

Operator Facts

TECHNICAL FACTS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATIONS
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Fall 2000

Volume 5, Number 3

Sherman Wins EPA's Prestigious O&M Award

Congratulations to the Village of Sherman wastewater treatment staff for winning EPA's 2000 National Operations and Maintenance Excellence Award. A national selection committee reviewed nominations from across the country and the Sherman facility won in the small advanced category. The award was presented at the WEFTEC Conference in Anaheim, California on October 16th.

The Sherman treatment plant was recognized for their consistent operation and effluent quality. The plant has met all effluent permit limits for over ten years and plant operators Paul Fisher and Sandra Harvey have also striven to continue to improve the plant operations. Improvements that have been made at the plant include:

- Increased output of the sludge drying beds by using polymer to speed up the drying process. This change saved the Village \$1500 per year in hauling costs.

- Development of several filament control options, including an in-basin chlorination system and installation of a selector in the aeration tank. The selector also has been operated as an anoxic zone to minimize denitrification within the secondary clarifier.

Other accomplishments cited in the award program included a comprehensive laboratory management program and a strong public education program with the fifth grade elementary class.

The public education program includes using the Adopt-A-School program guide in the classroom, having the operators visit the classroom and finally, a plant tour with a look through the microscope.



Chief Operator Paul Fisher and NYSDEC's Gregg Gendron admire Sherman's Award.

The Sherman plant was nominated as a past winner of the NYSDEC Operations and Maintenance award (now known as the NYSDEC Andrew M. Weist Operation and Maintenance Excellence Award). For further information regarding these awards or to apply for the award next year, please contact your NYSDEC Regional inspector or call Gregg Gendron, NYSDEC Central Office at (518) 457-7496.

Inside

**EPA's Storm
Water Rule**
Page 2

**Cold Weather
Blues**
Page 3

**Upcoming
Training**
Page 4

**Job
Opportunities**
Page 5

**Congrats
Operators**
Page 6

**Operations
Challenge**
Page 7

**Available
Funds**
Page 8



Operator Facts

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to inform wastewater operators about various operational practices, problem-solving approaches, technical developments and training/certification issues.

It is produced by:
Bureau of Watershed
Compliance Programs,
Phillip T. Smith, P.E.
Chief, FOAS
Robin Yasinsac,
Coordinator

You are invited to submit technical articles or other information of interest to operators for publication in *Operator Facts*.

Be sure to notify us of a change of address if you wish to continue to receive *Operator Facts* and Training Notices. Please include your certificate number.

The mention of any product or listing of any company's seminar is not an endorsement by this Department.

Send all correspondence to: **Operator Facts**, NYSDEC, 50 Wolf Road, Room 340, Albany, New York 12233-3506, Phone (518) 457-5968 or Fax (518) 457-7038.



Chlorine Publications Available

The Chlorine Institute, Inc. has numerous technical publications, drawings, audio visual productions, safety training programs and other information on chlorine.

For a catalog of products, contact The Chlorine Institute, Inc., 2001 "L" Street NW, Suite 506, Washington, D.C. 20036, phone (202) 775-2790, or visit their website at: [HTTP://www.CL2.com](http://www.CL2.com)

EPA Issues Fact Sheets on New Storm Water Rule

EPA has released a series of fact sheets explaining the new Storm Water Phase II Rule. This rule, which was finalized on December 8, 1999, extends the existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water program to include two general groups: smaller municipalities and smaller construction sites. The first group requires public agencies responsible for storm water management and located within 'urbanized areas' to develop and implement a storm water management plan and apply for NPDES storm water permit coverage. This storm water management plan will require the municipality to address topics such as public education on storm water impacts, public involvement in the storm water program, detection and elimination of illicit connections and discharges, construction site erosion control, post-construction water quality impacts, and education of public employees.

Phase II is construction activity disturbing between one and five acres. This extends EPA's current storm water permitting of construction sites from five disturbed acres to one acre. A construction site disturbing at least one acre nationwide will be required to apply for NPDES storm water permit coverage unless it qualifies for one of two possible waivers.

A copy of the final Phase II rule is available on EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2>. In addition to the final rule, EPA has released a series of 14 fact sheets on the final rule which explain different components of the rule. EPA will also be holding training sessions on the new rule. Information is available at the web address above.

