



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

DRAFT Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 - Regulations

Members in Attendance: Paul Desrosiers, Frank McLynch and Bill Patenaude

Others in Attendance: Traci Pena and Matt Puglia, RIDEM

At 2:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

Note: This was a special meeting to discuss proposed amendments to the Regulations. With no quorum, no votes could be taken.

Mr. Patenaude noted that the item for consideration was Grade 3 exam allowance and the determination of stipulations that would be required for non-operators, such as maintenance and laboratory employees, to sit for the exam.

Mr. Patenaude noted that there had been significant discussions from maintenance staff, who had advanced the proposal of allowing maintenance staff to sit for the Grade 3 exam. Mr. Patenaude noted that he had not heard a similar request from laboratory personnel. Mr. Desrosiers stated that at NBC, there is a pay benefit to go from a Grade 1 to a Grade 2, even if a Grade 2 is not required for one's position. That policy helps indicate a level of commitment by the staff, Mr. Desrosiers said, which may be a model for other positions, such as maintenance. Mr. Patenaude asked the Board about including laboratory in this discussion. Mr. Puglia stated that at some facility the lab directors provide feedback to the operators but are not actively engaged in process control. Mr. McLynch stated that in his experience many lab staff members would not be familiar with frontline process control issues.

Board members present suggested that laboratory employees remain ineligible to sit for Grade 3 examination.

After discussion, the following guidelines were reviewed for maintenance to sit for Grade 3 examination:

- Three years of supervisory experience of two or more staff
- Five years of total experience
- Credit for previous operational experience
- Amount of time individuals have held a Grade 2 license
- Allowing individuals with three years of supervisory experience and five years of total maintenance experience to sit for the Grade 3 and, if passed, attain an "If and When" status that would become a true Grade 3 when the individual attains a position in operations.
- The Board would thus have to determine how long an "If and When" would be in effect.

The next item explored was the element of education. Mr. Desrosiers stated that it is important to have business management. Education in lieu of operations and management would shave off time for OIT, but not to exceed one year. This matter would be continued at the next special regulations meeting.

The meeting closed at 3:00 p.m.