

Operator Facts

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

TECHNICAL FACTS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATIONS

DEC's Andrew M. Weist Operation & Maintenance Excellence Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to the staff and communities of the Village of Waterville Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) in Oneida County and the Albany County Sewer District South Wastewater Treatment Plant in Albany 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 Waterville WWTF as the winner in the Small Advanced Treatment Category and the Albany County South Plant as the winner in the Large 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.

The award memorializes Andrew M. Weist for his many positive contributions, which enhanced



(L to R), Sandra Allen, Director; NYS Division of Water, presents Thomas Tommell, Chief Operator of the Albany County South Plant; Richard Lyons, Executive Director Albany Sewer District; and Michael Breslin, Albany County Executive with the award.

wastewater treatment plant operations in this state and also at a national level. Andy's efforts played a significant role in improving the quality of our waters. Andy was the section chief of DEC's Facility Operations Assistance Section for 15 years, and worked at DEC for over 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 the extra mile to protect the water quality of this state. This award also recognizes the entire staff at waste-

water treatment facilities for their fine work and dedication to protecting public health, the environment, and the public's investment.

Albany County South Plant staff received their award on July 16 at the wastewater treatment facility. The award was presented by Sandra Allen, Director of the NYSDEC Division of Water.

Highlights from the Albany County award application package included an outstanding laboratory management program and an excellent biosolids management program.

Laboratory staff have been involved in numerous projects impacting community pollution control. Most notable have been the disposal of de-icing wastewater from the Albany County Airport and researching a Beneficial Use Determination (BUD) for ash disposal from their incinerators.

The Albany County South Plant presently processes sewage sludge produced from nearby wastewater treatment facilities. The Albany County Sewer District saw an increase in revenues of \$187,627 or 19% more than 2005 and more than 316% since 1998. By using available excess solids handling capac-

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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.

The bulletin is produced by:
Bureau of Water Compliance,
Joseph DiMura, P.E.
Director, BWC
Phillip T. Smith, P.E., Chief,
FOAS
Robert E. Wither, P.E.,
Editor
Robin Yasinsac-Gillespie,
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.

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Send all correspondence to:
Operator Facts, NYSDEC, 625
Broadway, Albany, New York,
12233-3506, Phone (518) 402-
8089 or Fax (518) 402-8082.
Visit our website at:
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/
8464.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8464.html)



Winter 2007/2008

Protect Your Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure

We all know that we can't live without clean water, but maybe sometimes we take for granted the importance of the infrastructure that makes it happen. Wastewater treatment facilities and their operators are our front line defenders against water pollution and protectors of public health.

Properly treating wastewater comes at a cost. Funding maintenance, making the necessary repairs, and investing in capital improvements will help protect your huge capital investment. Below is a list of ten steps from the flyer entitled, "Ten Steps to Protect Your Wastewater Treatment Infrastructures." Give a copy of this list (or the flyer) to your mayor, town supervisor, and/or sewer board members to make them aware of your wastewater treatment infrastructure needs. After giving them the information, invite them for a tour of your facility.

Ten Steps To Protect Your Wastewater Treatment Infrastructures

Wastewater treatment plants and collection systems play such a critical role in the protection of public health and the environment.

These first line defenders against water pollution also represent a huge capital asset – in New York State alone, over \$11 billion has been invested in wastewater infrastructure! Investing, protecting, and maintaining are the keys to sustaining that infrastructure.

1. Compliance, compliance, compliance!

Make sure you are in compliance with the State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit requirements. Give a copy of regulation 6 NYCRR Part 750 to the Sewer Board Chair and Chief Operator.

2. Revisit your sewer rates.

On a regular basis, preferably annually, review your sewer fees and determine if you are implementing full cost pricing. Forecast realistic operational and maintenance expenses; include funds for sewer department capital reserve and service. Financial sustainability is the key!

3. Build a strong case for a rate increase.

Do your homework and communicate with your operator to determine necessary wastewater infrastructure improvements. Educate the public about the critical service a wastewater treatment plant provides by protecting public health and preserving the environment for future generations.

4. Establish an equipment replacement schedule.

Clearly identify what equipment will need to be replaced and when, and be sure to include major repairs and improvements – like a new roof.

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Weist Awards

ity, these revenues have been used to defray operation and maintenance costs to member communities. Also, the 2006 concrete restoration of the sewage sludge storage tanks, and the 2007 belt filter press upgrade project will be paid for in cash in lieu of financing them.