Any questions should be directed to: John A. Kosco, P.E., U.S. EPA, Office of Wastewater Management, Municipal Technology Branch, 401 "M" St., SW (4204), Washington, DC 20460; phone: (202) 260-6385, Fax: 260-0116, e-mail: kosco.john@epa.gov

The second group addressed by

Changed Jobs or Moved Recently?

If you have relocated, please let us know! Send us your new plant's name and SPDES number and we will update our records.

And if you changed your residence, you should send us your new mailing address so you won't miss any issues of *Operator Facts* or our training announcements.

Cold Weather Blues

Ever have problems with freezing composite samplers during winter months?

Try making an insulated box!

During the windy frigid months at the Village of Port Henry/Town of Moriah Joint WWTP, located on the shore of Lake Champlain, sampling procedures have to change gears due to the weather.

When the temperature drops below freezing, the 24-hr composite samplers (the Manning S-3300 Portable Composite Sampler) start icing in the intake line and sample chamber, making the samplers useless under these conditions. Because of this, the operators must take time away from other duties to collect a composite sample once a month, required under their SPDES permit, consisting of a grab sample taken at one-hour intervals for eight hours.

The solution the operators came up with was to build two insulated boxes to house the influent and effluent samplers.

Material Checklist:

- ✓ 2 sheets of two-inch 4x8 blue board
- ✓ 2 rolls of duct tape
- ✓ 2 packages of 5/8-inch pipe insulation

They bought all the material at the local lumber yard for under \$75 and assembled the boxes in about one and a half hours.

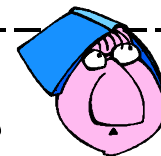


Samples are properly chilled... not frozen.

The insulated boxes worked well all winter long without any failure. They solved the freezing problem and gave the operator a better representative sample during the 24-hour period, which was not possible during past winters. And the time which would have been spent taking samples was spent on other maintenance projects throughout the plant. The insulated boxes can be used in the summer months to act as coolers for the samplers as well.

This article was written by Carl A. Perry, chief operator at the Village of Port Henry/Town of Moriah WWTP. The insulated boxes were constructed with the help of assistant operator Jason Lee. Questions should be directed to Chip at (518) 546-8635.

August ABC Exam Results



Grade 1: 26 Candidates
 Passing Rate: 62%
 Average Score: 73

Grade 2: 17 Candidates
 Passing Rate: 53%
 Average Score: 71

Grade 3: 9 Candidates
 Passing Rate: 89%
 Average Score: 78

Grade 4: 4 Candidates
 Passing Rate: 75%
 Average Score: 75

Grade 1A: 8 Candidates
 Passing Rate: 88%
 Average Score: 85

Grade 2A: 59 Candidates
 Passing Rate: 56%
 Average Score: 70

Grade 3A: 62 Candidates
 Passing Rate: 100%
 Average Score: 73

Grade 4A: 17 Candidates
 Passing Rate: 53%
 Average Score: 73

RENEWAL TRAINING & UPCOMING MEETINGS



News and Events

NYWEA, Inc.
126 North Salina Street - Suite 200
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 422-7811

National Events

WEFTEC 2001
Atlanta, GA
October 13-17, 2001

State Events

73rd Annual Meeting
Marriott Marquis, NYC
February 4-7, 2001

Spring Technical Conference and Exhibition
Kerhonkson
June 4-6, 2001

Western Chapter

Greater Buffalo Environmental Conference
Buffalo
April 23-24, 2001

Genesee Chapter

Recognizing and Controlling Filaments (3.0 Hours)
DiPacifics
December 8, 2000

Long Island Chapter

Chemical Safety (3.0 Hours)
Wastewater Treatment Plant Safety (3.0 Hours)
Cedar Creek
November 29, 2000

Vacuum Dosing
Bergen Point WWTP
December 7, 2000

Lower Hudson Chapter

Training Seminar
IBM Watson Center
December 7, 2000

March 20-21, 2001

Wet Weather Operations

Location: SUNY Morrisville
Contact Hours: 10
Cost: \$145 (includes lunch on Day 1)

