



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: May 5, 2010

Members in Attendance: Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Dr. Gene Park, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White
Others in Attendance: Traci Pena and Marissa Desautel, RIDEM
David Gaipo, United Water

The May 5, 2010 meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. The first order of business was minutes of the March 3, 2010 meeting.

Mr. White motioned to approve the draft minutes of the meeting with one minor grammatical edit. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next order of business to be discussed was application reviews. The first application reviewed was from Mr. Luis Lubo, who will be away with the Rhode Island Army National Guard training and as such was requesting to sit for the Grade 2 exam on his return after May 26, 2010.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to allow the individual to sit for the exam at a time mutually convenient time upon his return from Guard training. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

In other exam business, Mr. Patenaude would like to hold a special examination time for the individuals employed at the Warwick and West Warwick wastewater treatment facilities affected by the Flood of 2010.

Mr. White motioned to grant the Chair of the Board permission to the operators at the Cranston and Warwick WWTFs to take the Spring 2010 exam in July or August. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next application to be reviewed was from a Massachusetts operator who was seeking reciprocity for a potential job in Rhode Island. After an extensive review of his application the Board decided to table the application pending confirmation correspondence from the community that would be hiring him.

The next application reviewed was from Mr. David Robbins of the Cranston WPCF, who is seeking to take the Grade 3 exam. A review of the application indicated that the individual lacked the needed operational qualifications to take the Grade 3 exam, and as such is not eligible to take the spring 2010 exam.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to deny the applicant's request; Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All members voted in favor as such the motion passed.

During the review of the application there was discussion on a related matter of the level of management for which the applicant is employed. A separate correspondence will be sent to the employer inviting them to a subsequent meeting so that the Board can coordinate staffing and

certification levels at the Plant and the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Certification of Operators of Wastewater Treatment Facilities.

The next application reviewed was from Mr. David Sousa of the NBC-Bucklin Point WWTF, seeking to take the Grade 3 exam. A review of the application indicated that the individual lacked the needed operational qualifications to take the Grade 3 exam, and as such is not eligible to take the spring 2010 exam.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to deny the applicant's request; Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All members voted in favor as such the motion passed.

Mr. White stated that there seemed to be a trend of people applying for exams/licensure who are not nearly appropriately qualified; he suggested if this issue needs to be visited. Mr. Schock offered that such issues may be related to language within the regulations. Mr. Patenaude stated that does seem to be the trend and the issue needs to be addressed. Mr. Patenaude stated that the Board needs to get a listing of job specifications at the facilities in which the superintendents need to fit their specs with the Board's definitions.

The next application was from Mr. David Gaipo, an employee of United Water seeking Grade 4 reciprocity through an equivalent Grade 7 license in Massachusetts, which was attained by examination. The issue was continued from the February 2010 meeting pending additional information from the applicant and the City of East Providence. Mr. White stated he abstain from the discussion and voting as he was the former superintendent of East Providence's WWTF and is acquainted with the applicant and his family. Mr. Patenaude distributed a letter from Public Works Director Steven Coutu of the City of East Providence dated May 5, 2010 stating that Mr. Gaipo is the individual for which the city wishes to hold the position of superintendent. Mr. Schock questioned the regulatory authority to issue such a license via reciprocity without requiring examination. Mr. Patenaude noted that provisions in the regulations allow for just such a situation and that such issuances of reciprocity are routine. Mr. Schock also requested a review of the equivalency of the applicant's previous experience in Massachusetts as it relates to the RI Classification of Wastewater Treatment Facilities point value system. After this review, it was determined the class of the wastewater facility for which Mr. Gaipo has experience in Massachusetts is indeed equal to a Rhode Island Grade 3 facility, which is required in the regulations. After a lengthy discussion Dr. Park noted that the Board had the regulatory authority to grant reciprocity from a Grade 7 Massachusetts license to a Grade 4 Rhode Island license. After other participating Board members provided their input as well as hearing input from the DEM legal counsel.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to grant Mr. Gaipo a Grade 4 license through reciprocity. Dr. Park seconded the motion. With Mr. Schock voting in the negative and all other members voted in favor, the motion passed. Mr. White abstained from the vote.

At this time, there were no operator enforcement issues.

The discussion of Regulations would be tabled.

With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. White seconded the motion. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Office located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.