



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: December 1, 2010

Members in Attendance: Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White

Others in Attendance: Marisa Desautel, Esq., and Traci Pena, RIDEM
Robert Atwood, Resource Control Associates

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The first orders of business were the draft October 2010 minutes.

Mr. White motioned to approve the October 2010 meeting minutes. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. With all eligible members present voting in favor, the motion passed. Mr. Schock abstained as he had not been present at the October meeting.

The next items discussed were regarding Tiverton High School, Precision Park and Briarcliffe Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation. Mr. Patenaude reported that Precision Park has no discharge at present due to a lack of tenants; with no operations on site, the matter of operator licensure requirements has become moot. Briarcliffe has an operator on site that has a provisional license and will be taking the Grade 2 winter 2011 exam. Regarding Tiverton High School, a discussion took place regarding the amount of time Mr. Robert Atwood of Resource Control has spent at the facility as well as his prior experience. Mr. Atwood noted that his firm had been retained by the Town of Tiverton to bring its school's wastewater facility into compliance; Mr. Atwood noted that the facility is in need of a number of repairs and upgrades—all of which is being discussed as part of an enforcement action taken against the Tiverton School Department by the RIDEM. The Town of Tiverton has indicated thus far that it would prefer to upgrade the existing facility rather than build a sub-surface OWTS system, which the town and Mr. Atwood consider to be a more expensive, less attractive option. Mr. Atwood projected no final decision would be made until the summer of 2011; Mr. Patenaude noted that as such, he or someone at the facility would need to attain a Grade 2 license. While Mr. Atwood was issued a Grade 2 provisional license, which will expire on April 6, 2011, additional information related to his role at the Tiverton facility resulted in the Board making the following determinations:

1. It appears unlikely that the Provisional Grade 2 license issued to Mr. Robert Atwood on October 6, 2010 will be renewed or made permanent. This determination was based on Mr. Atwood's wastewater operational experience and his time in operations at the facility, in accordance with requirements of the Board's regulations.
2. No current Tiverton School Department employee is licensed at a Grade 2 level, only the lesser Grade 1.
3. Should the current facility configuration and discharge location remain in place; the Tiverton School Department will be required to provide an on-site "full-time" operator with a Rhode Island Grade 2 wastewater operator license. Understanding the size of the facility, the Board would not define "full-time" as 40 hours/week devoted entirely to the wastewater facility. However, the licensed Grade 2 operator would be expected to have regular availability to the facility.

Mr. Schock asked if the current Grade 1 operator at the facility had any interest in trying to obtain a Grade 2 license, which may solve the problem at the facility. Presently, Mr. Atwood was not aware of any aspirations of Grade 2 license.

Mr. Patenaude motioned that the Board send a letter to the Town stating that (i) the applicant, Mr. Robert Atwood, does not qualify for full, permanent Grade 2 licensure, (ii) that his Grade 2 provisional license will expire on April 6, 2011 and that (iii) a full-time Grade 2 operator must be onsite at the facility on April 7, 2011. Mr. Patenaude would also extend an invitation to the Town to offer additional information at the next Board meeting. Mr. Schock seconded the motion; all members present voted in favor, and as such the motion passed.

The next item was a review of the draft Regulations and mandatory retraining. Discussion was tabled pending input from the Narragansett Water Pollution Control Association and direction to the board pending discussion with the new director of RIDEM.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Office located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.