

Operator Facts

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

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Andrew M. Weist Operation & Maintenance Excellence Awards

Congratulations to the staff and communities of the City of Rome Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) in Oneida County and the Town of Riverhead Sewer District Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWTF) in Suffolk County for being selected as winners of this year's New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Andrew M. Weist Operation & Maintenance Excellence Award.

The NYSDEC Division of Water selection committee selected the City of Rome WPCF as the winner in the Large Advanced Treatment Category and the Town of Riverhead AWTF as the winner in the Medium Advanced Treatment Category. The selection committee noted the outstanding compliance history of these facilities in their recommendation.

The NYSDEC Andrew M. Weist O&M Excellence Awards honor wastewater treatment facilities that implement innovative and outstanding operations, maintenance and management programs that result in high levels of continued performance and efficiency.



Kneeling (left to right): From the City of Rome, John Waite, Bruce Clifford, Rick Kenealy, Phil Impicciatore, Vinny Fiorenza, Audie Corigliano, Matt Coppola, Ron Barber, (Standing left to right) From NYSDEC, Steve Botsford, Rich Coriale, Award Coordinator Gregg Gendron, Sandra LeBarron; from the City of Rome, Bill Baynes, Chief Operator, Mayor Jim Brown, Dave Marino, Frank Rallarino, Tom McCormick, Tony Spina, Dave Brockway, Marc Anderson, Steve Corigliano. Missing from picture, Pete Spina.

The award memorializes Andrew M. Weist for his many positive contributions, which enhanced wastewater treatment plant operations in this state and also at a national level. Andy was the section chief of DEC's Facility Operations Assistance Section for 15 years, and worked at DEC for more than

32 years before retiring in 1995. Andy passed away in 1999.

Municipal wastewater treatment facilities are the backbone of New York's water quality protection efforts, and these awards recognize municipalities that have gone

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Operator Facts

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

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

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.

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Send all correspondence to:
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Visit our website at:
[www.dec.state.ny.us/website/
dow/bwcp/foas_main.html](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/bwcp/foas_main.html)



Fall 2006/Winter 2007

The City of Little Falls Recognized for Excellence



Bill Herrigshaw, Dan Moore, Francis Nelson, Aaron Palmer, Jeff Starring, Amy Mowers, Sam Ostasz and Jerry Griffith are acknowledged for their professional commitment and resourcefulness in addressing CSOs with their collection system. Missing from photo: Tom Herbet.

The City of Little Falls was recently selected by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for a National Second Place Award in the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control category as part of the annual 2006 USEPA Clean Water Act Recognition Awards selection process.

The facility was nominated by David Marcisofsky of NYSDEC Region 6 who, along with USEPA, recognized the Little Falls staff for outstanding work related to ongoing activities in their wastewater collection system and their overall commitment to protecting water quality.

USEPA established the Clean Water Act Recognition Awards to recognize/honor the employees of publicly owned wastewater treatment plants for their commitment to improving water quality. These awards recognize employees for their outstanding operation and maintenance and continued water quality improvements through permit compliance and collection system improvements.

Congratulations to the staff and City of Little Falls for being selected as a winner of this year's National Award for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control.

NYSDEC/NYWEA Poster Contest

Encourage your local middle school and high school artists and Environmentalists to enter the NYSDEC/NYWEA "The Importance of Wastewater Treatment" poster contest. NYSDEC and NYWEA have designed the contest to increase middle school and high school students' awareness of wastewater treatment. Participants will receive a certificate of appreciation and the top five finishers in

each category (middle school and high school) will receive an engraved plaque. Winners (one in each category) will receive a check for \$50 and runner-ups (four in each category) will receive a \$25 check. NYSDEC and NYWEA will print and distribute the winning posters to municipal wastewater treatment plants. More information can be found on NYWEA's website at: www.nywea.org

Front Row:
Town
of Riverhead
Superintendent
Michael Reichel,
accepts award
from Peter A.
Scully, Director
NYSDEC Region
1; (second row),
Gregg Gendron,
NYSDEC, Tim
Allen,
Riverhead;
(back row)
Anthony Leung,
NYSDEC,
Riverhead, John
Arrigo, Glen
Magee, Richard
Bokinz, Matt
Hattorff, Mike
Maffia, Bill
Nungesser,
Warren
Alexander and
Doug Attridge



the extra mile to protect the water quality of this state.

