

May 1, 2004

To North Carolina Registered Sanitarians:

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is extending a very special opportunity to you and to other credentialed individuals in your state. For a limited-time only, you can become nationally credentialed as a **Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian** (REHS/RS) with NEHA through a special “Open Window” or reciprocity policy.

**What prompted this opportunity and what is its significance?**

For as long as NEHA has existed, we have strived to elevate the standing and respect accorded to those who practice environmental health. One of the mechanisms used by professional societies like NEHA to achieve such a goal is the one of credentialing. Through a professional credential, one evidences to both their employer and to the public they serve that they are competent to carry out the duties and tasks expected of them. Such a mark of distinction also serves the practitioner inasmuch as the effort expended to gain such a credential often leads to higher levels of individual compensation and regard—as it should.

In addition to the national program of credentialing which NEHA conducts, the state of North Carolina also sponsors an environmental health credentialing effort. In fact, you are receiving this letter because you are currently one of many environmental health professionals registered in the North Carolina program.

Recently, North Carolina entered into a contractual arrangement with NEHA that enables North Carolina to use the national exam for the credentialing of professionals in your state. By virtue of having a contractual relationship with NEHA, your state program has made possible a unique opportunity for people like you who would likely have an interest in becoming nationally credentialed. In other words, and with a minimum of effort on your part, we are delighted to announce that you now have the chance to add the distinction of a national credential to your resume along with the state credential that you currently have.

Individuals registered in North Carolina are eligible for reciprocity through **March 1, 2005**. Persons wishing to become nationally credentialed must submit the following material:

1. Entire credential application signed and notarized (special application included); and
2. Provide proof of valid current (North Carolina) state registration; and
3. Sign NEHA code of ethics; and
4. Mail application along with the appropriate fees to:

**National Environmental Health Association**

720 S. Colorado Blvd., Ste. 970-S  
Denver, CO 80246-1925

Applicants must be sure to complete the entire application. This opportunity is only available to environmental health professionals who can evidence that they are currently registered in North Carolina and are in good standing under the state program. Therefore, please make sure to submit a copy of your current state registration card, showing the expiration date of certification, along with your complete application.

We should note that this is a special opportunity that is being extended to *all* state credentialed environmental health professionals in North Carolina. The open window for this opportunity will close on March 1, 2005. After that, in order to obtain the national credential, applicants will have to meet all of NEHA's requirements independent of any consideration associated with state credentialed status.

NEHA looks forward to the opportunity to extend national recognition to you for your work and for your achievements in the environmental health profession.

Thank you for your dedication to the environmental health profession. It is a matter of deep pride for us to represent individuals like you whose commitment to environmental health strengthens the profession and by virtue of your credential, elevates the respect given to all Registered Environmental Health Specialists/Registered Sanitarians. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your application please feel free to contact me at (303) 756-9090 ext 339.

Sincerely,

Heidi J. Steigman, M.A.  
Credentialing Coordinator  
National Environmental Health Association

P.S. If you are currently credentialed with NEHA, please accept our congratulations. We would encourage you to in turn encourage your state credentialed colleagues to act on this special opportunity to further build the nationally credentialed ranks of our profession.