

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

Water Utility Operator Certification Advisory Committee

December 14, 2001

MINUTES

Members Attending

Debbie McReynolds, Chair

Larry Bell

Clark Benson

Richard Harbuck

Cathy Henderson

Todd Henry

Mike Moreno

Mauro Perez

Fernando Rico

Members Absent

Dan Allen

Bobby Jean Porcher

Craig Sherwood

Curtis Smalley

Others Attending

Carol Batterton

James Fischer

Noreen Helmle

Dennis King

Len Klandrud

Juanita Lopez

Robert Tinstman

James Weddell

1. Debbie Reynolds, Chair, call the meeting to order at 10:00am.
2. Noreen Helmle confirmed that there was a quorum present.
3. The Minutes of the last meeting on September 28, 2001, were approved with a motion by Mauro Perez and seconded by Fernie Rico.
4. James “Red” Weddell, TNRCC Water Supply Division, gave a presentation on Water System Security. Handouts from his presentation are attached to the original of these Minutes. Red’s presentation included:
 - Public Water System (PWS) Inspection Security Checklist
 - Safety & Security Related Requirements for water sources, treatment, storage, distribution, and minimum capacity requirements.
 - TNRCC Public Drinking Water System Security Evaluation Plan and Emergency Response Plan.
5. Carol Batterton, Director of Compliance Support Division, reported on agency matters.
 - The TNRCC recently received the Texas Star Award in the large agency category from Governor Perry.
 - Carol outlined the schedule for the TNRCC name change to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).
 - EPA Expense Reimbursement Grant is still being negotiated. Negotiations have elevated to upper management. Resolution on the issues expected within the next few weeks.
6. Juanita Lopez, Manager, Operator Certification Section, discussed HB 3111, Occupational Licensing Bill.
7. Noreen Helmle, Grants Manager, Operator Certification Section, distributed copies of the TNRCC WU Op. Cert. Advisory Committee web page. This is in accordance with HB 2912.
8. Robert Tinstman, Quality Assurance Section, reported on the status of the Job Analyses. Copies were distributed to members. Bob discussed the following issues:

The concept of Employee Orientation Training was introduced. It would consist of a standardized curricula focusing on basic safety (including electrical safety) and would include a leveling exam to screen for those employees who need remedial math and computer training. It would be provided within 60 days of employment.

The concept of document “Hands-on Training” by one’s supervisors was introduced. Training and licensing at lower levels should be required before advancing to higher levels of licensing.

Very small water systems warrant a single, separate license.

The term (validity period) of the Class D license is too long, allowing almost three years of work experience with minimal training (when considering that license must be acquired within one year of employment).

Assuming a single VSS license is created for small system operators, the D license at larger systems should be considered to be an “operator under supervision”.

Renewal training should not be duplicated. No changes were recommended to currently required amounts.

Maintain separate licenses for treatment and distribution.

B level licensees should be receiving management training.

Operators of systems using groundwater under the influence of surface water should be required to hold surface water licenses because of the similarity in tasks.

TNRCC should encourage the development of diverse forms of training and publicize better its approved training programs.

9. Date of next meeting: March 4, 2002. 2:00 p.m., Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
10. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.