

RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
Board of Certification of Operators
Of Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2001

In Attendance: Richard Dionne, Julia Forgue, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock, Tom White and Raymond Wright

Also in Attendance: Traci Lima, DEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. The first order of business was the review of the August 2001 meeting minutes.

Mr. White motioned to accept the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Wright, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next order of business was the draft Rules and Regulations for Wastewater Treatment Facility Operators (Rules and Regulations). The first Section to be discussed was the existing Section 14, related to Revocations. Mr. Patenaude presented amendments to that section which had been prepared by DEM Legal Counsel. In reviewing the sections, Ms. Forgue wanted to know if the Board's eventual revocation procedures would be well served to have documented information from a superintendent or community. She noted that she is dealing with this kind of situation at Newport's drinking water treatment facility. In her experience there have been situation of employee, management and union disputes. Ms. Forgue wanted to see the procedure for how the information comes to the Board, who the complaints come from, the protocol if any investigations took place, etc. Mr. Patenaude asked Mr. Dionne if he could provide input from the labor union's point of view. Mr. Dionne said that he would and noted that the Board does not need to notify the Union it is the individual's responsibility. (On a related note, Mr. Patenaude said on the renewal forms and applications the procedure has changed as to what the operators are responsible for. On both forms it states that the operator is responsible for notifying the Board of a change of address and renewing his/her license at the end of every odd calendar year, failure to do so could cause the operator to lose his/her license.) Mr. Patenaude stated that Board should review the Water Supply Board of Certification's proceedings of revocation of their license. Mr. Schock suggested looking at medical disciplinary regulation procedures.

Mr. Wright thought that Section 14 (a) was disconnected from the rest of the section. He wanted to know what does the showing of "compliance" mean as used in the draft. He also noted that the language needed to be more connected with subsections 1-5.

Mr. Patenaude stated Ms. Forgue's earlier suggestion for the inclusion of a section noting "special request and/or accommodations" would be added to the next draft.

Mr. Schock enumerated a number of comments he had in his review of the draft regs. To begin, he commented on the Section 6. Definitions, he wanted clarification on the definition of *Supervisor and Operator*. Some facilities do not or are not required to have full-time supervisors. Mr. Patenaude suggested leaving "full-time" in the definition of Operator only. Mr. Schock said he would rather see this be done through the Operation and Maintenance manuals.

Mr. Wright suggested changing "sit" to "take the exam" in Section 12 (g).

Mr. Wright thought that the layout of the Rules and Regulations should be consistent. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that a new regulation layout would be instituted by the Secretary of State, and until that format was known the current regs would be formatted consistently with its existing outline.

Mr. Schock wanted to change Section 7 (b), the second sentence instead of “Due notice...” to “Provide notice...”

There were also instances where Mr. Shock thought that “days” should be changed to “calendar days”.

On Section 8 (4)(I), Mr. Schock thought that “or higher” should be deleted because Grade 4 is the highest grade a Rhode Island operator could achieve.

On section 9(a), Mr. Schock felt that there needed to be more clarification here. In the first sentence after “... in a given grade, in accordance with all requirements of these Rules and Regulations” should be added. Also additional wording in section 11 (b) was needed in the second sentence. It should read “the bi-annual certification renewal fee...”

Mr. Wright wanted to know if revocation of license was for life. Mr. Patenaude said he would ask Legal Office their opinion on this.

The next order of business was new business. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that the exam would be on December 12, 2001. He also showed the Board the new renewal certification license form.

The next new business to be discussed was the day of the week the Board meeting will be held on in the year 2002. It was decided by all in attendance to have the meeting on Wednesdays.

With no further business, Mr. White motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Patenaude.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2001 at 9:30 in conference room 280C, in the Office of Water Resources on the second floor of the Department of Environmental Management, 235 Promenade Street, Providence.