A PUBLICATION OF THE
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEM OPERATORS CERTIFICATION COMMISSION

The Clarifier

MAY 2005

When calling TACU…

Our direct number is 919.733.0026.

Contact points

Judy Rhodes x304
- Exam forms
- Renewal invoices
- Payment info
- Certificate status

Sandy Haywood x308
- Exam appl info
- Change of address

Lisa Campbell x312
- ORC designations
- Cont Educ credit

Beth Buffington x313
- Land-based programs
- Animal programs
- Contract operators
- Cont Educ Approval
- Facility Classification

James Pugh x341
- Physical /Chemical
- Cont Educ Approval
- Facility Classification

Steve Reid x314
- Wastewater
- Collections
- Cont Educ Approval
- Facility Classification

Jerry Rimmer x309
- Disciplinary Actions
- Rules Questions
- Cont Educ Approval
- Facility Classification

If you choose to use voice mail, please leave a detailed message including name and phone number. This will allow staff to better assist you in your request.

2004 Operators of the Year

Nominations came in from all over the State. The ballots were counted and the results are in. The 2004 Wilbur E. Long Operator of the Year Awards go to…

Chris G. Parisher- North Cary Water Reclamation Facility (Municipal)

Cedric Wayne Black- Perdue Farms, Inc.-Pantego (Industrial)

Congratulations to both of these fine operators! Keep up the great work and we all wish you continued success in the future. (see photos Page 3)

Remember to visit the website and submit your nomination for this years awards. Anyone can submit a nomination. We know there are many innovative, creative and highly motivated operators out there. Let's recognize those that are going above and beyond the call of duty. Please use the online form only for your submittal.

City of Rockingham Wins National Award

In late September, the City of Rockingham's Class A Biosolids Facility received a second place National Clean Water Act Recognition Award from the Environmental Protection Agency. The award was presented in the Small Operating Projects category for the City's unique use of biosolids generated from their wastewater treatment plant. The biosolids facility produces a mulch that is a combination of sludge and wood chips. After proceeding through many stages of processing, the mulch is applied to the 59,498 acre hunting preserve at Sandhills Game Land. According to preserve management officials, the nutrient-rich mulch has contributed to growth of vegetation on the site that previously was barren. The resultant growth has greatly increased the habitat for rabbit, deer, dove and quail. In addition to the benefits for the Game Land, the City saves money on typical disposal costs associated with the sludge.

Help us in congratulating the City of Rockingham for their innovative thinking on this project! Nice going folks!

We know there are several individuals out there who have tremendous knowledge in wastewater treatment and environmental matters. We invite you to submit articles to be included in future newsletters. We also encourage you to let us know if you would like to see information on particular topics. Please mail, fax, or email us your ideas and we'll save a spot for your articles.

To all Certified Operators:

As you are already aware, you are required to obtain at least 6 hours of continuing education (CE) each year in order to keep your certificate valid. There are literally thousands of classes offered each year that can be applied to this requirement, most of which can be found on our website **(http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/tacu/)** under the Training Opportunities link. The list is continually updated as we receive notification of classes from the instructors and sponsoring agencies. In order to assure that you will receive credit for classes that you attend, please note the following:

Finding Classes on the Website

Continuing education classes are listed under the **Training Opportunities** link and are separated into **Animal Waste, Wastewater** and **Basic** and **Continuing** categories. Just click on the various links and you'll be taken to the page for those classes. If the class is listed on the website, IT IS APPROVED!

1. **Not all courses that you can take during the year are approved for CE credit.** If the course has been approved, the instructor or sponsoring agency will have received a CE number from this office. Ask for this number.

2. Part of the approval process requires the instructor or sponsoring agency to issue some form of **certificate of completion** to the students who have successfully completed the class. Make sure that you receive the certificate at the completion of your class.

3. Instructors also send rosters to the TACU containing the names of those students completing the class, but errors can occur and mistakes have been made in transferring the information to our database. **It is ultimately the student's responsibility to prove that the course was successfully completed** and the best way to achieve that is to submit the certificate of completion.

4. The **TACU no longer sends letters to individuals upon completion of a class**. With over 9000 certified operators in the State and the count growing all the time, we cannot continue to send letters to everyone who completes a class.

5. When you submit your renewal invoice and it indicates that you are required to obtain a number of hours of CE credit, please include proof of the hours with the invoice and your check. **Invoices received without proper proof will be returned and will be subject to late fees**. Please do not request that TACU staff verify with the instructor or sponsoring agency that you were in attendance at a given course. It is the operator's responsibility to prove that hours were obtained.

6. The later in the year you wait to obtain your CE hours, the more likely you are to experience problems, therefore, **you are well advised to enroll in classes early in the year**. Check to **be sure the classes are approved** and that you **receive the proper certificates** to prove successful completion of the training.

