



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

**BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS  
OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

Meeting Minutes: March 7, 2007

**Members in Attendance:** Richard Dionne, Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock, Tom White  
**Others in Attendance:** Traci Pena, RIDEM

Mr. Patenaude opened the meeting with the review of the draft December 2006 meeting minutes.

**Mr. Schock motioned to approve the December 2006 open minutes with amendments. Mr. White seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Dionne who abstained, as he was not present at the December meeting.**

The next agenda item discussed was operator updates. Mr. Patenaude and Mr. Dionne conducted an oral exam for an applicant requesting one for the Fall 2006 exam. The results were not available at the time of the meeting.

The next operator update regarded an applicant from the Narragansett Bay Commission. Currently, the individual works in the sampling unit, which has been previously licensed. The position in question appears to be even further removed from operational duties. Mr. Patenaude noted that he is getting uncomfortable licensing these individuals, and said he will meet with the supervisor and get the facts and discuss at the April 2007 meeting. Mr. Schock concurred, noting that licenses should be equivalent at all Rhode Island facilities.

The next item on the agenda was Mandatory Retraining. Mr. Patenaude spoke with Greg Schultz of DEM Legal, the Board's legal counsel. Mr. Schultz determined that, because the issue of mandatory retraining has been previously promulgated in the Regulations, the Board's activation of the existing regulatory language would not be new rule making and would not fall under the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act, RIGL 42-35-1, et seq. Mr. Schock suggested that Mr. Schultz speak to the League of Cities and Towns. Mr. Patenaude would bring the topic up for more formal discussion at the next Board meeting. Additionally, Mr. Schock suggested that if communities should submit a plan regarding training, what level of information is the Board going to require, for instance a curriculum and attendance sheets. Mr. Kurdziel suggested that every two years a new plan would have to be submitted. Mr. Dionne stated that some plants do not provide training and it would be the operator's responsibility to get the training on their own, which he was not comfortable with. Mr. Patenaude mentioned that the renewal cycle starts at the end of this year and it would be a good time to implement any such requirement. Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

The next agenda item discussed was Enforcement Activities. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that as discussed at the last meeting, he has sent a letter to an individual who did not perform a fecal coliform samples on his shift. Mrs. Pena read the letter aloud. Mr. Patenaude then informed the Board that in addition an unrelated matter might be brought to the Board's attention at a future meeting.

**With no new business, Mr. Schock moved to adjournment, Mr. White seconded the motion. With all members voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in room 280 of the DEM – Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.

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