Staff from the Village of Waterville WWTF received their award on July 31 at the wastewater treatment facility. The award was presented by Steve Botsford, P.E. Regional Water Manager, NYSDEC Region 6, to Louis Langone, Chief Operator of the facility.



Louis Langone, Chief Operator at Waterville WWTF accepts the Small Advanced Category Award from Steve Botsford, NYSDEC Region 6 Water Manager.

Louis Langone and his staff take great pride in the excellent compliance record of the treatment facility, which has not had an effluent violation in over ten years. Highlights from the award package included automated aeration blowers with in-tank dissolved oxygen (D.O.) monitoring, and variable frequency blower drives that provide energy and money savings and better D.O. control.

Facility staff have participated in numerous open houses and tours

of the facility over the years. These open houses and tours provide positive public relations and help promote public awareness. In September of 2003, the Waterville WWTP was the site of the field exercise for NYSDEC's Filament ID and Control Workshop. The workshop was attended by about thirty operators from central New York State.

Mr. Langone reaches out to local middle school classes to participate in tours of the facility. He outlines the treatment processes at the plant and how the facility protects the environment. Having the students come to the plant and see what is involved in treating wastewater helps them understand how important clean water is to everyone.

One of the most outstanding efforts of the staff is in the biosolids management program. The Village of Waterville, under the leadership of a progressive plant operator, superintendent of public works, and with the approval of an understanding village of sewer board, have taken a negative (sludge) and made it a positive (compost). This has been a great public relation tool. The compost operation is second to none and residents of the community are allowed to pick up bags of composted material at the treatment facility for use in their gardening.

Congratulations to the staffs and communities of both of these excellently operated and maintained wastewater treatment facilities. The communities should be proud of their efforts. They are front line protectors of the environment that not only meet effluent discharge limits, but go to the extra effort to excel in their field.

(continued from Page 1)

Past Winners

City of Rome WPCF - 2005
 Town of Riverhead AWTF - 2005
 Village of Minoa - 2004 (tie)
 Village of Lima - 2004 (tie)
 NYCDEP Grand Gorge WWTP - 2003
 Old Forge WWTP - 2003
 Village of Saranac Lake WWTP - 2003
 Chemung Co. Elmira Milton St. Treatment Facility - 2002
 Town of Gorham WWTP - 2001 (tie)
 Greater Atlantic Beach Water Reclamation District - 2001
 Town of Bethlehem WWTP - 2000
 Village of Nunda WWTP - 2000
 Village of Johnsville WWTP - 1999
 Village of Canisteo WWTP - 1999
 City of Hornell WWTP - 1999
 Village of Bath WWTP - 1999
 Erie County SD #3
 (Honorable Mention) 1998
 Oyster Bay SD - 1998
 City of Sherrill WWTP - 1998
 City of Rome WWTP - 1998
 Village of Salamanca WWTP - 1998
 Village of Sherman WWTP - 1998
 Town of Ontario WWTP - 1996
 Town of Webster WWTP - 1996
 Village of Speculator WWTP - 1996

National Award Winners

Village of Lima - 2005
 Old Forge WWTP - 2004
 Town of Gorham - 2001
 Village of Sherman - 2000
 Town of Amherst #16 WWTP - 1997
 Village of Speculator WWTP - 1996
 Albany Co. SD North - 1993

For more information on the award, including how to nominate a facility, contact Gregg Gendron at (518) 402-8096 or you can e-mail Gregg at:
gwgendron@gw.dec.state.ny.us



Renewal, Certification Training & Upcoming Meetings



New York Water
Environment Association
525 Plum Street, Suite 102
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 422-7811
e-mail: mail@nywea.org
www.nywea.org

State Events

80th Annual Meeting
Marriott Marquis, New York City
February 2-6, 2008

Chapter Events

Western Chapter
26th Annual Greater Buffalo
Environmental Conference
March 18, 2008

The results of the September 2007
collection certification examination have been
received. We would like to congratulate
the newly certified collection system op-
erators:

Grade 1
Elia Sierra

Grade 2
James Abraham, Dale Acams,
Robert Cialini, Joseph Condon,
Brian Gotham, Matthew James,
Glenn Kaiser, Eric Lamendola,
George McAvinney,
Jon McConnell, Anthony
Morelli, John Palermo, Michael
Ryman and Jeff Scheuch

