

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
WATER UTILITY OPERATOR LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 20, 2016
10:30 a.m.

TCEQ
12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. C, Room 131
Austin, Texas

MINUTES

Members Attending

Leonard Leinfelder
Roy E Staggs
Kenny Hutchins
Gary Sober
Larry Bell
Ginger Lair
Robb Starr
Russell Hamilton

Members Absent

Tony Bonaverture
Ray Gooden
Michael Urrutia
Mark Rich
Tim Crosswhite

TCEQ Staff Attending

Jaya Zyman, PRS
Russ Gardner, PRS
Michael Parrish, PRS
Tamara Calhoun, PRS
Don Purdy, PRS
Linda Saladino, PRS
Paul Munguia, PRS

Non WUOLAC Members Attending

James Fisher, TEEEX
Andrew McBride

Call to order quorum check and approval of minutes from last meeting.

Motion to approve minutes was initiated by Russell Hamilton and seconded by Roy Staggs.

Old Business:

- *Update on Direct Supervision document submitted to WUOLAC on October 21, 2015 meeting.*
Topic was not discussed at length because a meeting with the Drinking Water Advisory Work Group was scheduled for April 7, 2016.
- *Update on Application Supplemental form*
Tamara Calhoun with Occupational Licensing presented her response to WUOLAC's comments about the Application Supplemental Form (attached.)

Drinking Water Advisory Work Group (DWA WG), Education Sub-Committee Report

Leonard Leinfelder expressed his concern over the lack of communication with Public Drinking Water and suggested the sub-committee is ineffective and should be dissolved. The committee was not dissolved. Occupational Licensing staff will invite staff from Public Drinking Water and Water Quality to attend the next WUOLAC meeting.

Occupational Licensing updates: WUOLAC member solicitation, printing and implementation of BPAT exam, reprint of CSI exams, preapproval of applications.

Paul Munguia of Occupational Licensing gave an update on the status of filling anticipated WUOLAC vacancies. All nominations have been received and are under review and consideration.

The BPAT written portion of the exams have been printed and shipped to all TCEQ regions. Both paper-based and computer-based BPAT exams will be available in May.

Reprint and distribution of the CSI exam will be happening in the future.

The timeline for applications moving towards preapproval is on track. Preapproved applications will include a “conditional” approval option for students attending a regional school to complete their final course requirement.

Implementation of legislation for licensing applicants with a military background

Michael Parrish gave an overview of Senate Bill 807 and House Bill 2012 passed in the 84th legislative session. These bills impact occupational license application and examination fees for certain military service members, military veterans and military spouses. The proposed rules will be heard on the April 6, 2016 Commissioner’s Agenda. The tentative adoption of the rules is August 24th and the tentative effective date is September 15, 2016.

Update on the training recalls related to the TAC Chapter 290 and Chapter 217 rule changes.

Recent group emails to training providers have included required changes to the Customer Service Inspector training due to the reduction of the federal lead content requirement and to Wastewater Operator training for rule changes on the Design Criteria for Domestic Wastewater Systems. As a reminder, TCEQ TAC Chapter 30 rules include a provision whereby the providers must make these changes and update the training and resubmit to the TCEQ for review within 180 days of a new rule adoption.

Review guidance for Continuing Education topics for water and wastewater operators.

The current guidance was shared with the WUOLAC members for their input on adding any other topics to the list for TCEQ to consider for approval.

Adjourn

A move to adjourn the meeting was motioned by Russell Hamilton and seconded by Leonard Leinfelder.

Closed meeting: Groundwater C exam review