The City of Rome WPCF staff received their award on August 22 at the wastewater treatment facility. The award was presented by Sandra LeBarron, Director of NYSDEC Region 6. Highlights from the City of Rome award application package included outstanding process control and sludge-management programs. Chief Operator William Baynes and his staff take great pride in the excellent compliance record of the facility.

Mr. Baynes stated in the award package "The City of Rome Water Pollution Control Facility staff are constantly striving to be innovative and receptive to new ideas in operation and maintenance of our facility. We have an intensive process-control program, we utilize a streaming current meter as a method to control polymer dose for our solids handling and have a very comprehensive industrial pretreatment program."

In the Summer of 1999, the

City of Rome WPCF was called on to handle the waste from the Woodstock Music Festival. The ability to treat the concert waste was due to intensive preparation months ahead of the event. A well thought out process control strategy, combined with the execution of a process-control action plan provided the operators with the tools to deal with unusual circumstances and varying strength loadings while maintaining optimal plant performance.

The staff from the Town of Riverhead AWTF received their award on August 31. The award presentation was made by Peter A. Scully, Director of NYSDEC Region 1.

Plant Superintendent Michael Reichel and his staff take great pride in maintaining an excellent compliance record. The Town of Riverhead award application highlights included an excellent process-control program. Superintendent Michael Reichel states "Good

process control not only maximizes effluent quality, it saves electrical usage costs. Loading rates for all unit processes are analyzed; rainfall events and their effects are tracked and trended. Close daily operator attention to changes in wastewater characteristics and process adjustments results in the highest quality effluent possible."

The operations staff at the facility also developed a database program for equipment maintenance and inventory. The database tracks sewer district equipment and supplies, generating a monthly preventative maintenance log for each piece of equipment. They develop staff maintenance tasks and work schedules and equipment repairs and spare parts inventory from the database-generated logs.

Congratulations to the entire staff and communities of these well-operated and maintained wastewater treatment facilities — they are the front-line protectors of the environment.

Renewal and Certification Training & Upcoming Meetings

Looking for Training?

Centrifugal Pumps, Secondary Clarifiers and Instrumentation Workshop

Date: January 25, 2007
Location: Delhi Volunteer Firehouse
Delhi, New York
Cost: \$35.00
Contact: Mark Gander, NYSDEC at
(518)402-8182

Solids Handling

Date: January 25, 2007
Location: Long Island
Cost: \$35
Contact: Gregg Gendron, NYSDEC at
(518)402-8096

Troubleshooting O&M Problems at Activated Sludge WWTPs

Date: March 25-30, 2007
Location: Old Forge, NY
Cost: TBD
Contact: G. Michael Coley, NYSDEC at
(518)402-8086

Employment



Rockland County Sewer District #1 seeks an Assistant Director of Plant Facilities for a full-time, permanent position.

The applicant will be responsible for providing administrative and technical support in planning, administering and directing a facilities and equipment maintenance program with a staff of 40 at our Orangeburg (RBC) plant, plus 22+ pump stations and the collection system.

Starting salary is \$74,800.
Contact Bob Dworkin at (845) 365-6111, or email Bob at:
dworkin@co.rockland.ny.us



NYWEA, Inc.
525 Plum Street, Suite 102
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 422-7811
e-mail: mail@nywea.org
www.nywea.org

State Events

Voluntary Collection System Operator Certification Exam

April 25, 2007
Several locations throughout
New York State

For more information contact:
Maggie Hoose at (315) 422-7811

NYWEA Spring Technical
Conference & Exhibition
June 3-6, 2007

Sheraton Syracuse University
Hotel & Conference Center
Syracuse, New York

Employment



Binghamton-Johnson City WWTP is now accepting applications for a Wastewater Treatment Plant - Shift Lead Operator.

The applicant will direct and participate in the operation of the wastewater treatment plant and pump station for assigned shifts and will also supervise shift work and employees. Applicant must have the ability to operate all wastewater plant equipment and major unit processes.

