WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEM OPERATORS CERTIFICATION COMMISSION

The Clarifier

Special points of interest:

- Renewal Invoices are now due!
- **2011 Exam Schedule** (bottom of this page)
- New wallet cards with bar codes

December 2010

2010 Wilbur E. Long Operator of the Year Award Winners

John Stake (right) of Asheboro is the Municipal winner of the 2010 award. Stake's career in wastewater began in 1974 with the City of Boca Raton, Florida. In 1990, he moved his family to North Carolina where he was hired by The City of Asheboro as a swing shift Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator.

In 20 years of service he has moved through the ranks at the Treatment Plant an has obtained Grade IV Biological Wastewater and Land Application of Residuals Operator Certifications. He currently holds the position of Chief Operator.

Tim Weaver (below left, shown with Paul Rawls, WPCSOCC Chair) **of Smithfield Packing in Tarheel** is the Industrial winner for 2010. Tim got his start with the Town of Elizabethtown, shortly after serving with the US Army, in 1992.

Originally hired as a Water Meter Reader, he began training and obtained Grade II Wastewater, B Well, and Land Application certifications and advanced to the ORC of the water system.

Tim moved to Rocco Turkeys in St. Pauls, NC, in 1994, and on to Smithfield Packing in Tar Heel, In 1996. He was hired as a Senior Operator and was also responsible for the night-time operations of the Reuse System. He worked to obtain Grade IV Wastewater and A Well Certifications. He is currently the ORC of both the Wastewater Plant and the Potable Water System.

Congratulations to John Stake & Tim Weaver!

2011 Exam Dates

March 10 - *Postmark application Feb 8*

June 9 - *Postmark application May 10*

September 8 - *Postmark application Aug 9*

November 10 - *Postmark application Oct 11*

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Data trending may be helpful in determining reasons for non-compliance

Data analysis is essential to defining and determining cause-and-effect relationships, as a simple Grade 1 WWTP (Septic Tank/Sand Filter) came to find out by using Technical Assistance from the Asheville Regional Office (ARO). Problems occurring at this Grade1 WWTP involved elevated Ammonia-Nitrogen levels ,with some samples exceeding 8 mg/L (monthly average Winter limits - 4mg/L and Summer limits - 2mg/L). After plant staff requested technical assistance, the consultant evaluated the system and data. A trend chart of the Ammonia-Nitrogen data for the previous year was developed, noting two (2) very high peaks in the trend. Further review of system Operation and Maintenance logs determined the staff was pumping the septic tank too often, creating conditions disruptive for the nitrifying bacteria in the system. Corrective action was implemented, including increasing system alkalinity by the addition of lime to Septic tank and sodium bicarbonate to the pump tank, and taking sludge judge readings of septic tank and pump tank. WWTP staff currently trend their data in addition to their O & M duties. The following is offered to assist you in developing your own system trend.

"Data analysis is essential to defining and determining cause-and-effect relationships..."

1) Review your operating data;
2) Review any recent and long term analytical data;
3) Look for trends;
4) Identify factors or conditions that may be causing the problem;
5) Develop an operating strategy, changing only one thing at a time;
6) Implement the strategy;
7) Monitor the process and continue to review operating data.

Submitted by Don Price - WWTP Consultant - Asheville Regional Office

Technical Assistance is available ***free of charge*** from any one of 6 Regional Office WWTP Consultants. See our website at http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/admin/tacu/contacts for the Regional Consultant in your area!

Wallet cards now with bar codes...

Wondering why your new wallet card has a bar code on the back...it's so we can implement a new system of tracking CE hours, similar to what the Water Operators Board is doing. In the future, it will allow training providers to scan the bar codes of those attending a class and upload that info to us with more accuracy and less hassles for you. We're not completely ready to begin this new process but we are making progress and hope to have it ready soon. Be on the lookout! And in the meantime, please remember to carry your wallet card with you...in case someone wants to see your certification levels...and for a training provider to scan for your CE hours!