

# Minutes of the Advisory Board of Examiners for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators November 20, 2003

Present for the meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> were: Robert Brown, chair; Chris Clark, member; Dail Hollopeter, member; Kirk Leifheit, secretary; Richard Lorenz, member; Andrew Barienbrock, Certification Unit, Karen Morr, Certification Unit, and Chris Bowman, Division of Surface Water (DSW).

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:50 A.M. A motion was made by Dail Hollopeter , seconded by Chris Clark, to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2003 meeting. Richard Lorenz abstained from voting.

## 1. Class IV, Part I

The Board reviewed the following Part I applications &/or additional information:

NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE	ACTION
William M. Bowers	City of Cleveland (Nottingham Water Works Plant)	Water	Recommend approval based on the information received from the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters and the Office of Legal Services.
Martin Kielbasa	Mahoning Valley Sanitary District	Water	Recommend approval based on the information received from the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters and the Office of Legal Services.
Edward S. McCormick	Mahoning Valley Sanitary District	Water	Recommend approval based on the information received from the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters and the Office of Legal Services.
Jack Neiswonger	Twin City Water & Sewer District	Wastewater	Recommend approval based on the information received from the Division of Surface Water and the Office of Legal Services.

A motion was made by Kirk Leifheit, seconded by Dail Hollopeter to recommend approval of the Class IV, Part I application of William M. Bowers, Martin J. Kielbasa, Edward S. McCormick, and Jack Neiswonger based on the recommendations of the Divisions and legal services. Motion carried. Discussion was held on the fact that the approval process has changed and that the Board is not really making any of

the decisions any more. The determinations are coming directly from the Divisions and legal services. It was determined that in the future the Board will not approve the part I applications, but they will be updated on the approvals at each Board meeting.

**2. Class IV, Part II (new)**

Name	Location	Type	Rec'd Date	Number copies
John J. Nemet	City of Newton Falls	WW	11/17/03	1

**3. Class IV, Part II (resubmittals)**

Name	Location	Type	Rec'd Date	Number copies
Jeffrey A. Harrington	City of Rocky River	WW	11-13-03	4
Anthony Rice	City of London	WW	11-10-03	4

**4. Class IV, Part II (action)**

NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE	ACTION
Rick Fueston (resubmittal)		Water	Recommend approval.
Dennis Horgan (resubmittal)	City of Cleveland	Water	Hold for review
Charles J. Knott	City of Cambridge	Water	Return for additional information.
Martha Schwendeman	City of Dayton	Water	Recommend approval based upon review by Kirk Leifheit
David S. Brown	City of Springfield	Wastewater	Return for additional information.
Keith B. Collins	City of Mason (resubmittal)	Wastewater	Return for additional information.
Ronald DiBacco	City of Solon	Wastewater	Return for additional information.
Anthony Hoholski (resubmittal)	City of Lorain (resubmittal)	Wastewater	Recommend approval.

A motion was made by Chris Clark, seconded by Dail Holloper, to recommend that the Class IV, Part II

examination of Rick Fueston, and Anthony Hoholski be approved. The Class IV, Part II of Martha Schwendeman, should be recommended for approval pending completion of a review by Kirk Leifheit and that the remaining part II examinations be returned for additional information.  
Motion carried.

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

**WATER**

NAME, LOCATION	KL	CC	VC	RL	DH	DM	RB
Dennis Horgan, City of Cleveland (resubmittal)	X		**	**		X	
John J. Nemet, Newton Falls					**		
R. Earnest Stickler, City of Mason (resubmittal)	X			**			

**WASTEWATER -**

NAME, LOCATION	KL	CC	VC	RL	DH	DM	RB
William H. Beyer, Cincinnati MSD (resubmittal)		**					
Anthony Rice, City of London (resubmittal)		**			**	**	**
Jeffery A. Harrington, City of Rocky River (resubmittal)		**			**	**	**

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

**6. OIT's**

NAME	EXAM TYPE	ACTION
Karl Brandau	WW I	Recommend Approval.
Scott A. DeVault	WW II	Needs additional time.
Rod D. Ebie	WS I	Recommend Approval.
Steven F. Eddy	WS I	Recommend Approval.
John Feightner	WW III	Recommend Approval.
Keith J. Folman	WW I	Recommend Approval.
Jack B. Huber	WD II	Recommend Approval.

Timothy W. Hurley	WD I	Needs additional time.
Beth Madis	WS III	Recommend Approval.
Larry W. Morgan	WD I	Recommend Approval.
Ivan V. Musk	WS I	Recommend Approval.
John P. Nuff	WC I	Recommend Approval.
Mark A. Volkert	WDII	Recommend Approval.
James L Weis	WW II	Recommend Approval.
Ryan Edward Watts	WS I	Recommend Approval.

