

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
WATER UTILITY OPERATOR LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 28, 2009
9:30 a.m.

TCEQ
12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. A, 2nd Flr., Rm. 202
Austin, Texas

MINUTES

Members Attending

Russell L. Hamilton, Chair
Matthew Boober, Vice-Chair
Carol. V. Batterton
Ginger Laird
Mark W. Routon
Michael Vollmar
Larry West

Members Absent

James. W. Fischer
Joseph. G. Majdalani(P.E.)
William . F. Quinn, Jr.
Robert A. Rowell
Carola G. Serrato
Ghulam Sumdani

TCEQ Staff Attending

Barbara Mendieta, PRS
Sarita Nazareth, PRS
Linda Saladino, PRS
Allan Vargas, PRS

Others

Brad Castleberry
Greg Eckhardt

Mr.Hamilton, 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 May 15, 2009 meeting were approved.

Basic Water and Wastewater D License

Mr. Hamilton introduced the question of whether water and wastewater operators should be allowed to repeat the same basic course over and over.

There was a recommendation on a motion that the basic class not be approved for renewal credit for any license. Six of the members were in favor of the motion. Mr. Vollmar was not in favor of the motion. He felt that there might be an opportunity to re-learn certain sections of the basic course, if they took the course again. In response, Ms. Laird stated that the operators could take more in-depth courses, which would help them expand their knowledge in their specific area of interest. Mr. Hamilton requested that the TCEQ have better documentation of courses on the website, so as to direct the operators to the appropriate required courses.

Webinar

Ms. Batterton (WEAT) discussed the option of obtaining training credit for webinars. Webinars are essentially an hour to hour and a half on-line presentations. With the budgetary stresses, it is presumed that operators would want to attend more on-line training. Ms. Saladino responded that this presentation is similar to a teleconference; however, it does not meet the 3 hour minimum training hours. The option of conducting an exit exam to ensure understanding of the topic was brought up by Mr. Hamilton.

Licensing Update

Mr. Vargas reported on the number of new, renewed and current licenses as of 8/31/09.

License	New	Renewals	Current
BPAT	841	841	5066
CSI	272	258	1840
WTS	117	94	617
Wastewater	1727	2503	10882
Water	2549	3813	15,332

Currently, we are looking at the 81st Legislature. No rule changes are scheduled at this time.

Computer Based Testing (CBT) Update

There are currently 12 CBT locations. One person has successfully taken an exam through CBT. The Wastewater D exam will be the next to be implemented in CBT.

Training Approval

Ms. Saladino requested the members to review the list of water and waste water courses from AWWA. There is a discrepancy between the W and WW lists. The question arose whether several of these courses would be directly related to the W and WW industry. Operators need to take renewal courses which would improve their skills. The course list needs to be reviewed to determine how they relate to the W and WW industry.

Exam Revision process

New manuals have included new topics and these have helped with the exam revision process. An exam analysis is done to see how students fare on certain questions and those questions are analyzed and reviewed. Rather than provide questions, members are requested to provide important topics for the exam revision process. Members and subject matter experts (SME's) are also required for review of exam material as needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.50 a.m.