Grade 4
James Bouchard, Joseph Saurini
and Robert Tyndall

Upcoming Training

O&M of Wastewater Pump Stations

Date: January 16, 2008
Location: Townley Hall, Wallkill, NY
Cost: \$90
Contact: NEIWPCC @ (978) 323-7929 or
Tim Miller, NYSDEC @ (518) 402-8106,
tjmiller@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Sampling Procedures for WWTP Operators

Date: January 17, 2008
Location: Cobleskill Fire Department,
Cobleskill, NY
Cost: \$90
Contact: NEIWPCC @ (978) 323-7929 or
Tim Miller, NYSDEC @ (518) 402-8106,
tjmiller@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Troubleshooting O&M Prob- lems at Activated Sludge Wastewater Treatment Plants

Date: March 2008
Location: Old Forge, NY
Cost: \$583.47/\$533 Tax Exempt
Contact: Rich Malaczynski, NYSDEC,
(518) 402-8087

Fast Fact

At least 90 million
toilets are flushed
during the Super
Bowl — that's
enough water to flow
over Niagara Falls for
three minutes.

Thanks to Scott Tissue
and Towels and Roto-Rooter
for that tidbit.

Certification Courses

Basic Operations

March 3-14, 2008
Great Lakes Laboratory - Buffalo
(716)878-5422

March 3-14, 2008
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6670

February 7 - April 22, 2008
Ulster Community College
(845)687-5173

Basic Laboratory

January 14-18, 2008
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6670

January 3- February 7, 2008
Ulster Community College
(845)687-5173

Activated Sludge

February 4 - 7, 2008
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6670

Supervision & Technical Operations

January 7 - 11, 2008
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6670

Management Course

April 23 - 25, 2008
Great Lakes Laboratory - Buffalo
(716)878-5422

April 21- 24, 2008
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6670

10 Steps *(continued from Page 3)*

5. Establish a reserve fund - and don't rob the cookie jar.

Federal funding is shrinking, undercapitalization is a reality, and yet, many wastewater treatment systems and equipment are beyond their useful lives, will you adopt an "ostrich mentality," or will you be a visionary?, avoid the pitfall of satisfying short-term priorities by dipping into the reserve fund to cover routine operational expenses.

6. Address maintenance backlogs.

Find out if your plant is suffering from a maintenance backlog and work with your operator to determine a course of corrective action. What will it take to get to the point where you can start thinking "preventive?"

7. Operators need ongoing training.

Don't nickel and dime the staff that are your front line defenders of public health and protectors of a huge capital investment. NYSDEC regulations mandate continuous training.

8. Stop robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Are a politically correct sewer budget and stagnant rates causing you to subsidize the plant from the general fund?

9. Avoid "Not In My Term" syndrome.

Your constituents are looking to you to make things happen, demonstrate leadership, and get results. Public health and environmental quality are important issues to everybody. A well operated, properly maintained, and fiscally sound wastewater system provides the foundation for sustainable development and community growth.

10. Visit the wastewater treatment plant.

Know your operators, and familiarize yourself with the basic operations of the plant.

These steps are from the, Handbook on Wastewater Management for Local Representatives, which is downloadable from www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/33879.html, or you can fax a request for a copy to NYSDEC at: (518)402-8082.

Brown Tide's Success In San Diego



Congratulations to NYWEA's Long Island Chapter whose "Team Brown Tide" placed 2nd overall at the WEFTEC Ops Challenge this October in San Diego. The team consisting of Roy Zimmerman (Captain), Wally Westhoff, Dale Grudier, Janice McGovern, and Marty Vernisie (coach) competed in Division 2 against 29 other teams from across the US and Canada. The team placed in the top 11 in all the events. Pump maintenance (2nd), collections system (4th), laboratory (7th), process control (8th) and safety (11th), which was their recipe for success.

Employment



Wanted: Service Area Mechanic

The New York State Thruway Authority has an opening for a Grade 2 WWTP Operator in the Buffalo Division Facilities at the Clarence/Pembroke Service Areas.

Salary ranges from \$14.47 to \$20.91 per hour plus a generous fringe benefit package.

For more information contact Joseph Bifaro at (716) 631-9017 or fax your resume to: (716) 626-1328.

Wanted: Certified Wastewater Operator

(Grade 3) with current certification and experience needed for municipal and commercial projects in surrounding areas. Full-time and part-time positions. Organizational, computer and communication skills are essential.

Send letter with resume to LVDV, PO Box 610, Cobleskill, NY 12043 or fax to: (518) 234-4613.

