



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner



June 7, 2022

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
 and the Honorable Council
 State House
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to **RETROACTIVELY** pay calendar year 2022 membership dues to the Ground Water Protection Council, (VC #172317-B001), Oklahoma City, OK in the amount of \$12,000.00, upon Governor & Council approval. 100% Federal Funds.

Funding is available in the account as follows:

03-44-44-441018-4718-026-500251	<u>FY 2023</u>
Dept Environmental Services, DWSRF Administration, Organizational Dues	\$12,000.00

EXPLANATION

The New Hampshire Drinking Water Program has been a member of the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) for more than two decades. The GWPC is a national association of state ground water and underground injection control agencies to promote the protection and conservation of ground water resources for all beneficial uses, recognizing ground water as a critical component of the ecosystem. The GWPC provides a forum for stakeholder communication and research in order to improve governments' role in the protection and conservation of ground water. Since the invoice for the membership dues was received by the Department during the fifth month after the start of the calendar year this request is **retroactive**.

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

- 1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?**

The Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) is a national association of state ground water and underground injection control agencies, formed in 1983, to promote the protection and conservation of ground water resources for all beneficial uses, recognizing ground water as a critical component of the ecosystem. NHDES has been a member for over twenty years.

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- 2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?**

There is no other organization for State Ground Water Program managers. There are portions of NH's Ground Water program that are also being addressed by other organizations, but GWPC is the only organization that provides the States with support for implementing ground water discharge permitting (i.e. the Federal Underground Injection Control Program).

- 3. How many other state's belonging to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?**

NHDES is the only NH state agency that is a member of GWPC. There are currently 51 other state agencies from across the nation that are members.

- 4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)**

State dues for GWPC are \$12,000 per state/per calendar year. All states are charged the same amount.

- 5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?**

GWPC members consist of state ground water regulatory agencies which come together within the GWPC organization to mutually work toward the protection of the nation's ground water supplies. The purpose of the GWPC is to promote and ensure the use of best management practices and fair but effective laws regarding comprehensive ground water protection. Through their efforts on the national level, program managers are kept informed about issues that have potential to impact state programs, particularly new U.S. EPA initiatives. States are then able to respond collectively through the GWPC Board of Directors.

Membership provides New Hampshire with an avenue to learn about new developments and to have a voice in the discussion of important issues affecting the State's ground water. Membership in the past has been of great benefit to New Hampshire, particularly in the areas of discharge permitting and wellhead protection. GWPC is the only national association whose members regulate underground injection wells.

- 6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.**

The cost of attending GWPC's annual technical meeting is discounted for members but not provided for free. GWPC produces a variety of reports which are provided for free to members. For instance, the "National Ground Water Report to Congress", which provides information on key issues affecting ground water, is free.

- 7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.**

No.

- 8. 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.**

Membership does not require travel and the organization increasingly uses webinars to provide information to members. Typically, a staff person does attend the annual technical conference, often presenting NH initiatives. GWPC covers some of the travel costs of NHDES staff because NHDES has a member on the Board of GWPC.

- 9. 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.)**

As part of the GWPC collaborative process, the GWPC Board of Directors creates working committees to address important ground water related issues. These committees are made up of and led by volunteers from the states. Brandon Kernen, NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau Administrator, is a voting member on the Board of GWPC.

- 10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.**

The greatest negative impact if New Hampshire were no longer a member, would be the loss of early involvement in federal groundwater initiatives and new regulations, particularly those related to discharges to groundwater. Learning from and having working relationships with other state ground water managers and EPA would also be lost.

We respectfully request your approval of this item.



Robert R. Scott
Commissioner



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INVOICE

Date: May 4, 2022

Invoice #: 92

New Hampshire Department Of Environmental Services
95 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302

Attn: Brandon Kernen

State Dues 2022

\$12,000.00

Total

\$12,000.00