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 sessions 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.

January 2012
LD 781 voted “Ought Not to Pass”.

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 NEWEAPosition Paper. MWWCA and INDA update Maine legislature on progress, goals.

2009
MWWCA sends member survey. 90% of the 58 responses indicate that “wipes” cause problems in their systems.

April 2010
MWWCA features its first “Pump Clogging” technical session at Spring Conference.

July 2009
Maine communities report increased pump clogs caused by non-dispersible consumer products. INDA releases revisedFlushability Guidelines.

Aug/Sept 2011:
WEF, other states support MWWCA. INDA and MWWCA begin study at PWD Pump Station

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.

INDA: Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
WEF: Water Environment Federation
NACWA: National Association of Clean Water Agencies
NEWEA: New England Water Environment Association
APWA: American Public Works Association