



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: June 4, 2008

Members in Attendance: Julia Fogue, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude and Tom White
Others in Attendance: Traci Pena – RIDEM
Marisa Desautel, Esq., Intern Devon Cipperly and Intern Brent Gilbert,
RIDEM – Legal Services

The first agenda item to be addressed was the review of the draft March 5, 2008 meeting minutes.

Mr. White motioned to approve the minutes with minor grammatical amendments. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed.

The next order of business was the RIDEM-sponsored Operator Boot Camp. Mr. Patenaude continued a conversation regarding offering participants of the training program some allowance for taking a higher grade examination due to their efforts in the program. Attorney Desautel drafted a memo with respect to a legal interpretation of the term "evidence of education" in Rule 9(A) of the Rules and Regulation for Wastewater Treatment Facility Operators. After the review of the Rule, Attorney Desautel determined that if the Board finds that the Boot Camp program provides a participant with sufficient education, the Board can make the decision to allow the applicant to take the exam. Mr. Patenaude felt as though the Boot Camp participants should be able to take the exam one level higher in accordance with existing regulatory language. The feedback in the field that Mr. Patenaude has received has been mostly positive, although some do not agree with the proposal, as it may bring with it preferential treatment for those members of Boot Camp. Mr. White offered that it is the first year of such a program and something needs to be done to stimulate the program and he is in full support. Mr. Kurdziel agreed. Ms. Fogue confirmed that the participants would still have to pass the exam, but that while Rule 8(B)(5)(a) and 9(A) give the Board the authority for educational/experiential substitutions, she was concerned about granting examinations of higher grades than was necessarily needed by an applicant. Mr. Patenaude noted one intent of this proposal was to assist communities with judging qualified applicants for higher-grade management positions. Mr. White offered that a limit be placed on the participants only taking one grade higher than they currently hold but not higher than the grade of the facility.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion that the Board will initiate a policy for review after twelve (12) months to allow individuals who have successfully completed the DEM sponsored Boot Camp to sit for the exam one grade higher than currently held if they meet regulatory requirements, and that should they achieve a passing score, they be granted an "if and when" status in that license category valid for two years. Mr. White seconded the motion. Messrs. Kurdziel, Patenaude, and White voted in favor. Ms. Fogue voted against the motion. As such the motion passed.

The next order of business was Jarod Doyle, an operator who took and passed the Grade 4 exam in November of 2006. Mr. Patenaude sought from the Board permission to re-review Mr. Doyle's experience and, if appropriate, issue a Grade 4 license based on Mr. Doyle's previous passing of the Grade 4 exam. Related to this matter was the Board's notification to the NBC that their "Process Monitor" position was in fact in Direct Responsible Charge. This is a position that Mr. Doyle had maintained for a number of years in his tenure at NBC. After discussion, the matter was asked to be re-presented to the Board at its next meeting pending Mr. Patenaude's review and necessary actions.

The next business was a request from Janine Burke. She was an operator at the West Warwick Treatment Plant holding a Grade 2 OIT license; the license is about three weeks short of obtaining a full Grade 2 license. She is requesting the Board waive the 3 weeks and issue a full Grade 2 license. Mr. Kurdziel thought a line needs to be drawn, and a precedent is being set that required time be met to the week/day for such licensure activities. Mr. Patenaude stated that because of Ms. Burke's

Board of Certification of Operators of Wastewater Treatment Facilities
June 4, 2008 Meeting
Page Two

qualifications, and her undocumented experience at a wastewater treatment facility prior to notifying the Board of her formal operational duties, he did not see a significant reason not to waive the final few weeks and so issue Ms. Burke the full Grade 2 license. [A related discussion developed regarding Ms. Burke's ability to, per the previous discussions, take a higher grade license, as she is a member of the Operator Boot Camp. Mr. Patenaude noted that should such a request come forth it would not be approved as Ms. Burke has left the field of operations in taking the Executive Director position at the Warwick Sewer Authority. Mr. Patenaude noted the Board's long-held policy, based on its understanding of statutory and regulatory language that only WWTF operators currently working within a wastewater treatment facility can sit for a board exam.]

Mr. White motioned to grant a full Grade 2 license to Ms. Janine Burke per her request. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. Messrs. Patenaude and White and Ms. Forgue voted in the affirmative, whilst Mr. Kurdziel voted against the motion. As such the motion passed.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **July 2, 2008** at 9:30 a.m. in room 280 of the DEM – Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.