

Operator Facts

TECHNICAL FACTS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATIONS

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Operator Pays the Price

Steve Noyes, a contract operator for numerous facilities, pleaded guilty to four penal law violations and one Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) violation. Noyes, chief operator for the Town of Niskayuna Wastewater Treatment Plant, ran an outside contract operations business.

When one facility was not operating correctly and generated odor complaints, an investigation was launched. The investigation identified that the broad geographical distribution of all the contract facilities Noyes was operating would prohibit him from obtaining the required laboratory samples for analysis.

Assistant Attorney General Rocky Piaggione stated, "For him to be in Niskayuna on time and be in all these places is next to impossible." It was not believed that any falsification of records occurred at Niskayuna and the Town Supervisor characterized Noyes as a valuable employee who operated that facility well.

He was fined \$25,000, will surrender his operator's license within 60 days and will never operate anywhere in New York State again, according to the sentence, which did not include jail time.

In accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Part 650 Regulations, **§650.10 Suspension or revocation of certificates:**

Upon notice and opportunity for hearing, the department may suspend or revoke a certificate of an operator on grounds including but not limited to the following:

- (a) the certificate was issued erroneously or by mistake; or
- (b) the operator obtained the certificate through fraud, deceit, or through the submission of incorrect data on his/her application; or
- (c) the operator was negligent, or practiced fraud or deceit, in the performance of his/her duties.

Operators or applicants must be mindful of the legal ramifications of filing false business instruments or information as the penalties can be severe.

Future ABC Exam Dates

Applications for ABC exams must be postmarked by the filing deadline. This includes new applications and those retaking the exam. The cost is \$35.00. Applicants who miss the deadline will be scheduled for the next exam.

Exam Date	Filing Deadline
August 31, 2005	July 20, 2005
February 22, 2006	January 11, 2006
August 30, 2006	July 19, 2006

Summary Since 1994

In August 1994 the "Qualifications of Operators of Wastewater Treatment Plants" (Part 650) were modified to allow New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to suspend or revoke wastewater treatment plant operator certificates. Part 650.10 allows DEC to revoke or suspend an operator's certificate.

Since the new regulation took affect six (6) operators have had their certificates suspended, 17 operators have had their certificates revoked and three (3) operators have not been allowed to sit for the certification exam. Along with the suspensions and revocations more than \$35,000 has been paid in fines.

Spring Issue
2005

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:

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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, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York, 12233-3506, Phone (518) 402-8089 or Fax (518) 402-8082. Visit our website at: http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/bwcp/foas_main.html



Spring 2005

Coarse Monomedia Filtration

New filter material may save energy and money!

Coarse Monomedia Filtration (CMF) is a manufactured filter material with a specific size that enhances solids removal particularly in wet weather events. A pilot study was performed at the Tonawanda Wastewater Treatment Plant. The study indicates that Tonawanda was able to reduce their effluent suspended solids by 50% or more during increasing flows to the plant.

CMF proved to be superior to mixed media by driving solids deeper into the filter bed depth, eliminating the surface ponding and void space blockage characteristic of conventional filters. Benefits include: reduced frequency of backwashing; less pump usage and energy usage; and enhanced wet-weather treat-

ment capacity.

A special offer by R&D Engineering, Inc. and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) will evaluate your facility and provide an engineering feasibility study of your plant at no cost to you.

To find out more about this new, exciting technology, the pilot study and the special offer, contact Mr. Daniel L. Bentivogli at,

R&D Engineering, Inc.
268 Main Street, Suite 600
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: (716) 856-2142
Fax: (716) 856-2160
or toll free
(800) 724-4414

Certified Operators...

Join the list serve group

Certified wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) operators can subscribe to an email list to get training notices, notification of the online availability of the quarterly newsletter (*Operator Facts*), and the bi-monthly *What's Going on in Wastewater in DEC?*

To subscribe, you should go to: <http://lists.dec.state.ny.us/mailman/listinfo/wwtpcertifiedoperators>

You will need to provide your email address. Please include your operator certification number instead of your name. You will receive confirmation regarding your subscription via email.

Emergency Responder Catalog

The Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) offers emergency response training in Montour Falls, Peekskill, and satellite locations through the state.

Some of the topics are: emergency medical service; hazardous

material; health and safety; and confined space issues.

Many of the training programs are approved for renewal contact hours.

To obtain a catalog, contact OFPC at (518) 474-3240 or fire@dos.state.ny.us

Do you know that all SSOs must be reported to your regional DEC office within 24 hours, and in some cases, within 2 hours?

It's true! The new 750 regs (6 NYCRR Part 750, effective May 11, 2003) require that, with the exception of basement backups, all sanitary sewer overflows - regardless of volume - must be reported to your regional DEC office within 24 hours.