We hope the items listed above will assist you in ensuring that you are properly credited with CE hours to maintain your certificates.

Notice!!!

The TACU staff **no longer sends letters to operators upon completion of continuing education classes**. With over 9000 operators and many taking numerous courses during the year, it is no longer feasible to send letters. Your proof of completion will be your Certificate provided by the class administrators. **If you don't receive a certificate, check with the class provider**.

Chris Parisher from the Town of Cary receives the 2004 Municipal Operator of the Year Award from Jerry Rimmer, Supervisor of the TACU.

Do You Have a Valid 2005 Certification?

All certified operators were required to renew their certifications by Dec. 31, 2004. The certifications of operators who failed to renew by that date became invalid on Jan. 1, 2005.

Operator certification status can be checked by referring to the recently updated "*Certified Operator List*" section of the TACU webpage. If an operator is not listed, the operator is not actively certified, according to our records.

Guidance about renewing invalid certifications is now available on TACU's webpage under *"Frequently Asked Questions."*

Operators with invalid certificate status are no longer recognized as ORCs or backup ORCs.

Classified facilities whose designated operators are invalid are most likely in violation of their permits and NCAC 8G .0202.

Continuing Education Requirements

If you are currently a certified operator in NC, you are required to complete at least 6 hours of continuing education each year in order to maintain your certification. Be certain that the class you take has a basic education (BE) or continuing education (CE) number in order to obtain credit for the class. Please refer to the article on page 2 for further details on the continuing education program and its requirements.

Wayne Black from Perdue Farms, Inc. in Lewiston, NC receives congratulations on the Industrial Operator of the Year Award for 2004. Presenting the award is Arthur Mouberry, Chairman of the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission.

7000 COPIES OF THIS DOCUMENT WERE PRINTED AT A COST OF $755.38 OR $0.11 PER COPY
DWQ/WQ, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & CERTIFICATION UNIT,
1618 MAIL SERVICE CENTER, RALEIGH, NC, 27699-1618
PHONE: (919) 733-0026 FAX: (919) 733-1338

Recent Disciplinary Actions

Woodrow Hilton Keel, Jr. LA 14365
Letter of Reprimand-Failure to use reasonable care or judgment; Failure to include correct volume of sludge land applied in annual report.

Richard C. Anderson AW 17505
Letter of Reprimand-Failure to use reasonable care or judgment.

Clay K. Carter AW 16359
Letter of Reprimand-Failure to use reasonable care or judgment.

Terry Green CS2 23838, WW1 6539
Letter of Reprimand-Failure to use reasonable care in maintaining records and proper reporting sanitary sewer overflow.

Jason M. Jones AWA 27204
Letter of Reprimand-Failure to use reasonable care or judgment.

Ronald Robert Lane WW2 29209
Letter of Reprimand-Failure to fulfill ORC visit requirements and signing DMR without true knowledge of data.

William D. Martin CS2 29046, P/C1 28881
Letter of Reprimand -Failure to use reasonable care or judgment in the application of your knowledge or ability.

Randolph McMillan SI 14903
Suspension, 1 year -Failure to apply knowledge and ability.

Walter Bill Curlee WW3 11022, CS3 14142
Revocation-Fraud and deception; Failure to use reasonable care or judgment.

Charles Hubbard WW3 29244
Revocation-Fraud and deception; Failure to use reasonable care or judgment.

Tommy Warren WW1 24343
Revocation-Fraud and deception; Failure to apply knowledge and ability.

Jeffrey Woodruff WW2 10460, SS 12087
Revocation, all certificates-Fraud and deception; Falsification of laboratory data.

TACU Staff

Since our last printing, we have added 2 more staff members to the TACU. Check out their info below:

Jerry Rimmer Supervisor
Ext. 309 Jerry.Rimmer@ncmail.net
Jerry joined the staff of TACU on November 15, 2004, coming in from the Raleigh Regional Office of DWQ. He holds NC certificates in Wastewater (Grade 3) and Land Application and has more than 20 years of wastewater treatment experience, both municipal and industrial.

Judy Rhodes Office Assistant III
Ext. 304 Judy.Rhodes@ncmail.net
Judy is the first point of contact for the unit. She handles phone calls and faxes, distributes mail, processes deposits, and keeps everything running smoothly. She is the primary contact for general information, such as dates of training schools or exams, forms, applications, and lists. We broke Judy in as a temp and she liked us so much, we found a permanent place for her.

Coming Soon…
New Wastewater & Subsurface Curricula

Staff of the TACU are presently completing extensive reviews and revisions of the existing Biological Wastewater and Subsurface curricula. In conjunction with operators and regulators, the staff are approaching the end of their projects and anticipate approval from the Commission this year. Implementation of the "new and improved" materials is not expected before 2006. Look for the changes coming to a theatre near you!

