

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

Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2003

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Paul, Health & Safety Manager of Clariant Corporation
Bernie Bishop, Superintendent of South Kingstown WWTF
Traci Lima, DEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

The first order of business was the draft September 3, 2003 minutes.

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

The next item of the agenda was the matter of the Clariant Corporation staffing status. Clariant had been recently graded as a Grade 3 facility after a review indicated no record of a facility grade. John Paul, the Health & Safety Manager of Clariant Corporation provided some background history of the facility. At the facility there are 4 operators, one of which is grandfathered as a Grade 3 and another one is grandfathered as a Grade 2, however they are not in the Board's database. Another operator is currently taking the steps to be a certified Grade 2 operator. Mr. Paul will be submitting a staffing plan in writing to DEM to ensure compliance. Mr. Patenaude noted that Clariant appeared to be in compliance currently and DEM was working with the company to ensure that remains so.

The next item discussed was exam application updates and reviews. As there were applicants from the Town of South Kingstown, Mr. Schock recused himself from discussion. Mr. Bernard Bishop, Superintendent of the South Kingstown Wastewater Treatment Facility was present at the meeting to discuss two applicants. The first was Todd Gaudlap who is currently enrolled in the Grade 1 operator course. Mr. Gaudlap is seeking to sit for the Fall 2003 Grade 2 exam. In the application he submitted, his duties indicate that he is a laborer. Mr. Bishop indicated that laborers often work side-by-side with the operators and are able to perform operating duties.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to allow Mr. Gaudlap to classify the position as operations and to allow Mr. Gaudlap to sit for the Grade 2 Fall 2003 exam, provided he passes the Grade 1. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. Mr. Schock abstained from the vote. All other members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next operator to be discussed was Peter Bates; he is a pretreatment coordinator in the laboratory at the South Kingstown Wastewater Treatment Facility. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that the Rules and Regulations do not allow certification for individuals involved with pretreatment, collection and industrial wastewater. Some laboratory workers are allowed to be certified up to a Grade 2 operator. Mr. Bishop provided a job description, which did not meet the definition of operator.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to deny Mr. Bates to sit for the Fall 2003 exam based on the information given. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. Mr. Schock abstained from the vote. All other members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

A summary of applications indicated that an application from Francis Thomson was deficient and it will be returned for completion. Mr. Donald Bernier who is applying for Grade 1 license must pass the Grade 1 exam as he has been in his position for over a year. If he does not pass the Fall 2003 exam he must be removed from his position as an operator at the facility. The next application discussed was Mr. Robert Evans, he was inadvertently sent a Grade 2 license, and he will be coming into to sit with Mr. Patenaude to review his Spring 2003 exam and to discuss the status of his license. The next applicant was Earl Salisbury, who is applying for the Grade 4 exam. As his application was deficient, Mr. Patenaude has left several messages with Mr. Salisbury so he may provide additional information, which will need to be in to the Board prior to the December 3, 2003 meeting.

The next item addressed was the proposed legislation changes. At this time no changes are being considered.

The next agenda item discussed was a report from Synagro. Mr. Patenaude wanted to alert members that an issue from Synagro might come before the Board due to a spill at Synagro and operator error.

The last item discussed was a report from the Secretary of State's office asking us to report on a quarterly basis any consultation work and to also provide them with any open meeting minutes and agendas for online posting.

Mr. Patenaude concluded by congratulating Ms. Forgue for successfully completing a charity fundraising triathlon.

With no further business Mr. Wright motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. White. All members present voted in favor or adjournment and the motion passed.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. in conference room 280C in the Office of Water Resources on the 2nd floor of the Department of Environmental Management, 235 Promenade Street, Providence.