Wanted: Certified Wastewater Operator

The Rockland Co. SD#1 seeks a Grade 3 or 3A WWTP Operator for a Shift Operator's position at our 28 mgd RBC plant in Orangeburg.

This permanent, full time position will be filled provisionally, with a starting salary of \$48,086 and full Rockland Co. CSEA level civil service benefits.

Contact Bob Dworkin, Route 340, Orangeburg, NY or you may contact Bob at: (845) 365-6111, or e-mail dworkin@co.rockland.ny.us

Operator Certification Exam Change

Starting January 7, 2008, all wastewater treatment plant operator certification exams (ABC Exam) will be computerized. The exam will be proctored at seven (7) Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) test sites throughout New York State.

With this change, there will no longer be an exam filing deadline. Applicants will be able to schedule their exam, following NYSDEC approval, for Monday-Saturday at 9:00 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. depending on room availability.

Cost of the exam will be (\$85.00). The content of the exam will not change. The computerized exam will still be an ABC exam with 100 multiple choice questions, applicants will still be able to use a nonprogrammable calculator, the exam will still be three (3) hours, and all applicants will be provided with a formula sheet.

FOAS sent a letter to all pending applicants on file (applicants who have not passed the ABC exam). This letter asked the applicant whether they want to take the computerized operator certification exam. All applicants who responded that they want to take the exam received instructions on how to register with AMP on December 1, 2007.

Applicants have been able to register with AMP since December 1, 2007, and the first computerized exam will be available January 7, 2008.

Information for candidates will be available in a Candidate Information Handbook on the FOAS and AMP websites.

If FOAS did not receive a reply to the letter, or the applicant chooses not to take the computer-

ized exam, that application will be removed from the pending file. If you know that you have a pending application on file with FOAS and did not receive this letter, please send a note stating your desire to take the computer-based exam to your FOAS certification contact* at NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, 4th Floor, Albany, NY 12233-3506. Should an applicant change his or her mind and decide to take the computerized exam, they will be required to submit a new complete application to FOAS in Albany and meet the current certification requirements.

To keep apprised of the change to a computerized exam, and revisions to application instructions, forms, and the certification manual, visit our website: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8464.html

*FOAS Certification Contacts

- Region 1 (Nassau and Suffolk counties) - Rich Malaczynski (518)402-8087
- Region 2 (New York City, Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island) - Tim Miller (518)402-8106
- Region 3 (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties) - Gregg Gendron (518)402-8096
- Region 4 (Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Schoharie counties) - Alan Cherubin (518)402-8155

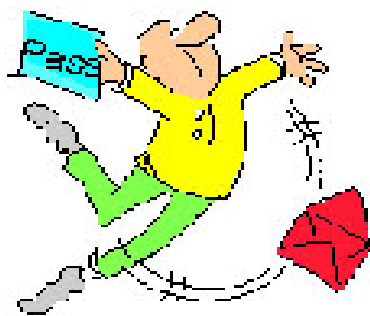
- Region 5 (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties) - Phil Smith (518)402-8092
- Region 6 (Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and St. Lawrence counties) - Alan Cherubin (518)402-8155
- Region 7 (Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga and Tompkins counties) - Rich Malaczynski (518)402-8087
- Region 8 (Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates counties) - Gregg Gendron (518)402-8096
- Region 9 (Allegany, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Niagara and Wyoming counties) - Bob Wither (518)402-8097



Visit the FOAS
website at:
[www.dec.ny.gov.
chemical/8464.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov.chemical/8464.html)

Congratulations

To Our New Certified Operators!



Grade 1

Joseph F. Berghammer Delaware
 Kevin M. Bertram Westchester
 Michael A. Carducci Putnam
 Michael A. Castagliola New York City
 Nicholas W. Chennell Erie
 Marcos R. Fernando New York City
 Michael A. Kerker Oswego
 Wayne H. Knechtel Franklin
 Courtney J. Lia Rockland
 Richard Lombardo Putnam
 Edwin J. Lopez Dutchess
 Martin T. McGuire Greene
 Allen Saheim Saratoga

Grade 1A

Duane L. DesJardins Westchester
 Douglas Fialkoff Westchester
 Kevin E. Novak Westchester
 Matthew B. Sherman Suffolk
 Richard Terry Delaware