March 25-30, 2001

Troubleshooting O&M Problems

Location: Old Forge
Contact Hours: 30
Cost: \$402 pp tax exempt/\$434 pp with tax

Tentative NYC Watershed Section Training Schedule

Treatment of Car Wash Wastewater
NYC DEP Office, Valhalla
January 23, 2001

Disinfection Considerations for WWTP's
Mountainside Restaurant, Woodstock
February 21, 2001

RBC and Trickling Filter O&M
Ulster County Community College
March 2, 2001

Anaerobic Digestion/Gravity Thickeners
SUNY Delhi, Delhi
April 24, 2001

Small Flow Measurement
Harriman Lodge, East Jewett
May 23, 2001

**Troubleshooting O&M Problems at
Fixed Film WWTP's**
Thompson House Resort, Windham
September 23-28, 2001

For more information, contact: Joe Brillig, NYSDEC,
(518) 457-1633, e-mail: jbrilli@gw.dec.state.ny.us or
Dan Gordon, NYSDEC, (518) 457-0675, e-mail:
dmgordon@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Job Opportunities

Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator:

The Village of Philmont is looking for a responsible individual to operate their municipal water and sewer systems. A Class 2 Water Operator's License and a Grade 2A WWTP Operator's certificate are required. Send resume to: Village of Philmont, P.O. Box 00, 122 Main Street, Philmont, NY 12565, Phone: (518) 672-7032.

Malcolm Pirnie, an environmental engineering firm, has the following opportunity in our Rochester, NY location: ***Operations Specialist***, Certified WWTP Operator with 5+ years operating experience, a two-year AAS degree minimum, BS a plus. Send resume to Human Resources, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., 104 Corporate Park Drive, White Plains, NY 10602. Fax: (914) 641-2802, e-mail: dreyes@pirnie.com

The Rockland County SD #1, Orangeburg NY, seeks a ***Sewage System Supervisor*** who will plan and direct the activities of mechanics and laborers in maintaining the RCSD #1 collection system. The minimum qualifications are 6+ years of experience in collection system O&M which includes 3+ years of supervisory experience. The starting salary is \$46,019 annually.

RCSD #1 also seeks an ***Engineer I***. Duties include on-site inspection and supervision of construction and sewer rehabilitation projects and assisting in contract specification preparations and other related activities. The minimum requirement is a Bachelors degree in Civil, Sanitary or Environmental Engineering, (at least 15 credits in Civil Engineering or related courses). The starting salary is \$43,973.

Both positions are provisional appointments. Contact: Bob Dworkin, Public Works Administrator, RSCD#1, 4 Route 340, Orangeburg, NY 10962. Phone: (845) 365-6111 or Fax: (845) 365-6686.

The New York State Thruway Authority anticipates five openings for ***Service Area Equipment Operators*** in the Central New York area. The duties include, but are not limited to the operation, maintenance and repair of all the equipment related to WWTP's at our service areas. The hiring rate is \$11.65/hour. Resumes should be submitted to: Helene O'Clair, NYS Thruway Authority, Syracuse Division, PO Box 308, East Syracuse, NY 13057. Phone: (315) 437-2741,

Certification Courses

Basic Operations

January 9-March 13, 2001
Hudson Valley Comm. College (518) 283-2235

February 5-April 23, 2001
Institute of Material Sciences (845) 255-0757

Basic Laboratory

January 8-12, 2001
SUNY at Morrisville (315) 684-6082

January 8-31, 2001
Institute of Material Sciences (845) 255-0757

Activated Sludge

January - April 2001
Adirondack Community College (518) 743-2200

February 19-22, 2001
SUNY at Morrisville (315) 684-6082

Basic Supervision

February 5-9, 2001
SUNY at Morrisville (315) 684-6082

Advanced Operations and Management

January 22-26, 2001
SUNY at Morrisville (315) 684-6082

Fax: 461-0765, or e-mail: Oclair@thruway.state.ny.us

The New York Rural Water Association seeks a ***Wastewater Technician*** with multi-years experience in managing a community wastewater system. The individual must have technical knowledge, the ability to communicate effectively and be able to troubleshoot wastewater problems. Knowledge and understanding of regulations and reporting requirements is necessary, along with the willingness to travel.

