



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

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

Others in Attendance: Traci Pena - RIDEM
Kathy Perez, S. Kingstown WWTF

DRAFT Meeting Minutes - Regulations: February 18, 2019

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. The purpose of this special regulatory update meeting was to continue discussions on language changes to the Board's regulations. With no quorum, no votes could be taken.

Mr. Desrosiers proposed changes to 5.10 (Examinations), in which he edited the section to hold the exams at least three times annually (which has been the current practice) and to space the examinations approximately four months apart. Also, he suggested changing the language regarding the review process. The language included allowing Grades 1 and 2 be allowed unlimited review and the Grades 3 and 4 one time but could make a request to the Board for additional reviews or if one were to get a score near passing. Discussion ensued on this proposal.

2:15 Mrs. Orpen-Tuz arrived.

In open comments, Mrs. Perez noted that during exam reviews, examinees may be inclined to study the test itself and not the material, and thus allowing for the exchange of testing information within the profession.

Mr. Patenaude discussed the proposal to include maintenance supervisors in the definition of "Direct Response Charge" and to make the term consistent throughout the Regulations. A similar revision would be needed for the entry level of Direct Responsible Charge, Shift Supervisor, to be responsible for one or more employee, rather than just operators—so that maintenance managers could thus attain a status of Direct Responsible Charge.

Mr. Patenaude suggested that a section similar to 5.10 (F)(1)(2)—which explains how individuals in operations would be allowed to sit for a Grade 3 in an "If and When" status when they attain operations experience but are not in Direct Responsible Charge. For Maintenance, the If and When status could be granted to maintenance supervisors (who are thus in Direct Responsible Charge) who are not yet in operations.

Next was proposed language related to “sciences”. The Board wished to explore defining if “business sciences” could be applied to Direct Responsible Charge experience, in a manner similar to how courses in natural sciences can be credited for operational experience.

The board members present adjourned at 3:05.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 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, March 17, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM - Office of Water Resources, **Room 200** located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.