



Sewage System Solutions-OOWA

Moderator(s): Doug Robertson, CBCO

DATE: Monday, October 7th, 2013 TIME: 3:30 pm

LOCATION: Webster

GUEST SPEAKERS: Ms. Marie-Christine Belanger - Premier Tech Aqua, Mr. Rick Esselment - ESSE Environmental

DESCRIPTION: Ms. Marie-Christine Belanger, Technological Development Director, Premier Tech Aqua | OOWA - "Replacing a failed or failing septic system could be a challenge depending on the site conditions. Site characteristics such as available space, restrictive soil layers, general soil quality, and setback distances, are elements that when taken independently or as a whole may not allow for a conventional system to be installed on the lot. During the presentation, examples of successes from different jurisdictions will be presented. These real-life case studies will include different onsite wastewater treatment technologies and a decentralized community solution."

BIOGRAPHY: Ms. Marie-Christine Belanger, Technological Development Director Marie-Christine Belanger is the current Director of Technologies Development and Government Relations at Premier Tech Aqua (PTA), a Canadian company and world leader in the Onsite Wastewater Treatment industry.

Ms. Belanger holds a Physics Engineering degree from Laval University and a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from L'Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal. She accumulated over five years of professional experience as a project manager for the development of onsite wastewater treatment systems before pursuing a career as Project Development Director at Group Celdex, a firm specializing in the development of integrated Waste Management programs in emerging countries.

In the last 11 years, Ms. Belanger has focused her interest and expertise primarily on decentralized wastewater treatment. Her role and function within PTA have brought her to play key roles on several steering and advisory committees throughout North America where she has taken part in the development and advancement of industry-wide regulations and standards leading to better protection of the environment and the public's health.

Since 2010, Ms. Belanger has been particularly active as a member of the Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association (OOWA) Board of Directors, notably as co-chair of the Government Relations and Onsite Technical Committees. She also sits on OOWA's Membership and Conference committees.

In the last few years, Marie-Christine Belanger has been instrumental in the establishment of continuous and fruitful communications between OOWA and all levels of the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) and Ministry of the Environment (MOE) as well as various other government agencies directly or indirectly related to the onsite wastewater treatment industry.

BIOGRAPHY: Mr. Rick Esselment

Rick Esselment is the founder and President of ESSE Environmental Health. He is currently serving as the Vice President of the Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association and is Co-Chair of their Government Relations Committee. He is also a member of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, Ontario Groundwater Association, American Industrial Hygiene Association, and the National Environmental Health Association.

Rick had worked as a Public Health Inspector and Building Official under the Part 8 program for the Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit. He is an advocate for change in the Onsite and Decentralized industry to improve environmental health protection and sustainability of water resources.