

***Texas Commission on Environmental Quality***  
**WATER UTILITY OPERATOR LICENSING ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

***September 21, 2007***

***9:30 a.m.***

***TCEQ***

***12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. A, 1<sup>st</sup> Flr., Rm. 173***

***Austin TX***

**MINUTES**

**Members Attending**

Carol V. Batterton  
L. Russell Hamilton  
Richard E. Harbuck  
Joseph G. Majdalani, P.E.  
H. Ted Neumann, Jr.  
George W. Patterson  
Robert T. Riley  
David Sanders  
Carola G. Serrato  
Larry West  
David L. Yohe

**TCEQ Compliance Support Division Staff Attending**

Tamara Calhoun  
Cassandra Derrick  
Jeremy Escobar  
Marc Fuentes  
Noreen Helmle  
Susan Hier  
Brian Lehmkuhle  
Patricia Minor  
Sandra Mota  
Stephen Murchison  
Linda Saladino  
Terry Thompson

### **Others Attending**

James Fischer, TEEX  
Michael Vollmar, TRWA

Richard Harbuck, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. A quorum was confirmed. The members, guests and TCEQ staff were introduced. The Minutes of the October 27, 2006 meeting were approved.

### **Texas Small Public Water Systems Training Program (TSPWSTP)**

Sandra Mota introduced the TSPWSTP staff to the Committee. She reported that open enrollment in the program began June 1, 2007. On-line enrollment began August 14, 2007. To date, 2,728 water systems have enrolled and 4,934 operators have enrolled. There are currently seven training providers participating in classroom training and three training providers participating in cluster training. She provided committee members with program brochures and forms. The Basic Water Manual and How-To Videos are nearing completion.

### **Valve & Hydrant Course**

George Patterson wanted to discuss with the committee members that Valve & Hydrant was not a wastewater course elective. Linda Saladino explained that the content was mostly water related and based on the TEEX agenda for V&H, an additional 5 hrs. training is needed in addition to manual content. George stated that TRWA's 20 hr. course included valves and hydrant and other topics specific to wastewater. Terry Thompson said that making this change in electives would require a rule change. Richard Harbuck asked that members review the wastewater electives and bring recommendations to the next meeting.

### **Code of Ethics**

George Patterson distributed a copy of the Code of Ethics for Water/Wastewater Operators that had been used in the past. A copy is attached to the original of these Minutes. He proposed that it be offered to all water and wastewater operators to sign on a voluntary basis. The Committee discussed the value and content. It was determined that offering it to water and wastewater operators to sign on a voluntary basis would not be problematic.

### **Update on Appointment of New Committee Members**

Terry Thompson informed the committee that the two recommendations were in the Executive Director's Office for review.

### **FY 07 Licensing Statistics, Licensing Staff Update & TCEQ Update**

Terry Thompson reported to the committee the FY 07 numbers for new licenses issued, renewed, applications reviewed, and exams administered. He introduced Jeremy Escobar as a new staff member in Wastewater licensing. Tamara Calhoun is now the program lead in Water licensing. He announced that TCEQ

has a new chairman, Buddy Garcia. Information on his background and experience is available on the TCEQ website.

### **Ch. 30 Rules Adoption Update**

Terry Thompson confirmed that the Ch. 30 Rules were adopted on September 5, 2007 with an effective date of September 27, 2007. He distributed a list of new licensing fees and validity periods that become effective January 1, 2008. A copy is attached to the original of these Minutes. These will be posted on the Licensing webpage within the next week. RG-373 will be revised and updated per the Ch. 30 rule revisions. Our goal is to have a Workgroup Meeting by mid-October, 2007 to review a draft. It will be implemented on January 1, 2008.

### **Other Business**

Linda Saladino said that there is a backlog of training approvals due to training staff working on implantation of rules. A request has been made for contract staff. She thanked the training providers for their patience.

Susan Hier said that budget allocations have been made for computer-based testing. The committee discussed various issues that might arise and how they might be handled.

David Yohe inquired about the Directed Assisted Modules (DAMs). Linda Saladino said we are waiting to hear from Drinking Water staff about this.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.