

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Drinking Water Advisory Work Group (DWA WG), October 23, 2012 Program Updates

Bob Patton, Manager Drinking Water Section.
Bob.Patton@tceq.texas.gov (512) 239-2277

Welcome

Occupational Licensing Update

Russell Gardner/Terry Thompson/Meagan Warncke -

Russell Gardner is the Section Manager for Occupational Licensing (OL). (512) 239-3111 or Russell.Gardner@tceq.texas.gov

Terry Thompson is the Special Assistant for the Occupational Licensing (OL). (512) 239-6095 or Terry.Thompson@tceq.texas.gov

Meagan Warncke - Point Of Contact (POC) for occupational licensing
Terry Thompson - POC for Rules or Policy changes.

- **Water Operator Licensing Statistics: September 2011-August 2012**

Number of Applications Received (new & renewal)	7423
Number of Examinations Administered	5107
Number of New Licenses Issued	2080
Number of Licenses Renewed	3972
Number of Licensed Water Operators	16698

- **Water Exam Pass Rates: September 2011-August 2012**

- Ground Water Treatment Operator - B 32.6%
- Ground Water Treatment Operator - C 36.2%
- Surface Water Treatment Operator - B 16.9%
- Surface Water Treatment Operator - C 59.1%
- Water Distribution Operator - B 13.1%
- Water Distribution Operator - C 39.5%
- Water Operator - A 42.3%
- Water Operator - D 51.4%

- **BPAT Operator Licensing Statistics: September 2011-August 2012**

Number of Applications Received (new & renewal)	1776
Number of New Licenses Issued	688
Number of Licenses Renewed	1037
Number of Licensed BPAT Operators	5743

- **CSI Operator Licensing Statistics: September 2011-August 2012**

Number of Applications Received (new & renewal)	623
Number of Examinations Administered	344
Number of New Licenses Issued	205
Number of Licenses Renewed	367
Number of Licensed CSI Operators	1980

- **CSI Exam Pass Rate: September 2011-August 2012**

- Customer Service Inspector 58.1%

- **WTS Operator Licensing Statistics: September 2011-August 2012**

Number of Applications Received (new & renewal)	299
Number of Examinations Administered	215
Number of New Licenses Issued	101
Number of Licenses Renewed	112
Number of Licensed WTS Operators	660

- **WTS Exam Pass Rates: September 2011-August 2012**

- Water Treatment Specialist - I 86.7%
- Water Treatment Specialist - II 60.5%
- Water Treatment Specialist - III 39.5%

Plan & Groundwater Review Section
Technical Review and Oversight Team (TROT)
Update

Ada Lichaa is the Section Manager for the Planning and Groundwater Review Team (PGR). (512) 239-6728 or Ada.Lichaa@tceq.texas.gov

Joel Klumpp is the Acting Team Leader of TROT. (512) 239-4453
Joel.Klumpp@tceq.texas.gov

Alfonso Fuentes (TROT)

CCC Subcommittee Update for DWAWG Meeting 10/23/2012

The subcommittee meets quarterly and is open to the public. It is composed of industry professionals, personnel from other agencies, training providers, and TCEQ staff. The meeting dates and draft agenda are posted to the TCEQ website for interested viewers. This includes summaries from past meetings. This subcommittee serves to:

- a. Address important issues in regard to Cross-Connection control and backflow prevention.
- b. Assist TCEQ staff in the Cross-Connection Control program.
- c. Disseminate information assisting public water suppliers with their cross-connection control programs

Some of the most recent subjects we have been discussing are:

1. The subcommittee is assisting the OLS on Background Checks for Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers and CSIs.
Applications for new or renewal of licenses for BPATs and CSIs are accompanied by a Criminal History form. Occupational Licensing Section then conducts a background check and makes a determination either granting or denying the license.
2. Working on updating the Focused Inspection Checklist for regional investigators to use when inspecting Cross-Connection Control Programs in the regions.
3. Backflow concerns with PWSs selling raw water to companies for commercial use. A connection is made on the main supply line before the chlorine injection point creating a cross-connection which requires appropriate backflow prevention.
4. A General Information Document is currently being developed to address testing on irrigation systems and some of the hazards connected with irrigation systems.
5. The Subcommittee is also assisting the OLS in developing a BPAT exam to be given by TCEQ personnel in order to maintain better consistency in BPAT exams and to acquire pass/fail data. The BPAT exam is currently being given by the training providers at the end of a training session.

