

# PUMP CLOGS IN MAINE: A HISTORY



**2005**

Portland Water District (PWD) is one of first utilities in the nation to use public outreach to address pump clogging issues caused by wipes and similar materials.

**November 2010**

JETCC/MWWCA sponsor first of several 6-hour training session on “Emerging Issues with Flushables”. Legislation (LD 781) is written, asking industry to comply with own guidelines.

**March/ April 2011**

Municipalities, septic haulers, and plumbers testify in support of LD 781. Bill moves into Work Session. MWWCA begins to meet regularly with INDA.

**November 2012**

INDA implements large survey to gather consumer data. NEWEA, NACWA, APWA are engaged in issue; disagree w. INDA on key points.

**January 2013**

MWWCA helps develop NEWEA Position Paper. MWWCA and INDA update Maine legislature on progress, goals.

**January 2012**

LD 781 voted “Ought Not to Pass”.



Ongoing Advocacy



2005

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

**July 2009**

Maine communities report increased pump clogs caused by non-dispersible consumer products. INDA releases revised Flushability Guidelines.

**April 2010**

MWWCA features its first “Pump Clogging” technical session at Spring Conference.

**January 2011**

MWWCA sends member survey. 90% of the 58 responses indicate that “wipes” cause problems in their systems.

**Aug/Sept 2011:**

WEF, other states support MWWCA. INDA and MWWCA begin study at PWD Pump Station

**April 2012**

MWWCA rolls out Pump Clog SOP-gathers data on pump clogs from across the country. Articles published in two national journals.

**February 2013**

MWWCA, INDA develop plans for 2013 Outreach, confirm to Maine legislature. Panel session planned for WEFTEC in Chicago, October 2013.

With our partners in Maine and around the country, Maine WasteWater Control Association (MWWCA) advocates for consistent labeling and marketing of wipes and similar consumer products to reduce the burden on municipal wastewater departments and districts.