Starting salary is \$29,000-\$31,000. E-mail your resume to Pat Scalera at scalera@nyruralwater.org or send it to NYRWA, PO Box 487, Claverack, NY 12513.



Congratulations To Our New Certified Operators!

GRADE 1

Philip Ausiello	Westchester
James D Buchan	Ulster
Thomas J Chadeayne	Westchester
Ezzard Christopher	New York City
Lewis E Duvalsaint	New York City
Robert D Fereshetian	New York City
Ralph W Kirschkel	Rockland
Sean Leavy	New York City
Edward D Mahoney Jr	Westchester
Scott T McConnell	Jefferson
Owen V Murphy	Suffolk
Michael J Murray	Erie
Kachi Obiakwata	New York City
Lisa Riker	Columbia
Donna Ritterpusch	Tompkins
Kenneth R Taylor	Delaware
Steve Tomasini	Columbia
Chase Winton	Chenango

GRADE 1A

Brett DeHollander	Monroe
Charles L Griswold	Orange
Dennis M Hayes	Steuben
Russell L Laquidara	Saratoga
Lawrence R Mosher	Steuben
Mark E Talbert	Ulster
Chi-Chieh Tseng	New York City

GRADE 2

Carl Ackerley	Sullivan
Steven D Benedict	Steuben
James Dailey	Nassau
William D Dunn III	Orange
Kevin R Florack	Monroe
Jerri Lothrop	Jefferson
Edward Paterson	Rockland
William Prince	Nassau
William Ryan	Nassau

GRADE 2A

John R Anderson	Suffolk
Michael R Browne	Nassau
Roger L Caldwell Jr	Orleans
Christian Campbell	Dutchess
Christopher Carlson	NYC
Charles Castellana Jr	Erie
Christian Cavaliere	Dutchess
Gary Courtright	Albany
Frank Crawford	Chenango
James E. Cromwell	Dutchess
Ronald U Dailey	Nassau
Jason Dennis	Dutchess
Robert Haimson	New York City
Debbie L Henry	Lewis
Frank W Jones	Saratoga
Charles H Lancaster	Orange
Jeffrey E. Lavocat	Erie
Frank M Longo	Erie
Darrell H Mainville	Franklin
Andrew K McBride	Ulster
John McGrath	Orange
John Mulligan	Suffolk
Scott E Osborn	Dutchess
William E Pentz	Orange
Bui Hoan Quang	New York City
Charles F Regan	Rensselaer
Ronald Rice	Oswego
Steven D Rodland	Genesee
Christopher Rose	Ulster
Robert D Scarro	Nassau
Jerry Sibley	Orange
Matthew L Smith	Chautauqua
Aswind Stewart	New York City
Larry Thorne	Orange
Frank S Wedzina Jr	Erie

GRADE 3

Martin J Brown	Chemung
Edward D Grogan	Dutchess
Dale P Heary	Niagara
Clarence W Hunter Jr	Niagara
Mark Krist	Oneida
Michael J Jonker	Schoharie
Washington R Millick	Lewis
Edward R Newell	Chenango
Donald K Phillips Jr	Niagara

GRADE 3A

Thomas Appel	Nassau
Jack D Benjamin	Jefferson
David J Bridgegroom	Rensselaer
Peter Briele	Montgomery
Eric Cahill	Dutchess
Regina Cancellare	Essex
Chung S Chiu	New York City
Steven Coco	Suffolk
William R Cowell	Erie
Dominick J.Farella, Jr.	Oswego
Anthony Fisher	New York City
Matthew P Foe	Niagara
Steven M Giarrusso	Onondaga
Douglas Heim	Erie
Raymond Hoag	Saratoga
Eric Huddy	Chautauqua
Paul A Malloy	Broome
John F. Morley	Madison
Scott R Richardson	Monroe
Daniel L Salmon	Erie
Donald Tuscano	New York City
Thomas J Whitman	Monroe

GRADE 4

Thomas Schofield	Broome
Keith R Vanstrom	Chautauqua
Winslow Wolfe	Chemung

GRADE 4A

Timothy W Demo	Erie
Jonathan L Edwards	Oneida
Roberto Flores	Greene
Daniel L Jean	Onondaga
Roger Lalli	Erie
Edmund Luffman	Schenectady
Dean Merritt	Onondaga
Pietro L Palmari	Suffolk
Anthony C Sefcovic	Fulton
Edward J Steeprock	Dutchess



WEFTEC 2000 Operations Challenge

New York was honored to have two teams, the Bowery Bay Bowl Busters and the Coney Island Whitefish, compete in the WEF national operations challenge competition in Anaheim, California. Thirty-seven (37) teams from the United States and Canada competed in this two-day event.