To qualify, you must have experience as a NYSDEC Grade 3 Wastewater Operator.

For more information, you should contact (607) 729-2975.

Certification Courses

Basic Operations

March 5-16, 2007
Great Lakes Laboratory - Buffalo
(716)878-5422

March 5-16, 2007
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6670

February 8-April 24, 2007
Ulster Community College
(845)687-5173

Basic Laboratory

January 2-February 6, 2007
Ulster Community College
(845)687-5173

January 15-19, 2007
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6670

Activated Sludge

February 5-8, 2007
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6670

March 26-29, 2007
Great Lakes Laboratory - Buffalo
(716)878-5422

Supervision & Technical Operations

January 8-12, 2007
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6670

Management Course

April 23-26, 2007
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6670

April 23-25, 2007
Great Lakes Laboratory - Buffalo
(716)878-5422

Unknown Liquid Sickens Men Working in Manhole

Upper Marlboro, MD. There were some frightening moments for three construction workers who became ill inside a manhole at a construction site in Prince George's County on Tuesday, September 19.

Two men lost consciousness within minutes of working 15-to-20 feet below ground in a sewer in the block of Marlboro Pike, Prince George's County Fire and Rescue spokesman Mark Brady said.

Prince George's County Fire and Rescue lowered oxygen into the hole and one of the workers, a man in his 50s regained consciousness and was able to attach a rope around the second worker, a man in his 20s, and both were pulled from the manhole.

The man in his 20s was found in a pool of liquid and was taken to an area hospital where he regained consciousness and was listed in critical but stable condition, while the man in his 50s was hospitalized and listed in serious but stable condition.

Before rescuers arrived, a third worker attempted a rescue, but felt ill and was able to get out of the manhole. He was taken to an area hospital, where he was listed in good condition.

Brady said a flammable product was found in a liquid inside the manhole. "There is no odor, there is no sheen, so we are not exactly sure what we are dealing with." Samples of the liquid have been taken to a lab for further testing. (Copyright 2006 by WTOP Radio)

MOSH says when a person goes first into a manhole and dies, there's a 50 percent chance that a rescuer that goes in after him will also die.

On Page 8 is a confined-space self-inspection checklist from the US Department of Labor. This checklist is by no means all-inclusive. You should add to it or delete portions or items that do not apply to your operations; however, carefully consider each item as you come to it, and then make your decision. You will also need to refer to OSHA standards for complete and specific standards that may apply to your situation. (NOTE: These checklists are typical for general industry but not for construction or maritime.)

One of the workers who passed out in a Prince George's County manhole Tuesday has died and now WTOP Radio has learned this is not the first time this month such an accident has occurred in Maryland.

Investigators from the Maryland Occupational Health and Safety Department (MOSH) are still at the housing construction site, taking samples, after some sort of a flammable product was found.

MOSH officials tell WTOP Radio two men recently died in a manhole in Baltimore after one of the men dropped a piece of equipment and went down to retrieve it. After he passed out, his co-worker followed him, and both died from depletion of oxygen.

(Copyright 2006 by WTOP Radio)

(continued on Page 8)

Part 750 Capacity/Loading Reminder

Last issue, we had an article on an upcoming NYSDEC mailing of the annual flow-management and loading certification statement. This statement will be mailed with your February 2007 Discharge Monitoring Report and requires a

municipality's chief fiscal officer (mayor, comptroller, treasurer, city manager or other designee) to sign the statement verifying that their POTW complies with 6 NYCRR Part 750-2.9(c). The plant must meet the design, planning and flow-

management criteria or submit an engineering report within 120 days. Contact Shayne Mitchell at (518) 402-8125 if you have any questions. Part 750 is available on NYSDEC's website at www.dec.state.ny.us/website/regs/ch10.htm

2008 Wastewater Operator Certification Testing Change FAQs

The article in the last issue of *Operator Facts* regarding the change in certification testing has generated some additional questions regarding the change. We've tried to summarize the most frequently asked questions:

Q. Why the change?

A. The change will provide operators several benefits: the option to take the test up to four times per year, elimination of the exam filing deadline, the ability to schedule the test at a time convenient to you (Monday through Saturday, at 9:00 AM or 1:30 PM), a better testing environment and getting your test results immediately.

