP

- ◎ SCADA system installed in 2000.
- ◎ Parts run on Windows XP !
- ◎ Complete replacement scheduled for 2027-2028.
- ◎ Contract award very soon.
- ◎ Costs = >\$ 2.1 million



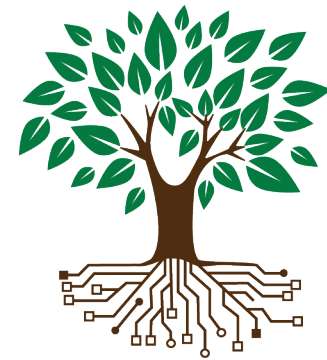
WRBP Sewer Repair – NBRC Grant

- ◎ Belmont-Northfield drinking water aquifer protected.
- ◎ Complete lining/replacement scheduled for 2027-2028.
- ◎ NBRC federal grant for 1/3 of project costs in 2027.
- ◎ Project Costs = @\$ 6 million



Land Resource Management Permitting

- ◎ Launch of NHEnviro for AoT
- ◎ State assumption of federal wetlands permitting (“404 Assumption”)
- ◎ Wetland rules update this winter
- ◎ 80% of all subsurface records scanned and online. May 2027 completion date.



NHEnviro
OneStop Data
and Information

Management of State- owned dams

- ◎ 270 State-owned Dams with a \$414 million rehabilitation need
- ◎ \$300 million just for 64 high hazard State-owned dams
- ◎ Preparing for Capital Budget funded projects at Pawtuckaway Lake and Lake Francis.
- ◎ Finishing ARPA funded projects at Goose Pond, Mendums Pond and Nash Stream Forest
- ◎ Reviewing the feasibility of several dam removal projects



Thank You

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