

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
WATER UTILITY OPERATOR LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 2, 2013
9:30 a.m.

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

MINUTES

Members Attending:

Roy Staggs
Gary Sober
Mark Rich
Russell Hamilton
Robb Starr
Allen Schreiber
Bobby Russell
Ray Gooden
Bobby Russell

Members Absent:

Ginger Laird
Leonard Leinfelder
Michael Urrutia

TCEQ Staff Attending:

Russ Gardner
Ivan Messer
Terry Thompson
Paul Munguia
Linda Saladino
Sarita Nazareth

Guest Attending:

Cindy Robinson (TEEX)
Ken Olson (TEEX)
James Fischer

The meeting was called to order by WUOLAC President, Allen Schreiber at 9:30 A.M. A quorum was confirmed. All attendees were introduced. The minutes from February 13, 2013 were approved.

Legislative Update – Outline bills that may have an impact on Occupational Licensing

Paul Munguia informed the group that there are a number of bills that the Occupational Licensing section is following and watching. Russ gave some details regarding bills that had no movement.

Update regarding WUOLAC membership and possible new members

Paul informed the group that the application period was open and while we were happy to get applications from everyone, we particularly were hoping to get applications from North and South Texas. If the group knew of any qualified candidates, Paul encouraged them to let them know of this opportunity to serve on WUOLAC.

American Trainco applications on 1) Basic Electricity for the non-Electrician 2) Are Flash Electrical Safety 3) Electrical Troubleshooting & Preventive Maintenance.

Linda Saladino and Sarita Nazareth of TCEQ led this discussion. The group felt the purpose of this training is to inform the operator to make decisions regarding what equipment is compatible with their system and that they know the components and how they work. They should have the knowledge to know what the problem is and call a qualified electrician, not that they should gain the knowledge to fix the problem themselves. Russell Hamilton offered the suggestion of having an intermediate and advanced levels. Allen S. asked what the goal is, what will be required, and how to determine skill level. Linda responded that this is just for license renewal, this will not be a requirement, and there is not a proficiency test. This would be considered an education of what not to do, rather than how to do. Russell H. questioned if the TCEQ audits classes, particularly new classes. Linda responded that we are stringent upfront to get training approved to ensure quality. TCEQ auditing classes is always an option.

Discuss various certifications training providers offer and what need these fill.

Ken Olson of TEEEX gave a presentation about their certificate program. The program is a recognition program based on experience in the field. This program in no way is related to a TCEQ license nor can it be used to gain or upgrade a TCEQ license.

Discuss the creation of an Education subcommittee of the Drinking Water Advisory Work Group (DWA WG).

Terry Thompson of TCEQ led this discussion. The subcommittee would report both to the DWA WG and WUOLAC regarding ongoing issues. Paul will send out an email to the group with specifics details regarding membership.

Other business

James Fischer asked about the status of the BPAT exam revisions. Linda gave a brief status update.

Mark Rich and Gary Sober asked whether or not TCEQ would be hosting an instructor seminar in the future. Russell Gardner, Occupational Licensing section manager, laid out the pros and cons of such an event. He assured the group that he would remain open to options on how to deliver the information in a feasible manner, but there are no current plans to host such an event.

Adjourned at 12:30