Utilities & Districts Section Update

Tammy Benter - is the Section Manager for Utilities and Districts (UD). (512) 239-6136 or Tammy.Benter@tceq.texas.gov

Utilities & Districts Updates –

- 3rd quarter application numbers
- UDS staffing changes
- UDS vacancies
- UDS postings
- UDS rule packages

Lisa Fuentes

Team Leader

Utilities Financial Review Team

Water Supply Division

512/239-6117

512/239-6972 fax

Public Drinking Water (PDW) Section

Bob Patton is the new Manager for the Public Drinking Water Section. Bob.Patton@tceq.texas.gov or (512) 239-2277

James Beauchamp – Assistant

James.Beauchamp@tceq.texas.gov or (512) 239-6174

Melinda Torres – Assistant

Melinda.Torres@tceq.texas.gov or (512) 239-3132

Drinking Water Quality Team (DWQT) Update

Gary Chauvin is the new Team Leader for the Drinking Water Quality Team.

(512) 239-1687

Gary.C Chauvin@tceq.texas.gov

Drinking Water Protection Team (DWPT) Update

John Schildwachter – is the Team Leader for the Drinking Water Protection Team (DWPT). (512) 239-2355 or

John.Schildwachter@tceq.texas.gov

Homeland Security Update/EPP Update

Melinda Torres – Melinda.Torres@tceq.texas.gov or (512) 239-3132

The Natural Disaster Operational Workgroup (NDOW) which is the group responsible for the implementation of the Response Manager data system as the data tool to be used during an all hazards response. TCEQ as a member of NDOW assisted in planning a full scale Hurricane response exercise in the Corpus Christi region. The Water Supply Division staff (WSD) and the Water Quality Division (WQD) staff developed a list of systems that would be available for the exercise. Each system in the Corpus area was contacted to see if they would participate. Assessments for all systems in the area were entered into Response Manger to be used in the exercise. The table top exercise occurred in Corpus Christi the week of July 16 – 20th, .2012.

To assist water systems in all hazardous management planning, TXWARN developed a webcast workshop in August 2012. This webcast was the first one of its type that Water System Operators received Operator Hours for participating. The webcast presentations included: Power of TXWARN, Homeland Security Planning, Drought Update, Emergency Preparedness Plan Training, Consequent Management and Generator Assessment Tool. Over 230 people watched the webcast. Participants included water utility managers, operators, and consultants. The underlying theme of the workshops was the importance of planning and communication for managing drought.

Emergency Preparedness Plan (Texas Water Code, §13.1395 and §13.1396)

As of October 15, 2012, the Water Supply Division (WSD) has received 168 submittals from systems. Of these 168 submittals, 156 were EPP submissions from active systems, 5 were EPP submissions from proposed systems, 1 was an EPP submission from a non-affected system that has since been sent a non-affected letter, 1 was an EPP submission from a system that has since been merged with another system, and 6 were Financial Waiver requests. WSD has approved 153 EPP's (including 4 proposed systems' EPPs; 1 system which has since merged with another system) and 2 Financial Waivers. WSD has received and approved 28 extension requests.

Drought Update

Alex Hinz – Alex.Hinz@tceq.texas.gov or (512) 239-4720 Please visit the following website for [Texas Drought Information](#) ¹

Water Utilities Status

On **October 12, 2012**, there were **1,024** public water systems (PWSs) asking customers to follow outdoor water use restrictions, (**up 1 from** two weeks ago). Of these systems, **636** are asking customers to follow a mandatory watering schedule (**down 3 from** two weeks ago) and **388** are asking customers to follow a voluntary watering schedule (**up 4 from** two weeks ago). Seasonal forecasts continue to predict the drought to persist or intensify in many areas of the state. Increasing demands are resulting in more water systems implementing the water-rationing stages of their Drought Contingency Plans.

Elston Johnson

Public Drinking Water Technical Specialist, Water Supply Division.
Elston.Johnson@tceq.texas.gov (512) 239-6266

Office of Compliance and Enforcement **Program Support Section (PSS)**

June Ella Martinez -

Water Team Leader

OCE Program Support Section (PSS)

June_Ella_Martinez@tceq.texas.gov or (512) 239-3242

Region Activity. Information below represents the number of regional activities conducted from July 20, 2012 to October 22, 2012:

- 213 complaints
- 143 focused investigations
- 30 compliance record reviews (CRRs)
- 31 follow-up investigations
- 45 reconnaissance investigations (Recons)
- 529 comprehensive compliance investigations (CCIs)

To date, the following activities have been conducted for FY13 (9/01/12 to 8/31/12):

- 150 complaints
- 96 focused investigations
- 18 CRRs
- 24 follow-up investigations
- 24 Recons
- 391 CCIs