If the overflow results in a fish kill, DEC must be contacted within *two hours*. And, if the overflow is enough to close a bathing beach, impact a public drinking water intake, results in a fishing or shellfishing ban, or occurs within a protected watershed, DEC and DOH must be contacted within *two hours*!

Why should you have a Sewer Overflow Response Plan ?

A written, DEC approved Sewer Overflow Response Plan (SORP) can be an integral part of your community's sanitary sewer Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) program. Although SORPs are not a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit requirement, having a document on the shelf which summarizes response procedures, from the first report of an overflow to final clean up, can help ensure an efficient response, minimizing enforcement actions. Reporting requirements and important notification phone numbers can also be listed in the SORP. In the

case of a large overflow or discharge to a sensitive water body, having media notification procedures in place and summarized in writing may also be helpful.

How to Prepare a Sewer Overflow Response Plan

Here is a suggested outline to use in writing a SORP ⁽¹⁾.

1. Authority

This is typically the SPDES permit, but could also be local codes or enforcement actions.

2. Objectives

The primary objective is to protect public health and the environment, but the plan will also help to satisfy regulatory requirements, comply with SPDES permits, and therefore minimize enforcement actions.

3. Response Procedures

This is the nuts and bolts of the report, and should include the routine procedures that nearly all municipalities will follow, such as how to receive and process information when an overflow is first reported. Your municipality may even include site specific response procedures. Specific procedural details should be provided on crew dispatch, overflow correction, containment and clean up, as well as follow up with citizens as necessary to provide good

customer satisfaction. The required DEC overflow reporting should also be clearly spelled out in this section.

4. Public Advisory Procedure

This section describes the actions that the municipality, in cooperation with DEC and/or local health units, will take in limiting public access to impacted areas, typically by posting signs.

5. Regulatory Agency Notification Plan

This section provides the formal procedures that the municipality will follow to notify the DEC and/or local health units. During working hours, you should call your Regional Water Engineer in DEC's regional office. After hours, you should call DEC's spill hotline at (800) 457-7362.

6. Media Notification

Depending upon the severity of the overflow impacts, it may be prudent to notify the media. This section provides the information on notifying the media, including who makes the decision, what information they will require to make the decision, and who is designated as a media spokesperson. These steps may include staff outside the DPW, such as a public information official, or mayor.

(continued on Page 4)

RENEWAL TRAINING & UPCOMING MEETINGS



News and Events

NYWEA, Inc.
126 North Salina Street - Suite 200
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 422-7811
<http://www.nywea.org>

National Events

WEFTEC

October 30-November 2, 2005
Washington, DC

If you've never attended a WEFTEC meeting, this is as close as it will get to New York. Acres of exhibits offer information on new equipment and cutting edge plant O&M issues.

State Events

78th Annual Meeting
February 5-8, 2006
Marriott Marquis, NYC

Genesee Chapter

Fall Meeting and Steak Roast
September 16, 2005
Conesus Sportsman Club

Chapter Meeting

December 16, 2005
DiPacifics Restaurant
Farmington

Lower Hudson Chapter

7th Annual Conference on
Watershed Protection
September 21-22, 2005
Fishkill

Technical Conference
November 16, 2005
IBM Watson Center
Yorktown Heights



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

SSO Reports
(continued from Page 3)

7. Distribution and Maintenance of SORP

To be useful, the SORP must contain accurate, up-to-date contact information across several local municipal departments and state agencies. It is recommended that changes be made legibly by hand, and a typed update be distributed following an annual, thorough review of policies and procedures. Consideration should be given to having a laminated summary available in the vehicle glove boxes.

A sample SORP will be posted at http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/bwcp/ww_training.html

For more information, contact:
Erica B. Cruden, P.E.
NYSDEC - Albany
(518) 402-8171
ebcruden@gw.dec.state.ny.us

(1) "Preparing Sewer Overflow Response Plans: A Guidebook for Local Governments," American Public Works Association, 1999.

Looking for Some Training?

Hazards and PPE at Wastewater and Water Plants

Location: Little Falls - October 4, 2005
Fishkill - October 5, 2005
Windham - October 6, 2005
Cost: \$50 (member)
\$100 (non-member)
Contact: NYWEA 315-422-7811

October 17-20, 2005 NYCOM's Public Works Training School

Location: Alexandria Bay
Cost: Meeting Registration \$195
Contact: Donna Giliberto 518-463-1185 or donna@nycom.org

Employment



Chief Operator at Montgomery County Sewer District. Current Grade 3A level of Certification required.

For more information call (518) 993-4474.

Aerotek is looking for an entry-level Wastewater Operator for an industrial treatment plant in the Albany area.

Candidates must have a New York State grade 3 or higher industrial license.

