



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

DRAFT Meeting Minutes: September 3, 2008

Members in Attendance: Richard Dionne, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White
Others in Attendance: Traci Pena – RIDEM
Marisa Desautel, Esq. - RIDEM – Legal Services

The first agenda item was the review of the draft June 2008 meeting minutes. Mr. Patenaude initiated discussion regarding the second motion from the draft January 2008 meeting minutes. Mr. Patenaude sought clarification as to which “regulatory requirements” need to be met to qualify Boot Camp participants to sit for the exam one grade higher than they currently hold. Mr. Schock wanted to know if the proposal satisfied Rule 8 entitled “Operator Qualifications and Classifications for WWTF’s” and/or Rule 12 entitled “Examinations” of the Rules and Regulations for Wastewater treatment Facility Operators. Mr. Patenaude stated the proposal satisfied Rule 12, as the Boot Camp program satisfied both education and experiential requirements. Mr. Dionne noted that while he was not at the previous meeting he is not in favor of the Boot Camp participants being able to take such an exam. Mr. White did not think Boot Camp took the place of education, but nonetheless offered participants an opportunity to advance in their careers based on specific training experiences. Based on the board’s questioning, attorney Desautel sought additional review of Rule 12 before rendering a decision to ascertain how regulatory requirements should be followed, as all applicable requirements need to be met for applicants to sit for an exam. No other discussion occurred relating to the draft minutes.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. White seconded the motion. Messers Dionne and Schock abstained as they were not present at the June meeting. All other members present voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed.

Mr. Shock and Mr. Patenaude asked attorney Desautel to provide additional information regarding the minute’s second motion for further clarification at the next Board meeting.

The next order of business was a report on the RIDEM-sponsored Operator Boot Camp. Mr. Patenaude stated that he has received very positive feedback, with many participants and their supervisors noting that they found the courses to be very helpful. Mr. Patenaude stated his thanks and appreciation to all those who helped with the training and shared their experiences and knowledge. On Friday, September 5, 2008 the 13 participants of the first Boot Camp would be presented with certificate at the annual Trade Show and Clambake. The second Operator Boot Camp will begin on Thursday, September 25, 2008 and run through August 2009.

There were no new applications for the Board to review.

The next order of business was a potential Enforcement matter resulting from an event in which partially treated wastewater was discharged into the Providence River. The event might have been caused by human error. To better discuss the matter, the Board will hold its next meeting at the facility’s operations building to observe first-hand how operator error may have resulted in said violation.

The next item discussed was the spring 2008 exam updates. Overall the statistics remained the consistent with previous years. The next examination will be December 11 and 12, 2008 at DEM Headquarters at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.

The next item was an operator review of the Grade 1 exam. An individual received a 69 on his Grade 1 exam. The individual reviewed his exam, and contested one question involving a diagram with which examinees had to identify components of a clarifier. Mr. Patenaude reviewed the exam with the individual and noted that the operator was able to discuss the clarifier in great detail. Mr. Patenaude distributed the diagram to the Board and discussed how elements within it could be interpreted in more than one way, and so noted how the individual may have answered pertinent questions in a manner other than the one considered correct.

Mr. Dionne made a motion to allow the individual pass from a 69 to a 70 and have Mr. Patenaude review all other exams from the Spring 2008 to see if anyone else answered those questions similarly. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

In new business, Mr. Dionne, citing personal reasons and other responsibilities, informed the Board that he would be submitting his letter of resignation, although it was with regret that he would be resigning from the Board. Mr. Dionne would be submitting a name to the Governor's office as a replacement. Mr. Patenaude expressed surprise and regret at the notice, and thanked Mr. Dionne for a job well done in his years of service on the Board.

With no further business Mr. White motioned to adjournment. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, and as such the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **October 1, 2008** at 9:30 a.m. at the NBC – Fields' Point WWT located at 2 Ernest Street, Providence.