

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS
OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

MEETING MINUTES FOR
JANUARY 7, 2004

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Richard Dionne, Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Tom White and Ray Wright

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: David Komiega and Steve Niro, Woodard & Curran
Greg Schultz and Traci Lima, DEM

The first item discussed was five applications for reciprocity from the Town of Warren/Woodard and Curran. The five individuals are employed by Woodard & Curran, but are not full-time employees at the Warren wastewater plant. Mr. Steven Niro, of Woodard and Curran, stated that he would like to have the operators certified in Rhode Island should coverage be needed at the Warren plant. Mr. Wright stated that he would be concerned that the operators, should they be granted reciprocity, may not spend much time, if any, at the Warren plant after licensure. Mr. Dionne noted his concerns that some jobs could be taken away from certified Rhode Island operators, and might set precedence for other contact companies. Mr. Patenaude suggested that perhaps there could be a process to register these employees, allowing them to work at a specified facility only. Mr. Patenaude noted that this proposal could answer the Board's concerns, while assisting contract firms in meeting labor needs at the facilities. Mr. Schultz noted that it was not necessarily the Board's concern to license individuals who only work part time at a Rhode Island Facility, and as such after a more in-depth review we could offer a registration not a license. The Board felt it was important to know the hours the applicants would be working at the Warren plant to make a final decision. Mr. Patenaude informed Mr. Niro that Woodard & Curran is not in violation at the present time by using these individuals. However, he noted, the issue had many broad policy implications, and there is no similar precedent on which to make a decision. As such the Board would need more time to make an assessment. The matter was tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

The next item discussed was the December 3, 2003 draft meeting minutes.

After Board review, Mr. Kurdziel motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. White seconded the motion. Mr. Dionne abstained, as he was not present at the meeting. All other members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next item discussed was the draft Closed Meeting Minutes of the December 3, 2003 meeting.

After Board review, Mr. White motioned to approve the minutes as given. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. Mr. Dionne abstained, as he was not present at the meeting. All other members voted in favor and the motion passed.

Item number 3 on the agenda was the Exam Statistics from the Fall 2003 operator's exam. Mr. Patenaude noted that the results were "less than impressive." Mr. Wright wondered how many repeat takers there were, Mr. Patenaude informed him that the information could be gathered. Mr. Patenaude thought that perhaps if a larger fee were charged, only serious applicants would apply. He also informed the Board that he would be looking at an item analysis to determine where the examinees had the most trouble. Messers. Wright and Dionne thought that a Board sponsored review could be offered or a practice exam. Perhaps this could be offered on the internet. Mr. Patenaude thought a more extensive practice quiz could be offered when approval to take the exam is granted.

The next agenda item discussed was Board member reappointments. Messers. Dionne, White and Wright would contact their respective associations to renew their membership.

The next item discussed was enforcement actions. Mr. Patenaude wanted legal opinion on whether or not prior incidents could be used when reviewing an enforcement action. Mr. Schultz seemed to think prior history could be used to show incompetence. A three-year pattern would be reasonable. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that he would provide additional information to the Board from a municipality to determine what enforcement action, if any, would be taken against an individual at a Rhode Island wastewater treatment plant.

The final agenda item discussed was new business. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that he had received an application from Joseph Gerrish of the WREC, LLC, the former Brown & Sharpe; it looked OK to be processed.

Another item was a December 31, 2003 letter from Jose DaSilva of the Bristol WWTF, and co-signed by plant superintendent Matthew Calderiso. Mr. DaSilva had applied for and passed the Fall 2003 exam. On his application he noted that he had been hired in his current duties on March 5, 2003. That information, however, was incorrect (it was the date of the end of employer probationary period.) He requested in his letter received that the correct date should be October 28, 2002 (when he actually began those duties). The superintendent supported the hire date of October 28, 2002.

Mr. Patenaude motion to accept the letter and corrected date of October 28, 2002 thus making Mr. DaSilva's OIT to expire on October 28, 2004. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion, all members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

With no further business, Mr. Patenaude voted to adjourn the January 7, 2004 meeting, seconded by Mr. Dionne. All other members voted in favor and the motion passed.