

# Minutes of the Advisory Board of Examiners for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators May 20, 2004

Present for the meeting on May 20th were: Debbie Metz, vice chair; Chris Clark, member; Dail Hollopeter, member; Kirk Leifheit, secretary; Richard Lorenz, member, Vui Chung, member and Andrew Barienbrock, (arrived late) Certification Unit.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:35 AM. A motion was made by Dail Hollopeter, seconded by Chris Clark, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2004 meeting.

## 1. Class IV, Part I

The Board received notification that the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters and the Office of legal services have reviewed and recommended the following actions related to Part I applications &/or additional information:

NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE	ACTION
Keith B. Collins	City of Mason	Water	Request additional info from District
Mark Petrie	City of Lorain	Water	Deny based on the fact that he has only been in his position since January 31, 2003
Ron E. Trissell	City of Piqua	Water	Request additional info from District

## 2. Class IV, Part II (action)

NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE	ACTION
Sydney Jenkins	City of Cleveland	Water	Return for more information
Tim E. Newland	City of Bellfontaine	Water	Return for more information
Joe Hart	U.S. Filter	Wastewater	Return for more information

A motion was made by Chris Clark, seconded by Dail Hollopeter, to recommend that the Class IV, Part II examinations of Sydney Jenkins, Tim E. Newland, and Joe Hart be returned.

**3. Class IV, Part II (in review)**

**WATER**

NAME, LOCATION	KL	CC	VC	RL	DH	DM	BB
John Geller, City of Heath	**		**	**		**	

\*\* denotes who currently has package  
 x denotes who has reviewed package

**WASTEWATER**

NAME, LOCATION	KL	CC	VC	RL	DH	DM	BB
Keith Collins, City of Mason	**	**			**		**
Gary L. Hickman, City of Columbus	**	**			**		**

\*\* denotes who currently has package  
 x denotes who has reviewed package

**4. OIT's**

NAME	EXAM TYPE	ACTION
Seth J. Cole	WW I	Recommend Approval
Christopher W. Diem	WW I	Recommend Approval
Glorianna Corman	WW I	Needs additional time
David Huprich	WW III	Recommend Approval
Harvey Simmons	WS I	Recommend Approval
James Teeters	WC II	Recommend Approval
Lance Willard	WS III	Recommend Approval

A motion was made by Dail Holloper, seconded by Chris Clark, to recommend approval of the OIT documentation and recommend the issuance of certificates to all of the above except Glorianna Corman who needs additional time documentation. Motion carried.

**5. "Need to Know" Criteria**

Andy Barienbrock gave an update. Pat Antonelli with OTCO had indicated that the wastewater instructors would be providing comments by June 1, 2004

## 6. Strategic Plan

The Board discussed changing the format of the exams to combine the math and theory sections of the exam and have a total score of 70% as passing. A handout that analyzed test scores from November 2003 and April 2004 was provided. Combining Math and Theory scores and using a 70% score as passing would increase the passing rate because of the fact that examinees tend to perform much better on the math portion of the exam. Using 75% as a passing score would result in passing rates that would be similar to existing passing rates. The Board discussed the fact that in future exams the number of math questions will most likely be reduced so that more emphasis can be placed on other categories that will be established when the "Need to Know Criteria" are finalized. Based on this information the Board agreed that beginning in November of 2004 the Certification Unit should change the exams so that the math and theory sections are combined and a total score of 70% shall constitute a passing grade.

## 7. Reciprocity

NAME	TYPE & LEVEL	STATE	ACTION
George D. Couch	Class B surface water	Texas (reciprocity from Oklahoma)	Recommend denial; No exam sent from Texas or Oklahoma.
Chad Huskey	Water Level C	South Carolina	Recommend denial; No exam sent from South Carolina.
Gary R. Vaughn	Wastewater Class IV	Arkansas (reciprocity from Oklahoma)	Recommend denial; No exam sent from Arkansas or Oklahoma.

A motion was made by Dail Hollopeter, seconded by Richard Lorenz, to recommend denial of the reciprocity requests of George Couch, Chad Huskey and Gary R. Vaughn based on the above reasons. Motion carried.

## 7. Other Business

The Board reviewed individual question statistics. Andy Barienbrock explained the scoring of the exams. The Board reviewed questions with an overall passing percentage of less than 30% and did not find any incorrect answers.

Andy indicated that exam scores would be sent before the end of the month.

Organizational changes and the addition of computer software have allowed the certification staff to produce exam results in a more expeditious fashion. In the future, the Operator Certification Unit will attempt to schedule Board meetings closer to the exams so that results can be transmitted in an even shorter time frame.

The Board reviewed OIT extension requests from James Stuck and Timothy Perry. A motion was made by Dail Holloper, seconded by Vui Chung, to recommend two year approvals. The motion carried.

Greenville City School District had requested reexamination of Gregory Woodall's OIT Documentation. The School District had resubmit his OIT documentation with different percentages and times of experience. The operator certification section will be sending a letter requesting justification of percentage changes.

The operator certification unit received copies of both water and wastewater Class IV test questions from ABC. The Board and selected OEPA personnel will be reviewing the questions and submitting comments to ABC.

At 1:30 the Board met with Curtis Truss and several of the OTCO Trustees. Curtis provided comments on the Draft Need to Know Criteria from the wastewater instructors. One thing that they were concerned about was a list of references. Their research indicated that different references sometimes use inconsistent definitions. A review of their references indicated 4 different definitions for Sludge Volume Index (SVI). Based on their reviews they had also decided not to switch to the Metcalf Eddy reference. They will continue to use Manual of Practice #11. Andy and Kirk indicated that it was OEPA's intention to eventually provide a reference list as well as the Need to Know Criteria. However, the current focus has just been to get the "Need to Know Criteria" in place.

Curtis reiterated OTCO's desire to having training providers receive approval and not have to get their classes approved by OEPA. Curtis also indicated that there should be a mechanism for ensuring that the providers are able to provide and maintain appropriate records. Members from OTCO, AWWA, ORWA, OWEA, etc. are willing to provide assistance in developing rule language. Andy and Kirk indicated that a provision for this is currently included in proposed changes to the operator certification rules that are currently undergoing internal review. They also indicated that they would gladly accept comments once the proposed rule is available for public comment.

A number of other questions on a variety of topics were posed and answered.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m. on Thursday, May 20th, 2004. (Dail Holloper, motioned, Debbie Metz seconded. Motion carried.)

**Board Approved: June 17, 2004**