A motion was made by Dail Hollopeter, seconded by Chris Clark, to recommend approval of the OIT documentation and issue certificates to all of the above except Scott A. DeVault and Timothy W. Hurley who need additional information. Motion carried.

**7. Reciprocity**

NAME	TYPE & LEVEL	STATE	ACTION
Karl Bergman	Wastewater, Class IV	Massachusetts	Recommend approval as a Class II in Ohio based on a review of the current ABC criteria used in Massachusetts.
Linton K. Libby	Wastewater, Class III	Massachusetts	Recommend approval as a Class I in Ohio based on a review of the current ABC criteria used in Massachusetts.
Scott F. McGinnis	Water, Class A 2	Pennsylvania	Recommend approval as a Class I in Ohio based on a copy of information related to Pennsylvania's test.

**8. "Need to Know" Criteria**

Class III water will be finished by the next Board meeting.

Chris Bowman provided comments from the District DSW staff regarding the class I - III wastewater "need to know criteria." The Board went through the comments and will be revising their criteria. Chris will once again seek final comments for the December Board meeting.

**9. Strategic Plan**

The Board discussed potential scoring criteria for Chris Clark's excel scoring system proposal. The consensus was that the passing score should be an overall score which could then be averaged among the reviewers. An average of the reviewers scores greater than 70 would be the criteria for passing the exam. Categories that are deemed as extremely important by the Board would have more questions than the less important categories thereby creating a focus on the important areas. More discussions will be needed

once categories and the questions associated with them are developed.

**The 2004 Board meeting calendar was discussed. The final meeting dates for 2004 are as follows: 1/22, 2/19, 3/11, 4/8, 5/20, 6/17, 7/22, 8/19, 9/23, 10/21, 11/18, 12/16.**

Andy discussed the progress of the Op Cert Rules Workgroup. The group has just about completed it's revisions of the rules. Draft copies are expected to be sent to the District offices in December. Copies will also be sent to Board members at that time. Once the District's have commented revisions will be made and a stakeholders group will be convened to review the revised rules.

Karen discussed the November exam results and the group reviewed test questions with low passing rates.

## **10. Contact Hour Update**

Approximately 3,700 courses have been approved.

At the previous meeting the Board was provided a copy of a standard used by the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC). This standard lays out a methodology for determining the amount of contact time a correspondence course should be assigned. The Board discussed the fact that ABC's methodology is set up based on a training provider doing beta testing and submitting documentation. Previously only a small portion of the guidance was reviewed. The Board recommended that the Operator Certification Unit use the entire ABC standard in order to maintain consistency. The Board also recommended that for courses where CEU's have been established by some accrediting body that the number of CEU's x 10 be used. In the event that CEUs have not been established ABC's guidelines should be used in determining credit.

## **11. OpCert Database Update**

Tab Brewster gave a spirited update on the status of the new Operator Certification database. Tab will attempt to provide a demonstration at the December Board meeting.

## **12. Other Business**

A discussion was held relating to the request of David Ramsey regarding the wastewater Class IV exam. Mr Ramsey is currently a superintendent for a water plant, he was previously certified in Iowa as a Class IV and wishes to pursue a class IV here. However, he can not get the information regarding his old facility and the utility he currently works for does not have a wastewater treatment plant. The Board felt that if Mr. Ramsey were to apply for Class IV examination and qualify under the part I criteria he could either go back to Iowa and do the research necessary to complete the part II or he could work as the responsible charge operator at a Class III facility in Ohio and write on that facility or become the assistant at a class IV facility in Ohio and write his part II on that facility. A written response will be sent to Mr. Ramsey.

Richard Lorenz discussed an e-mail he had received from an operator who holds a class IV certificate in Ohio and has moved to South Carolina and been granted a Class IV certificate there via reciprocity. He would like to maintain his certification status in Ohio. He requested that options of an inactive status or reciprocity of his Class IV be considered. The Board discussed the fact that Ohio Administrative Code Rules do not make a provision for a certificate with an inactive status and that they specifically prohibit the granting of reciprocity for Class IV certificates. The most logical method for the

operator to maintain his status is by earning contact hours in South Carolina (required) and submitting those courses to the Ohio EPA for approval via a Form G and paying appropriate renewal fees. Andy will follow up with him via e-mail.

\*\*\*Chris Clark will provide the Board members with updated Categories, tasks and questions please review for discussion at the next meeting .\*\*\*

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2003. (Kirk Leifheit, motioned, Richard Lorenz seconded. Motion carried.)

**Board Approved:            December 18, 2003**