Q. When does the change take place?

A. Computer-based testing starts January 1, 2008.

Q. What is the cost to take a computerized WWTP operator certification test?

A. The cost increases to \$85. The price increase reflects the fees, costs and services provided for computer-administered examinations. In comparison, the average cost for wastewater certification and renewal in the nine other north-eastern states is \$100.

Q. Does the filing deadline change?

A. There is no filing deadline. When you meet all the certification requirements, you can apply to take the test. The DEC regional and Albany Office must still approve your application before you can schedule and take the test.

Q. What are the new test dates?

A. There are no designated test dates. You schedule when you want to take the test. Testing times are Monday through Saturday, at 9:00 AM or 1:30 PM, depending upon availability at the test site.

Q. How do I apply to take the test?

A. Except for one small change, the application process stays the same. First, you must meet all the certification requirements (education, training and experience). Then complete your certification application packet including: Application for Approval of Qualifications for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, Statement of Experience form, high school diploma and copies of all your training completion notices. Mail this packet to the DEC regional office (or Health Department). **You do NOT send in payment at this time.**

Q. What happens after I apply to take the test?

A. Your application must be approved by the DEC regional office (and Health Department if appropriate) and the DEC Facility Operations Assistance Section in Albany. After full approval, you will be sent a letter with instructions on how to schedule the certification test.

Q. Who runs the test sites?

A. Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP). For more information on AMP and the

testing service, go to www.abccert.org/pdf/abcampinfo.pdf

Q. How do I pay the testing service?

A. You can pay on-line using a credit card or by mail with a company check or money order payable to AMP (personal checks, purchase orders or vouchers are not accepted). There is a \$25 fee for any returned company check.

Q. How do I schedule my certification test?

A. Applicants can schedule an appointment on-line (24 hours/7 days a week) at www.goAMP.com or by calling AMP's Candidate Support Center toll-free at (888) 519-9901.

Q. When do I get my results?

A. Your test results are printed and given to you immediately after completing the test.

Q. After passing, what do I need to do to get my certificate?

A. Nothing; DEC will process your certificate once we receive the test results from AMP. The effective date of your certificate will be the day you passed the test. It will take 8 - 10 weeks to receive your certificate and wall document.

More FAQs will appear in the next issue of *Operator Facts*.

Grade 1

Robert J. Cornish Steuben
 Barry L. Davisson Chenango
 Mingo Espinosa Out Of State
 Daniel P. Fuller Orleans
 Cornell J. Heyward New York City
 Leon A. Page IV Orange
 Michael D. Rude Steuben
 William J. Safford Allegany
 Thomas B. Seamon Columbia

Grade 1A

Mark C. Atkins Westchester
 Gary R. Benson Westchester
 Edward Czyzewski Columbia
 Matthew J. Kelly Westchester
 Barry L. Leatherman Essex
 Robert J. McLaughlin Monroe
 Keith M. Moree Ulster
 Peter J. Rose Westchester
 Andrew Wozniak Delaware

Grade 2

Roy S. Cottrell Wayne
 Michael S. Keenan Jefferson
 Edward F. Morelli Greene
 Merle N. Wiltse Niagara

Grade 2A

Eric Albano Greene
 Steven T. Cartwright New York City
 Anita M Colvin Madison
 John A. Crandall Essex
 David Crisdell Suffolk
 Edward G. Davis Greene
 Andrew A. DeMicco New York City
 Steven Dodd Ulster
 Bruce C. Hotaling St. Lawrence
 Vladimir Kolchin New York City
 Joel Maendel Greene
 Joseph Manner Ulster
 Gayle M. Montanya Ulster
 Scott Nagelschmidt Greene
 Neil H. O'Dell Jefferson
 Brian P. Paige St. Lawrence
 Jorge Salazar St. Lawrence
 Warren D. Smith St. Lawrence
 Thomas J. Szarka, Sr. St. Lawrence
 Roy J. Weimann Ulster
 Richard Winchester Dutchess