Grade 2

David Conti Niagara
 Jeremy D. Marchant Orange
 Martin T. McGannon Westchester
 Stanley P. Noval Ulster
 Nicole M. Pfeister Orange
 William J. Safford Allegany
 William J. Sullivan Steuben

Grade 2A

Frank J. Abato Rockland
 Sammy Andalib New York City
 Andrew K. Bosselman Albany
 Nicola Capozzo Nassau
 Ryan A. Carozza Dutchess
 Matthew J. Crane Wayne
 Daniel T. DeCarolis Nassau
 James J. DePresco Nassau
 Gerhard A. Deist New York City
 Craig F. Falcone Saratoga
 Carl Fasano New York City
 Fred Fuchs Columbia
 Thomas M. Gwilym New York City
 Daniel J. Heneka Jefferson
 Keith J. Herbert Sullivan
 Nancy G. Hoffman Sullivan
 Barry L. Leatherman Essex
 Tay Shine Mao New York City
 Jason W. Morley Madison
 Ernest Muller III Nassau
 David F. Niles Oneida
 James B. O'Connor Rockland
 Jason A. Ortiz New York City
 Richard Reynolds St. Lawrence
 Herbert Roberts Columbia
 Trent S. Russell Jr. Washington
 Charles T. Testa Nassau

Grade 3A

Edward W Balicki Dutchess
 John R Brooks New York City
 Allen T. Connelly Monroe
 Matthew G. Coppola Oneida
 Jason N. Craig Delaware
 Edward G. Davis Greene
 Lawrence Donnelly Chautauqua
 Jay J. Heidelberg New York City
 Paul A. Kiskorna New York City
 Dennis J. Lage New York City
 David D. Lewis Franklin
 Vincent M. Maggio Dutchess
 Paul Mancini New York City
 Anthony V. Marchesano NYC
 Peter M. Monico New York City
 Keith M. Moree Ulster
 John T. Mulligan Suffolk
 Theodore S. Paner Jr. Erie
 Robert L. Payne Delaware
 John S. Peckham Monroe
 Samy N. Phlamon New York City
 Paul V. Reinig Nassau
 William A. Sadler Monroe
 Joseph Wahlgren Erie

Grade 4

William DeFazio Oneida

Grade 4A

Dale W. Grudier Jr. Suffolk
 Carl J. Kilgore Tompkins
 William E. Sedutto New York City

Grade 2A Continued

Peter M. Thomas St. Lawrence
 Velibor Trakilovic New York City
 Joseph M. Tullo Suffolk
 Patrick S. Tyndall Putnam
 Jason Wayman Greene

Grade 3

Edward Alexander Orange
 Scott C. Folts Otsego
 Robert S. May Orange
 Steven D. Rodland Genesee
 Brett A. Smetanka Chemung



ABC Exam

Statistics for February 28, 2007 Exam

Grade	# Pass	# of Exams	Avg. Score
1	13	24	70
1A	5	7	82
2	7	14	73
2A	32	62	68
3	5	14	67
3A	24	52	70
4	1	2	68
4A	3	20	61

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

DEC Publishes Wastewater Management Handbook

NYSDEC with assistance from USEPA Region 2, Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University, and the New York Water Environment Association have published a *Handbook on Wastewater Management for Local Representatives*. This handbook is designed to be a reference tool for local officials, public administrators, and managers. In addition to describing basic wastewater treatment operations, the handbook discusses the strategies to ensure compliance, funding, adequate training, and public education. This reference will also help public officials familiarize themselves with financial management tools, loan and grant assistance, as well as learn about capital

improvement planning to enhance long term economic viability.

The handbook is broken into sections that discuss important topics and subjects that will provide public officials with the basic information needed to understand how wastewater treatment plants operate.

Handbook sections include the Introduction to Wastewater Management, Sustainable Financing, State and Federal Funding Options, Regulatory Overview and Legal Responsibilities, Public Relations, and Useful Contacts and Additional Resources.

The Handbook is downloadable from www.nywea.org, click on "Wastewater Handbook" or www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/33879.html Request a paper copy



by faxing your request to 518-402-8082.

EPA Website for Small Communities

On September 19, 2007, USEPA launched a new website to help small communities achieve and maintain sustainable wastewater services. This new site provides information about grants, funding resources, technical assistance and training. A variety of tools are also available to help small communities plan, design, build, and maintain their wastewater infrastructure. Visit the Wastewater in Small Communities website at: www.epa.gov/owm/mab/smcomm/

Visit FOAS' Website:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8464.html>

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

