



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, MAY 15, 2019 - Regulations

Members in Attendance: Melissa Orpen-Tuz, Bill Patenaude, and Paul Desrosiers

Others in Attendance: Jose DaSilva, Bristol WWTF and Traci Pena, RIDEM

At 2:15 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

The focus on the meeting was the definition of Direct Responsible Charge (DRC). The Board considered prior discussions in which industry members proposed that DRC should include an operator working alone while “being responsible” for plant operations during an off-shift. The current definition of DRC requires the full-time management/supervision of two or more operators, at a minimum. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz noted that it was her expectation that significant issues arising during an off-shift would require an on-duty operator to call a supervisor/manager to then oversee that situation, and thus the sole operator would not in fact be directing staff or major process/maintenance decisions.

Mr. Patenaude noted that the intent of the current definition was to require higher-level grades to gain experience (and thus proficiency) in both plant operations and staff management—which are two different skillsets.

Mr. DaSilva questioned the current definition’s requirement of DRC as supervising operators. Mr. Desrosiers agreed with Mr. DaSilva and suggested that the Board consider management in general, such as the management/supervision of maintenance staff, rather than solely operators. Mr. Desrosiers further noted that there seems to be no apparent justification for requiring the management/supervision of two staff members (be they operators or other positions). He suggested the Board consider maintaining supervision but reducing the number of supervised staffs to one rather than two. Mr. Patenaude agreed and suggested that this may be advantageous to operators at smaller facilities.

Mr. Desrosiers asked if the current date for the Regulations meeting could be changed from the third Wednesday of the month to some other day. The discussion will be brought to the full Board.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00.