



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: February 3, 2010

Members in Attendance: Julia Fogue, Fred Kurdziel, Dr. Gene Park, Bill Patenaude and Jon Schock
Others in Attendance: Traci Pena and Marisa Desautel – DEM
David Gaipo, Westerly WWTF
Brent Herring, NBC – Bucklin Point and NWPCC

The February 3, 2010 meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The first order of business was application review.

The first Operator application discussed was from Mr. David Gaipo, who is currently employed by United Water and working a portion of his time at the Westerly WWTF. Mr. Gaipo is a potential candidate for superintendent at the East Providence WWTF and as such is looking for an advisory opinion from the Board in obtaining a Rhode Island Grade 4 license through reciprocity. Mr. Gaipo holds a Grade 7 in Massachusetts via examination, which is equivalent to Rhode Island's Grade 4. Mr. Schock noted his interpretation that the Regulations state that an individual must work at a Grade 4 facility to attain Grade 4 licensure for the purposes of attaining a superintendent's position at a Grade 4 facility via reciprocity; the Westerly facility is rated a Grade 3. Mr. Schock is concerned that if a person holds a Grade 4 license that s/he has the ability to run any Grade 4 facility throughout Rhode Island and does not feel that Mr. Gaipo possesses enough experience. Though not present on Mr. Gaipo's behalf, Mr. Herring (who also works for United Water as a superintendent) offered that United Water area managers need to maintain a level of currency and there are professional expectations that need to be met. Nevertheless, Mr. Schock requested more detail in writing as to Mr. Gaipo's duties at other Grade 4 facilities. Specifically he would like to see dates, duties and grade of the facility. While Mr. Patenaude stated that he did not fully concur with Mr. Schock's regulatory interpretation, he requested that Mr. Gaipo also provide contact information of his employers so that Board member concerns can be adequately addressed. With no further discussion, the discussion was tabled pending the receipt of additional information from Mr. Gaipo.

The next application discussed was that of a Mr. Dave McCarthy who is a Stock Room Clerk at the NBC – Bucklin Point facility. Mr. McCarthy took and passed the Operator I course and is requesting a Grade 1 license. Mr. Herring spoke on the matter and said that Mr. McCarthy's position title does not accurately reflect Mr. McCarthy's duties. The position is involved with planning, scheduling and receives training (though not at the same level as operators) and so his position would be somewhat equivalent to that of a mechanic, which the Board has licensed in the past. Mr. Schock, Mr. Kurdziel and Dr. Park expressed concerns that the Board would be stretching the definition of operator by accepting this position as one that could attain certification, and as such they could not support this position receiving a license.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to deny Mr. Dave McCarthy's application for certification based on the information received and on his application. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next item discussed was a request from the City of Woonsocket to grant Mr. James Locke a six-month Grade 4 provisional license, as the city and its contractor sought to promote him to the position of Assistant Superintendent. Currently Mr. Locke possesses a Grade 3 license and is in direct responsible charge; Woonsocket is a Grade 4 facility. Mr. Locke will not receive his six years of experience until January 2011, which would mean that should he pass the Grade 4 exam in May 2010, he would hold a Grade 4 OIT until meeting full experiential requirements. In response to concerns by Mr. Schock, Mr. Patenaude noted that the Board requires that an applicant possess a full Grade 3 to apply for a Grade 4 license, a full Grade 4 license is not required to hold an Assistant Superintendent position while working towards necessary experiential requirements.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to accept the request based on the evidence before the Board to issue to Mr. Locke a Grade 4 provisional license for 6 months, valid only at the Woonsocket WWTF. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. Ms. Forgue and Messrs. Kurdziel, Patenaude and Dr. Park voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Schock voted against. As such, the motion passed.

The next item discussed were the January 2010 meeting minutes.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the minutes with proposed grammatical edits. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. All members present (except Ms. Forgue) voted in favor and the motion passed. Ms. Forgue abstained as she was not present at the January 2010 meeting.

The next agenda item discussed was Regulation revisions. Mr. Patenaude proposed a new draft which takes into account input from the wastewater superintendents, etc. After discussion related to municipal impacts and logistical work-flow issues within the DEM, the Board asked Mr. Patenaude to provide another draft at the next meeting. Mr. Schock noted he would attempt to provide input and edits to the draft. Mr. Patenaude will also work with Dr. Park to define "accredited".

Messrs. Gaipo and Herring left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Per §42-46-5(a)(4) Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session in order to discuss an issue at a Rhode Island wastewater Treatment Facility related to possible wrongdoing. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Kurdziel, Dr. Park, Ms. Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to close the matter after review of the June 2009 meeting minutes and other documents. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Kurdziel, Dr. Park, Ms. Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the February 3, 2010 Executive Session meeting minutes. Dr. Park seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Kurdziel, Dr. Park, Ms. Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to resume the meeting into open session. Dr. Park seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Kurdziel, Dr. Park, Ms. Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

The matter of Licensure Requirements for Synagro, Woonsocket will be tabled until the DEM representative is present.

With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Office located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.