Contact Justin P. Pucci at (585) 350-2712 or email jpucci@aerotek.com

New Sacramento Management Manual

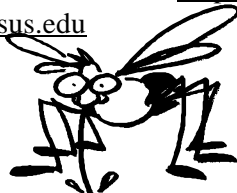
Ok'd for Renewal and Grade 3 Supervision Requirement

The Office of Water Programs (OWP) at California State University at Sacramento recently announced that home-study course *Manage For Success* (2005) is now available. The course is pre-approved for 45 contact hours for certification renewal. It is also approved for satisfying the supervision part of the Grade 3 Supervision and Technical Operations Course requirement.

In addition to this home-study option, you still need to complete the one-day "Technical Operation Module." *Manage for Success* will be the reference manual for all Grade 3 and Grade 4 training courses.

The course *Utility Management*, is still available. However, in the future, it will not be approved for the Grade 3 *Supervision and Technical Operation Course*. The August 31, 2005 ABC Exam is the last exam where the course will be allowed. *Utility Management* is now only approved for 20 contact hours for renewal.

For more information, contact OWP at: (916) 278-6142 or visit OWP's website at: <http://www.owp.csus.edu>



New Five Year Strategic Training Plan

In April, the Bureau of Water Compliance Programs (BWCP) kicked off the Comprehensive Five-Year Strategic Training Plan for WWTP Operators and Inspectors that will provide for delivery of 25 to 30 seminars and workshops each year to professionals in the wastewater field. Topics on DEC wastewater infrastructure; and collection systems will be covered.

Over the last decade, BWCP has reached out to 10,000 professionals with this kind of training represented. NYRWA and NYWEA were on the Training Needs Committee and our key players for the training delivery.

For a copy of the new plan, contact DEC's Bob Wither at (518) 402-8097 or email Bob at: rewither@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Online Wastewater Courses

The Mid-Hudson Health and Safety Institute at SUNY Ulster offers a variety of wastewater courses online that are pre-approved for renewal contact hours.

On-line courses include *Wastewater Treatment I and II* (acceptable for Grade 1 and 1A), *Collection Systems, Wastewater Analysis, and Industrial Waste Treatment*.

The courses are based upon CSU Sacramento manuals. The website is: ceinfo@sunyulster.edu

Certification Courses

Basic Operations

Fall Semester 2005
Corning Community College
(607)962-9457

September 12-23, 2005
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6082

September 12-23, 2005
Great Lakes Laboratory - Buffalo
(716)878-5422

Basic Laboratory

June 20-24, 2005
October 3-7, 2005
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6082

August 29-September 2, 2005
Great Lakes Laboratory - Buffalo
(716)878-5422

Activated Sludge

October 31-November 3, 2005
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6082

Supervision and Technical Operations Course

June 6-10, 2005
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6082

October 17-21, 2005
Great Lakes Laboratory - Buffalo
(716)878-5422

Management Course

October 17-20, 2005
SUNY at Morrisville
(315)684-6082

November 2-4, 2005
Great Lakes Laboratory - Buffalo
(716)878-5422

Congratulations

To Our New Certified Operators!



Grade 1

Fatai Adegbenro	New York City
Anthony E. Aloï	Cattaraugus
Gary R. Benson	Putnam
LaToya Booker	Westchester
Timothy P. Brown	Putnam
Stephen L. Castner	Yates
Shameer Daimally	New York City
Thomas C. Daprile	Livingston
Andrew A. DeMicco	New York City
Gladstone D. Facey	New York City
Joseph Ferrante	New York City
Jeff Florio	Westchester
Amin Ghaly	New York City
Jerry N. Gydesen	Lewis
Ramdeo Hansraj	New York City
Nathan J. Jacques	Essex
Victor J. Jotso	Westchester
Chanderpaul Kemraj	New York City
Jason Malone	New York City
John McNulty	Westchester
Melvyn D. Newton	New York City
Thomas A. Pensabene	New York City
Andrew Perpero	New York City
Matthew R. Saltern	Oneida
Abel E. Sanchez	New York City
Dennis G. Sclavounos	Westchester
Malak Shafik	New York City
Anthony Smith	New York City
Darin B. Thomas	New York City
George Wilkie	New York City

Grade 1A

Clifford Albright	Columbia
Robert J. Crisdell	Nassau
Jack A. Diagostino	St. Lawrence
Joseph J. Levison	St. Lawrence
Steve Mailhot	St. Lawrence
Edward S. Poole	Cortland

Grade 2

Eric M. Albano	Delaware
Steven P. Bernard	Wyoming
Michael Booher	Suffolk
William F. Duffy	Dutchess
James T. Erwin	Livingston
Erin M. Harrison	Orange
James L. Hodges	Livingston
Douglas G. Hoover	Niagara
Christopher T. Kelly	Nassau
Gerald C. Locey	Wayne
Vincent A. Maggiore	Ulster
Gerald R. Malone	Nassau
Joseph A. Menniti Jr.	Nassau
Adam J. Paukovich	Columbia

