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Ohio EPA Updates Operator Certification Rules

Ohio EPA is updating rules to help drinking water and wastewater operators be more effective. The draft operator certification rules are available for review and public comments may be submitted through October 21, 2011.

The draft rules would:

- limit the number of exemptions a facility can receive to allow Class III operators to be in charge while they are taking their Class IV examination.
- allow for reduced staffing at Class A or Class I treatment works, which are only open on a seasonal basis (generally summer); and
- revise Class A eligibility requirements to allow operators to use both work and operator experience to verify eligibility.

In addition to these amendments, new provisions were drafted for suspending or revoking a certificate of operation which would apply to:

- operators who represent themselves as a certified operator without a valid certificate;
- operators who perform the duties of an operator of record without a valid certificate of the appropriate field and classification; or
- operators who have had a certificate suspended or revoked in any other jurisdiction.

[Copies of the draft rules](#) are available from Ohio EPA's Division of Drinking and Ground Waters by contacting Donna Roberts at (614) 644-2755, or donna.roberts@epa.state.oh.us. Written comments can be mailed by October 21 to Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters Rules Coordinator, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, or e-mailed to ddagw_rulecomments@epa.state.oh.us.

Ohio EPA will consider all comments before it formally proposes rule changes. When the rules are formally proposed, Ohio EPA will hold a public hearing and offer another public comment period before any rule changes are adopted.