



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Members in Attendance: Janet Baldwin, Frank McLynch, and Bill Patenaude

Others in Attendance: Scott Goodinson and Peter Connell, NWPCA
Christina Hoefsmit and Traci Pena - RIDEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:35 p.m.

As there was no quorum, no votes could be taken.

Board members present reviewed the Draft November 19, 2019 Regulations meeting minutes.

There was no operator enforcement to be discussed.

The Board then discussed the new policy from NEIWPCC regarding trainers. Mr. Patenaude received correspondence from NEIWPCC stating that they would only be working with “incorporated” trainers after January 1, 2020. This potentially poses a problem for Basic Course’s instructors. Mr. Patenaude spoke with the current instructor, Mr. Edward Davies, who noted that he met the NEIWPCC requirements. As such, this new requirement is not an issue for the current course instructor.

On a related topic, Messrs. Goodinson and Connell were at the meeting to discuss training and possibly having NWPCA sponsor the Basic Course. Mr. Connell stated that training is important, but that cost and budgeting is always an issue. Mr. Goodinson will be attending a conference of wastewater associations and will discuss how other states operate their training programs.

Next to be discussed was T2 Renewals. An applicant submitted a request for T2 renewal based on a pretreatment workshop that was held in coordination with EPA. Mr. Patenaude stated that the Board does not certify pretreatment employees and thus it was his understanding that the Board may not wish to credit such training hours. Dr. Baldwin and Mr. McLynch thought that there may be some operational value to the course, but to give the full amount would be excessive. Mr. Patenaude noted he would attain more information regarding the course.

Mr. Patenaude provided the monthly update regarding the superintendent of the Quonset facility, which was satisfactory.

The draft November 19th Regulation meeting minutes were reviewed. Discussion ensued regarding required training for renewal. Mr. Patenaude noted that one concept could continue the current T2 optional training for Grades 1 and 2 but mandatory training for Grades 3 and 4. Mr. Goodinson added that if training were required for Grades 3 and 4, it may encourage Grades 1 and 2 to get additional training.

In new business, exam results were reviewed.

Mr. Patenaude noted that an examinee inquired if the state plans on administering electronic exams. While the current enabling legislation precludes such e-testing (due to costs), Mr. Patenaude will be inviting DEM Legislative Liaison Ryan Mulcahey to the February meeting to discuss changes to the legislation. Dr. Baldwin noted that she did not see the benefit of electronic exams, as paper exams reduce stressors on examinees.

Mr. Patenaude also stated that he and Mrs. Pena will be working on the 2020 exam schedule.

The meeting concluded at 10:30.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8th, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM - Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.

The next Regulation meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 2:00 at the RIDEM - Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.