

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
WATER UTILITY OPERATOR LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 18, 2010
9:30 a.m.

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

MINUTES

Members Attending

Matthew Boober (Chair)
Larry West (Vice- Chair)
Sharon Clark
Russell L. Hamilton
Ginger Laird
Bobby Russell
Allen Schreiber
Roy E. Staggs
Ghulam Sumdani
Michael Vollmar

Members Absent

James Fischer
Adrian Montemayor
William Quinn

TCEQ Staff Attending

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

Matthew Boober, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. A quorum was confirmed. The minutes of the September 3, 2010 meeting were approved.

Discussion/ Vote on Changing the Experience Requirements for the “A” Water License

The main concerns were:

1. Class A licenses may not be consistently representative of the competency obtained or required to operate a specific type of system.
2. There are no regulations preventing a distribution system operator from obtaining a Class A water system operator license and taking charge of a surface water treatment plant without surface water treatment experience. Likewise there are no regulations preventing a surface water treatment operator from obtaining Class A water system operator license and taking charge of a large metropolitan distribution system without any surface distribution experience.
3. A surface water operator working in a single source surface water treatment plant may not find groundwater or distribution training useful. A groundwater operator working in a single source groundwater production system may not find surface water training useful.

- A distribution operator working in a distribution system may not find groundwater or surface water treatment useful.
4. There may not be enough advanced training/ testing/licensing to address distribution system operation issues/needs.
 5. The delineation between the Class B surface water treatment operator and Class A Water system operator license may need enhancement.
 6. The water operator licensing program does not mirror the wastewater operator licensing program. There is a desire in the program to have uniformity across the licensing programs.
 7. An individual with no experience beyond collecting samples for six-eight years can qualify to test for a Class A water system operator license.

The member voted on a motion to approve the above recommendation and all members were in agreement.

Discussion on New Water Laboratory Curriculum Requirements

Water laboratory is a core course for water operators and TEEEX currently has the only approved manual. Linda Saladino compared the old and new manuals and found that analyses of iron, manganese and fluoride were omitted. In the recent SW job task analysis, analysis of iron and manganese was listed as critical job tasks for water operators and the members felt that it was an important topic as well. The members were concerned about the omission of the chapter on interpretation of results and concurred that parts of this chapter could be covered along with the other chapters. The omission of writing SOP's was considered a managerial task and was acceptable to the members.

The topic of whether this course should be a twenty four hour course instead of a twenty hour course was also discussed.

Revision of the RG-373

Joseph Hildenbrand initiated a discussion on the process of revising the RG-373. Most of the changes made are in the Webinar, Technology and Distance Learning Sections. Examples have been added to help better comprehension of the general requirements. Training at video conferences has the same requirements as those of conferences. The concerns for webinars that were discussed were student identity and instructor to student ratio. There was discussion on clarification of breaks and the consensus was that in order to receive an hour of credit, there should be 50 minutes of instruction.

Discussion of Other Business

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for end of February/Early March.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.