Grade 3

John L. Carnevale Monroe
 Philip B. Grayson Broome
 Douglas G. Hoover Niagara

Grade 3A

Peter Bily New York City
 Christopher Garback Onondaga
 Matthew E. Hattorff Suffolk
 Karl A. Johnson Putnam

Congratulations
**To Our New
 Certified
 Operators!**



Joseph G. Sagnis Dutchess
 Edward H. Scharpou Herkimer
 Eugene H. Schwaier Chautauqua
 Diana R. Schwartz Montgomery
 David A. Simoneit Erie
 William G. Smith Nassau
 Todd M. Terran Monroe
 Erik M. Vickerd Erie
 Elliott S. Wagner Broome
 Ronald F. Warwick, Jr. Broome
 Jason M. Wheeler Rensselaer
 Robert L. Ziemer Erie


Grade 4

Matthew E. Hattorff Suffolk
 Frederick W. Kasper Niagara

Grade 4A

Zainool Ali New York City
 John T. Barry New York City
 Harry F. Bogardus Washington
 Jimmy R. Bolduc Saratoga
 Kenneth L. Bray Fulton
 Tomas Fernandez New York City
 Ian L. James Erie
 Elizabeth A. Kelly Monroe
 Paul J. LaFond, Jr. Schenectady
 Nasir Mahmood New York City
 Kiah Miller New York City
 Peter M. Navas New York City
 Theresa M. Norris New York City
 Robert Rickey New York City
 Anthony Ruggiero New York City
 Matthew Witkowski Rensselaer
 YunJu Xia New York City

Ralph W. Kirschkel Rockland
 Wayne C. LaVair Franklin
 John A. Lawrence Jefferson
 John Lewyta Orange
 David R. Malagisi Fulton
 Thomas Marsh Albany
 Rohitkumar A. Mistry Westchester
 Michael R. Morrell St. Lawrence
 Timothy R. Paciello Oneida
 Alain Petit, Jr. Ulster
 Kenny L. Porter Chautauqua
 Joseph Romano New York City



	%	# of	Average
Grade	Pass	Exams	Score
1	69	13	81
1A	90	10	84
2	40	10	69
2A	37	51	64
3	27	11	67
3A	60	42	63
4	100	2	72
4A	66	29	72

**ABC Exam
 Statistics
 for
 August 30, 2006
 Exam**

**Unknown Liquid
(continued from Page 5)**

Confined Space Checklist

- Do you need to enter the confined space?
- Is the confined space thoroughly emptied of any corrosive or hazardous substances, such as acids or caustics, before entry?
- Are all impellers, agitators or other moving parts and equipment inside confined spaces locked-out if they present a hazard?
- Is either natural or mechanical ventilation provided prior to confined-space entry?
- Are appropriate atmospheric tests performed to check for oxygen deficiency, toxic substances and explosive concentrations in the confined space before entry?
- Is adequate illumination provided for the work to be

performed in the confined space?

- Is the atmosphere inside the confined space frequently tested or continuously monitored during conduct of work?
- Is there an assigned safety standby employee outside of the confined space, when required, whose sole responsibility is to watch the work in progress, sound an alarm if necessary and render assistance?
- Is the standby employee appropriately trained and equipped to handle an emergency?
- Is the standby employee or the other employees prohibited from entering the confined space without lifelines and respiratory equipment if there is any question as to the cause of an emergency?
- Is approved respiratory equipment required if the atmosphere inside the confined space cannot be

made acceptable?

- Is all portable electrical equipment used inside confined spaces either grounded and insulated or equipped with ground fault protection?
- Is each confined space checked for decaying vegetation or animal matter which may produce methane? Is the confined space checked for possible industrial wastewhich could contain toxic properties?
- If the confined space is below the ground and near areas where motor vehicles will be operating, is it possible for vehicle exhaust or carbon monoxide to enter the space?

Source: US Department of Labor,
Occupational Safety & Health

www.osha.gov/SLTC/smallbusiness/chklist.html

Visit FOAS' Website: http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/bwcp/foas_main.html

New York State DEC
Facility Operations Assistance Section
625 Broadway - 4th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-3506