The Bowery Bay team, consisting of Frank Soviero, John Neske, Chris Laudando, Frank Giovanniello and Lisa Betty, placed 9th out of the 26 teams competing in Division 2. Their best event was Process, where they earned a fifth-place finish.



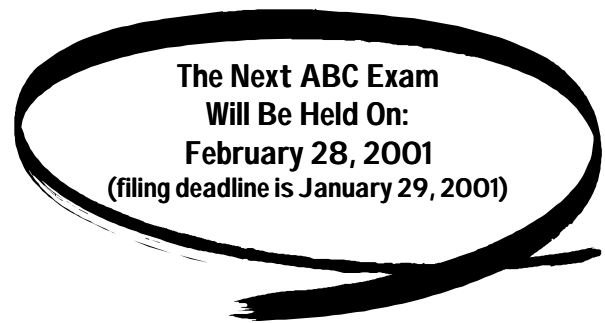
**Bowery Bay resting
in between events.**

The Coney Island team, consisting of Keith Beckmann, George Sullivan III, Kevin McCormick and Joe Atkins, finished twelfth in their first try at the national competition. Their best event was a ninth-place finish in the Safety event.



**The Coney Island Team receives
instruction before the safety event.**

Congratulations to both teams. We hope to see both teams at New York's 2001 Operations Challenge in Kerhonkson on June 5th.



Basic Instrumentation Course

The Basic Instrumentation Course is an introduction to the instruments and sensors used in the measurement and control of temperature, pressure, level, and flow. This course will cover basic principles of theory, selection, installation, operation, and maintenance of the instruments used in each of the previously mentioned measurement and control characteristics. The course is approved for six hours, and will consist of videos and discussion of each topic.

For further information or to schedule this training, call Arnold Davis at (518) 499-0452.

Siewert 2000 Seminar Calendar Available

Planning to deliver a variety of seminars, Siewert Equipment Co. will be bringing training to Troy, Buffalo, and Rochester. Some of the topics of these one-day seminars are:

Pump Fundamentals, Pump Station Electrical Controls and Troubleshooting, Aspects of Mixing, WWT Processes, and Air Operated Diaphragm Pumps, among others.

For additional information, contact: Siewert Equipment Co, Inc. at 175 Akron Street, Rochester, NY 14609, (716) 482-9640 (phone) or (716) 482-4149 (fax). You also may e-mail Cher DeFreze at: cdefreze@siewertequipment.com

\$1.2 Million Available for Projects



The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) announced a program to support the evaluation and demonstration of innovative and energy efficient technologies at public water and wastewater facilities in New York, and new business opportunities that promote technology transfer and widespread deployment of under-utilized water and wastewater technologies.

Up to \$1.2 million is available; multiple awards up to \$250,000 per project are expected. *Cost-sharing is required.* Potential contractors include New York State municipalities, companies that own and operate public water systems, consulting engineers, and equipment vendors.

NYSERDA will receive proposals on Friday, December 29, 2000.

This announcement is not a solicitation for proposals. To receive the full solicitation, including program requirements and instructions for preparing a proposal, visit the NYSERDA web site - www.nyserda.org/opportunities - or submit your request via fax, or e-mail, or mail it to the address below. Indicate you are requesting PON569-00 and send the request to: Marcia Earley, e-mail: mae@nyserda.org, Fax: (518) 862-1091, Mail: NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, Corporate Plaza West, 286 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, New York 12203-6399.

Technical questions can be directed to Larry Pakenas at (518) 862-1090, extension 3247, or Greg Lampman, extension 3372.

New York State DEC
Facility Operations Assistance Section
50 Wolf Road, Room 340
Albany, New York 12233-3506

