



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services
 Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



March 27, 2014

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
 And the Honorable Council
 State House
 Concord, NH 03301

Retroactive

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to **retroactively** pay the fiscal year 2014 membership dues to the Northeast Environmental Enforcement Project (NEEP) (VC# 177648-B002), Trenton, NJ in the amount of \$4,000 for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, effective upon Governor and Council approval. 40% Federal funds and 60% Other funds.

Funding is available in the accounts as follows:

	<u>FY 2014</u>
03-44-44-444010-7603-026-500251	\$1,500.00
Dept of Environmental Services, RCRA HW Program PPG, Organizational Dues	
03-44-44-444010-5392-026-500251	\$2,500.00
Dept of Environmental Services, HW Cleanup Fund, Organizational Dues	
Total:	<u>\$4,000.00</u>

EXPLANATION

This request for dues is **retroactive** because the bill was received late, and there were additional administrative delays in making this request for authorization to make payment. DES and the Attorney General's Office (AGO) benefit greatly from their membership in NEEP, and the value of training benefits derived from membership far exceed the modest dues. NEEP was formed in 1980 to address the need for interstate cooperation among environmental enforcement officials in the northeast to investigate and prosecute environmental crimes. NEEP membership is comprised of a representative from DES responsible for environmental regulatory activities and two representatives of the AGO responsible for civil and criminal investigation and prosecution. NEEP provides its members with high-quality training programs and responsive information services that we rely upon to successfully train our regulatory and enforcement staff.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

- **How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?** The organization has been in existence since 1980 and New Hampshire has been a member since 1980.

- **Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?** No, this is the only organization to which we belong that provides multi-disciplined environmental enforcement training.
- **How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?** 12 states and the District of Columbia are full NEEP members and Environment Canada is an Associate Member in NEEP. In total, 47 states, the District of Columbia, Environment Canada and four Canadian provinces are members of at least one analogous regional association. DES and the AGO are both represented on the NEEP Coordination Committee.
- **How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc)** The dues are a standard fee of \$2,000 per state and the remaining \$2,000 is based on population.
- **What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** The state receives enormous benefits from membership in a number of ways. First, the state takes full advantage of the high-quality training programs provided to our regulators, investigators and attorneys. Second, NEEP's Coordination Committee meetings, two per year, provide up-to-date information on national environmental enforcement issues presented by the current experts in each discipline. And, third, the networking with NEEP and the other regional association members has been an important resource in the success of New Hampshire's environmental enforcement programs.
- **Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.** Yes, NEEP provides training materials to its members at its courses and Coordination Committee meetings. The courses are free for Coordination Committee members, and training course attendees are reimbursed for their travel, hotel and meal expenses.
- **Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.** No.
- **Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.** Yes, NEEP typically has two Coordination Committee meetings per year hosted by a member state. Three New Hampshire staff are members of the NEEP Coordination Committee and are reimbursed by NEEP for their expenses. NEEP also offers two to three training courses per year and allows three to four reimbursable training slots per member state.
- **Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.**
NEEP Coordination Committee members are voting members and include:
 - Regulatory Representative- John J. Duclos, Administrator, DES
 - Attorney Representative- K. Allen Brooks, Senior Assistant Attorney General, AGO
 - Investigator Representative- Lauren Noether, Senior Assistant Attorney General, AGO
- **Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.** The state would not have up-to-date information on important state environmental enforcement cases or the ability to network with members of the regional associations on multi-state environmental investigations. Most importantly, New Hampshire would lose the opportunity to train its staff through NEEP's training courses and Coordination Committee meetings. The New Hampshire DES and AGO have been members of NEEP since its inception and its environmental enforcement programs have benefited and will continue to benefit greatly from the training, networking and other services provided by NEEP. If New Hampshire ceased its membership in

NEEP, there is no other organization that could provide a comparable service, and the effectiveness of our environmental enforcement programs would be diminished.

NEEP membership provides New Hampshire with an outstanding service to remain current on new environmental enforcement developments in the regulatory, investigative and legal specialties. Membership in the past has been of great benefit to New Hampshire as we have been able to learn from other NEEP states' experiences and share such up-to-date information on a national basis with the other regional associations. These dues are a very small investment for the value received from this organization in terms of sustaining our knowledge and ability to investigate and prosecute environmental crimes through administrative, civil and criminal processes.

We respectfully request your approval.



 Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner



Northeast Environmental Enforcement Project P.O.

Box 101, Trenton, NJ 08625 Telephone: (609) 984-1961 Fax: (609) 777-3153 Federal ID# 21-6000928

INVOICE			
<p>To: John Duclos Department Of Environmental Services Waste Management Compliance Bureau Hazardous Waste Compliance Section Six Hazen Drive Concord, NH 03301-6509</p>			
QTY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	<p>Cash Match Allocation for participation in the Northeast Environmental Enforcement Project</p> <p>New Hampshire State Membership Dues July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014</p>	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
		TOTAL DUE	\$4,000.00