OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM HAP PENINGS

Amy Garbe – WDNR
Government Affairs Seminar – 2/20/20
NEW SUBCLASSES
“New” Subclasses

◦ N - Nutrient Removal – Total Nitrogen
  ◦ Applies only to those facilities with TOTAL NITROGEN LIMITS

◦ A5 – Biological Treatment – Anaerobic Digestion
  ◦ Applies only to those facilities with anaerobic LIQUID treatment, not biosolids

◦ SS – Sanitary Sewer Systems
  ◦ Applies to all WWTPs with collection systems

Required: July 1, 2020

Permit Term: 5 years
ADVANCED CLASSIFICATION
Facility Classification

Advanced WWTP meets any one of the following criteria:

- Mechanical plant with an annual average design flow greater than 1.0 MGD
- BOD limit of 10 mg/L or less
- Has TP or TN surface water limits and utilizes a biological nutrient removal process
- Uses a tertiary phosphorus removal
- Municipal treatment plant that receives wastewater from a major contributing industry
- Produces Class A biosolids
OPERATOR-IN-CHARGE (OIC)
OIC Change

○ What happens if OIC leaves?
  ○ Requires OIC notification change to DNR within 30 days
  ○ Basic Plant UNEXPECTED LOSS – OIT (in all subclasses) may be the OIC for up to 12 months
  ○ Advanced Plant UNEXPECTED LOSS – No grace period, must have continued operation by another advanced operator (in all subclasses)
  ○ Retirement – no grace period, replacement shall be certified

s. NR 114.53(1) – All WPDES permitted treatment plants shall have a designated OIC
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
Apprenticeship Program

- Program created and imbedded within NR 114 changes with the Bureau of Workforce Development
- Hybrid educational program of both classes and work experience

- **On the Job Time:** 5568 hours
- **Related Instruction Time:** 432 hours
- **Total Time for Completion:** ~3 years

- **Additional Training:** First Aid and CPR certifications, Confined Space Entry certification in the first year, Four certification exams by the WI Dept. of Natural Resources prior to completing, Transition to Trainer.
Apprenticeship Program

- Different career path for post secondary
  - Similar classes as within associates degree
  - Working full-time

- Must be “full time” employee

- WWTP would contact Workforce Development
Succession Planning

- New staff triggered by OIC leaving

- How can a WWTP use the Apprenticeship Program?
  - Can upscale current employees
  - Hire a new candidate for program

- What we want to know:
  - How training current operators/new operators?
  - How can we help facilitate participation?
ONLINE RENEWAL
OpCert Website Renew or Exam page

Renew
Operator certifications come up for renewal every three years. DNR sends courtesy renewal reminder letters to operators six weeks before their certification expiration date. It is important for operators to keep their address current by notifying their regional coordinator of any changes. The letter serves as a courtesy reminder only; it is the operator’s responsibility to keep track of their certification expiration date. When the operator is ready to renew, they should mail in the courtesy reminder letter, their continuing education documentation, and the $45 renewal fee to:

WI DNR
Operator Certification Program - EA/7
PO Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

The renewal materials must be postmarked by the expiration date on the certificate (there is no grace period). Any renewal postmarked after the expiration date should also include the $25 late penalty fee.

Once a certification expires, an operator has one year from their expiration date to reinstate their lapsed certification. An operator is NOT considered a certified operator during this lapse of certification. If a certification is not renewed within that one year time period, the operator will need to re-take the exams as a new operator.

- Environmental Licensing and Certification Online Renewal Portal

https://dnrx.wisconsin.gov/elcrenewal

2020 Exam Schedule

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<td>January 8, 2020</td>
<td>February 5, 2020</td>
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<td>February 26, 2020</td>
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<td>Green Bay, Madison, Eau Claire, Rhinelander, Rice Lake, West Allis and Pewaukee</td>
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<td>May 27, 2020</td>
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<td>August 26, 2020</td>
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Renew Online
You can now renew wastewater, waterworks and small water systems certification online.

Applications
The operator certification program is continuing to provide additional quarterly exams in February and August. These opportunities are in addition to the main exam dates in May and November. They are open to all operators and registration will be on a first come, first served basis. Applications will be accepted until the exam site is full.

Note: The Social Security Number Collection Request Form (page 2 of the exam application) only needs to be completed if it is the first time an applicant is taking an operator certification exam.

View the exam application instructions for more detailed information on how to complete the exam application. Exam fees may be paid by check or money order. Sorry, no credit cards.
Environmental Licensing and Certification Online Renewal Portal

Welcome to the Department of Natural Resources online licensing and certification renewal portal. It is now easier and faster than ever to renew your license or certification. Instead of paying by check or money order, you now have the convenience of paying online with a credit or debit card.

The portal can be used for the following renewal types:

- **Wastewater Operator** certification
- **Municipal Waterworks Operator** certification
- **Small Water System Operator** certification
- **Well Driller** licenses and registrations
- **Pump Installer** licenses and registrations
- **Rig Operator** registrations

To renew your license or certification online, you must have your license/certification number to access the portal. The following conditions must be met before a license or certification is eligible for renewal:

- Continuing Education Credit (CEC) requirements are complete
- The license/certification expires in two months or less
- The license/certification is in good standing
- The license/certification cannot be beyond the expired grace period

Operators with multiple licenses and shared credits contact us before renewing

Let's get started >>
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