



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Members in Attendance: Julia Forgue, Frank McLynch, Melissa Orpen-Tuz, Bill Patenaude, and Jon Schock

Others in Attendance: Christina Hoefsmit and Traci Pena, RIDEM
Kathy Perez, S. Kingstown WWTF

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Patenaude proposed that, given the number of issues within the current regulations proposed for evaluation, the Board consolidate those issues and tabulate/schedule them for discussion at forthcoming special regulation meetings. Board members present agreed that this approach would be a helpful means of organizing Board discussions and would assist the regulated community in evaluating said items.

After review, the following items were identified as appropriate for individual Board meetings:

1. *The definition and understanding of Direct Responsible Charge.* This would impact existing definitions of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, etc., as well as other areas of the regulations. Mr. Patenaude noted that one recurring theme/question is whether Direct Responsible Charge should be defined as managing staff (as it is currently) or solely overseeing a shift operation, such as a single operator on a third shift (as some have proposed).
2. *Which duties/labor categories can be licensed at varying levels versus which duties/labor categories would be allowed to attain various licensure levels?* Here would arise the discussion on allowing maintenance staff to be licensed at higher levels than are currently allowed.
3. *Examination and licensure qualifications* especially related to education. Of particular interest was the types of "sciences" that might be allowed, such as business or management (which currently are not allowed).
4. *Expiration dates of both RI/Board exams and the allowance of exams from other jurisdictions.* This would, for instance, impact those who take the Grade 3 exam under the "if and when" clause, the passing of which currently expires after two years. (The point has been made that this may be too restrictive.)
5. *Required retraining for renewal* (versus the current "above-and-beyond" voluntary training approach).
6. *The place of Board "discretion" within the regulation versus strict requirements.* This discussion would impact several areas of the current regulations as well as current Board policies.
7. *Examination protocols* especially related to applications, exam delivery, and reviews,

At 3:30 p.m. Mr. McLynch motioned to adjourn. Mr. Schock seconded. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.

The next meeting regarding the Regulation Revisions will be scheduled for May 15th, at 2:00 at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.