



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES &
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

DIVISION OF WATER

89 KINGS HIGHWAY
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION

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**Public Workshop for Proposed Changes to
Regulations for Licensing Operators of Wastewater Treatment Facilities
DNREC, Richardson & Robbins Building,
Auditorium
6:00 p.m.**

WORKSHOP MINUTES

In Attendance:

Board: Brian Blackburn, Jerry Esposito and Glenn Davis
DW: Bryan Ashby, Nicole Smith and Faye Wheeler
DOJ: Kayli Spialter
Public: Monica Boyer Jonathan P. Cole, Jeff Deats, Mike Evans, Ira Kaiser, Mark Kondelis, Mark Kondelis Jr, John Marion, Richard Plack and Shawn Wellwood

Glenn Davis called the began the workshop at 6:04 p.m.

- Proper notice of the workshop was given in two local newspapers, on the BOC website and in an email to all licensed wastewater operators.
- Copies of the proposed changes were provided on the BOC website and at the workshop.

Introductions

- Mr. Davis began the workshop by introducing the board of certification members. He also introduced some Division of Water and Department of Justice staff present. Mr. Davis also recognized Jeff Deats and Mark Kondelis who worked with the board to develop some of the proposed changes.

Instructions/Information

- Mr. Davis explained, as we look at the proposed changes to the regulations, the things that are lined out are being taken out and things that are underlined are being added.
- The board will be meeting next week to review all of your comments. The comment period will remain open.
- All of the open mic recommendations were incorporated in the proposed changes.
- A big change is all of the approved policies will now go into the regulations (like multi-plant approvals).

Proposed Changes

- Mr. Davis explained, as we look at the proposed changes to the regulations, the things that are lined out are being taken out and things that are underlined are being added.
- The board will be meeting next week to review all of your comments.
- Mr. Davis presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the significant proposed changes. The following comments from the public:

- **Section 3.1**

One (1) member who is currently certified as a Wastewater Operator of an individual NPDES permitted point source discharge facility

Jeff Deats: For first board member description, can we eliminate the word “individual”?

Answer: It does not mean one.

Jeff Deats: How do we define member at large:

Answer: Not a licensed operator. General citizen.

- **Section 4.4**

This came about because of not being able to staff. This does not affect RME.

Ira Kaiser: What about contractors?

Answer: They are not operators.

- **Section 6.2**

(Level IV)

Richard Plack: Six years of DRC would be the same?

Answer: Yes

(Level I)

Ira Kaiser: Can you substitute GED for life experience? For example, we had an operator drop out of high school to serve in the war.

Answer:.. We will look at each situation.

- **Section 6.03[d][iii]**

You can substitute DRC for college but not vice versa.

Jeff Deats: DRC experience may be substituted one year for one year of college on the septic side.

Richard Placks: Asked for clarification

Please think about this and send recommendations to Mr. Davis.

- **Section 7.1**

Things that were assumed over the years are now in the proposed regulations.

- **Section 8.1[d]**

This is not new. This is an approved procedure by the Secretary. We are flexible on the indirect hours. All safety training is counted as indirect hours.

- **Section 8.1[d][i]**

The Department/Board will continue to approve and deny course and track them for operators.

- **Section 8.1[d][ii]**

Take different courses each renewal. Many other states practice this too.

- **Section 8.1[d][iii]**

Online courses are advertised for X number of hours. If it takes you longer or shorter time you still get X hours. We will go by the number of hours on the certificate.

- **Section 8.1[d][iv]**

This is new. A lot of operators teach and spend time preparing.

Jeff Deats: If it is directly related, I cannot use it twice, correct?

Answer: Correct.

- **Section 8.1[e][i]**

If you let it lapse, you have to be working in a WWTP to get it back.

- **Section 8.1[e][ii]**

If you let it lapse past two years, you must retake exam to get it back.

- **Section 8.1[h]**

New temporary license. If you are new to the field working side by side with an operator not making decisions, this is for you. There is no new fees. This will work for entry level people who want to learn about the field. It will be good for two years and give people the opportunity to get things done legally within the regulations.

Richard Placks: Clarification? Working under directly, does that mean physically?

Answer: Yes

John Marion: They can't make operating experience this way? Can they go somewhere and write down numbers?

Answer: As long as they are not operating

Sean Wellwood: So how can I show enrollment in classes if I start working in May and the classes don't start until August?

Answer: You have two years that is why it is a two year span. Classes are two semesters a year. Exams are only twice a year.

You can't delay for two years. We need to reword to "enroll in earliest class available". We can't require them to take the exam preparation course.

This was meant to cover a very narrow group. For instance, someone straight out of high school or working on a GED.

We need verbiage for this exception; the Board will review.

- **Point Classification of Wastewater Treatment Facilities Table 1**
RIBS definition

John Marion: not only definition

Add: Mix fill react fill react settle decant waste idle

- **Table 2 Section 2.1**
Operators must visit sites once every two weeks. This will now be incorporated in the regulations.

- **Table 2 Section 3.1**
Ira Kaiser: My company gives a 30 day grace period for people to decide if they want to stay.

Answer: If they are not operating, it is okay. Otherwise, they need a license.

- **Table 2, Section 3.3**
?: Is daily seven days a week or Monday – Friday?

Answer: The Board will review.

Thank you for your participation. We will put this together and the board will meet next week and discuss.

The next step in this process is to have a public hearing. We will announce it in the newspaper.

Workshop ended at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Faye Wheeler, CAP