To all Basic Education and Continuing Education Instructors:

First of all, the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission (WPCSOCC) and the Technical Assistance & Certification Unit (TACU) would like to thank each of you for your continued efforts to provide high quality training and educational programs for the operators of this State. Because of your work, NC continues to lead the way in certification and training for wastewater operators.

To that end, we wish to convey some reminders regarding the process to be followed for course and class approval, scheduling and submittal of participants rosters for credit hours. Please read the procedures carefully. In the end, they will make all of our jobs easier and we will have served the needs of the operators.

Course Approval

Submit approval application (download from website– *Forms* link, click on *Other Forms* and select *Application for Approval of Contact Hours*,) for review. Receive notification of course approval or denial. If denied, you may wish to contact TACU for further information. If approved, retain the letter of approval. It contains your BE or CE number for reference purposes. This number is specific to your course and allows us to track any classes that are conducted and maintain records of participants who attended. **In any correspondence (phone calls, emails, letters, course brochures, certificates of completion, web advertisements, etc.) about this course, you should use this number. It is unique to your course and is easier to track than the course name.**

Class Scheduling

Once you have received approval of the course, scheduling classes is next. When you know of classes that will be conducted, **let TACU know the dates, times, locations and instructors for those classes** immediately. We will enter those classes on our website **(http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/tacu/)** and advertise them for you. If you do not inform us of the classes, we cannot enter them on the site. Requests for approval are not necessary for each class conducted, as long as it is part of the original course that was approved.

Roster Submittal

When a class is completed, you should submit the roster promptly to TACU. Remember, the participants are counting on the credit for attendance at the class, and they will not be credited until we receive the roster. Rosters should include the BE or CE number, the dates and times of the class, the names and SSN or certificate numbers of all attendees and instructors wishing to receive credit, and the signature of the coordinator for the class (See attached Roster). All rosters must be received **within 15 days of completion** of the class. You can also assist your students by being aware of the exam dates and reminding them of the **deadline for application submittal**. The deadline for exam applications to be postmarked is **always** 30 calendar days prior to the exam date. Exams are **always** given on the 2nd Thursday of March, June, September, and December.

We hope this summary will assist you in getting your courses approved, keeping them approved, conducting your classes and submitting your rosters. As is always the case, if you ever have questions during the approval process, feel free to call TACU at 919.733.0026. We will be happy to assist you. Thank you again for your great work in delivering the educational programs for operator training in NC. We look forward to working with you in the coming years.

TACU Staff

Upcoming WW Operator Association Meetings

Southeastern	*North Piedmont*	*Western Piedmont*
April 14- Whiteville	June 16th - Walnut Cove	
June 16- Wilmington	August 18th - Hillsborough	No dates available yet
August 11– Kinston	October 20th - Salisbury	
Contact: Don Register	December 15th -High Point	Contact: Jennifer Lane
910-486-1541	Contact: John Dodson	828-695-4344
	919-460-4939	

Contract Operators Annual Report:
Regulatory Requirement *and* Good Business

If you are a contract operator or contract operations firm, you are required by 15A NCAC 08G .0902 to file an annual report with the WPCSOCC by April 1st of each year. You are required to submit the report every year, regardless of whether you have one contract or many, whether you are interested in obtaining additional contracts or not, or whether the systems are permitted by DWQ or the Division of Environmental Health.

A **contract operator or contract operations firm is defined as an individual or company that enters into a contractual agreement with a permittee to provide the services and assume the responsibilities of the ORC or back-up operator** of a water pollution control system. An operator who is employed by a permittee and whose job responsibilities include ORC or back-up operator duties is not considered to be a contract operator or operations firm.

The **annual report must include**:

1. the name, street address, mailing address, and business telephone number of the contract operator, or contract operations firm;
2. 2. the name, social security number, certificate type(s) and grade(s), and certification number(s) of all certified operators employed by the firm;
3. the name, address, contact name, and telephone number of all water pollution control systems operated by the contract operator, or contract operations firm;
4. the Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) or Back-up Operator in Responsible Charge (Back-up ORC) designations for each operator employed by the firm and the name and permit number of each system for which each operator is the Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) or Back-up Operator in Responsible Charge (Back-up ORC); and
5. the name, street address, mailing address, and telephone number of the certified laboratory(s) utilized by the contract operator, or contract operations firm.

Filing the annual report is a regulatory requirement, but is also good business. Contract operators/operations firms that submit an annual report and authorize publication of their contact information will be placed on a list of contract operators made available to the public.

If you are a certified operator interested in obtaining contracts, but currently have none, you may submit an annual report form and be added to the published list of contract operators. You should complete all contact and certification information and indicate that you wish to be placed on the published list of contract operators, although you currently have no systems under contract.

Annual report forms will soon be available on the TACU website. Until then, they can be obtained by calling 919-733-0026, extension 304. Completed reports can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to this office.

The Clarifier
NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Technical Assistance and Certification Unit
1618 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1618