Jose Santiago Pierna	Nassau
David J. Ragan	St. Lawrence
Stephen Scerra	Putnam
Arthur J. Smith	Niagara
Stephen A. Smith	Niagara
Leonard G. Veale	Ulster
Richard A. Widman	Ontario

Grade 2A

Richard Artz	Jefferson
Jeffrey A. Barkley	Oswego
Gary Buttacavoli	Westchester
Frank R. Cartagena	Out Of State
Mark A. Cole	Steuben
Douglas J. Dillabough	St. Lawrence
Stephen G. Dulmage	Jefferson
Martin Eckenrode	Erie
Alan J. Fleming Jr.	Jefferson
Stefanis Hatjstefanis	New York City
Patrick J. Higgins	Madison
John Johnson	New York City
Mark Jones	Oswego
Michael R. Meano	Out Of State
Lloyd O'Donoghue	New York City
Doug L. Pfeiffer	Cattaraugus
Gregory R. Phillips	Putnam
Samy Phlamon	New York City
Louis Pisano	Suffolk
Mark S. Rice	Montgomery
Michael J. Rogers	Oneida
Ricardo Romano	Albany
Richard A. Ryder	Suffolk
Terry Shafer	Delaware
Albert A. Shepherd	Oneida
Joseph P. Warner	Erie
Melinda A. Wiegandt	St. Lawrence

Grade 3

Christopher Rose Ulster

Grade 3A

Mohammad N. Ahsan	New York City
Robert J. Bergen	Montgomery
Patrick Brady	Orange
James E. Brarens	Steuben
Timothy C. Costello	Warren
Mark P. Fuller	Out Of State
John A. Hefty	Out Of State
Robert M. Henninger	St. Lawrence
Mark A. Lagana	Erie
Kevin Russell	Out Of State

Grade 4A

Timothy Allen	Suffolk
Diane P. Barrowman	Westchester
Louis W. DiLoreto, Jr.	Westchester
Steven J. Moltz	New York City
Kevin W. Pratt	Essex
Wayne W. Swindon	Cortland
Ed Treml Gottlieb	Seneca

ABC Exam Statistics

for
February 23, 2005
Exam



	%	# of	Average
Grade	Pass	Exams	Score
1	55	55	67
1A	100	6	86
2	81	26	76
2A	79	33	75
3	13	8	62
3A	26	34	63
4	0	1	62
4A	47	15	69

Some PESH/OSHA Regulations for WWTP's

The NYS Department of Labor's Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH) bureau oversees workplace protection of public employees at the state and local level.

Protection guidelines are determined by standards set by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The PESH inspectors go to wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) to ensure the standards are met.

PESH provides a free on-site consultation service to identify safety issues and recommend corrections. For further information, contact one of the following PESH District Offices:

Albany

518-457-5508

Binghamton

607-721-8211

Buffalo

716-847-7133

Nassau & Suffolk

516-228-3970

New York City

212-352-6087

Rochester

716-258-4570

Syracuse

315-479-3212

Utica

315-793-2258

White Plains

914-997-9514

More Wastewater Panels for Local Representatives Planned

Continuing the successful outreach effort from last year, the USEPA, Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University has scheduled the first in a series of four training sessions for mayors, town supervisors, clerks, sewer board members and other officials that oversee wastewater infrastructures.

The focus is on educating these non-operational staff on wastewater management fundamentals, the importance of wastewater treatment, and financial issues e.g. Capital Reserves. BWCP wants operators and elected officials to attend together!

These sessions are a collaborative effort with NY Rural Water Association (NYRWA), NY Wa-

ter Environment Association (NYWEA), and DEC.

Dates and locations are:

Panels on Wastewater for Local Officials

July 18th (Basic)

July 19th (Advanced)

Public Management and Finance Program (PMFP)

July 19-21, 2005

The above sessions will be held at the Peek N' Peak Resort in Findley Lake (near the PA border).

For more information, contact Mary Ellen Gilbert at (315) 443-1979 or visit their website at: www.maxwell.syr.edu/efc

Emergency Management and Response

Every year emergencies take their toll on utilities and industries. Various events can generate an emergency including: fire, flood, hurricane, winter storm, hazardous material incident, etc.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed a stop-by-step guide to create and maintain a comprehensive emergency management program entitled *Emergency Management Guide for Business and Industry*. This 80-page document is organized as comprehensive emergency management program. The document is organized as follows:

Section 1 - The Steps in the Planning Process

Section 2 - Emergency Management Considerations

Section 3 - Hazard - Specific Information

Section 4 - Information Sources

Utilities and industries have a moral responsibility to protect employees, comply with various regulations, minimize loss of services and possible damage to equipment, and reduce exposure to civil or criminal liability, which may also reduce insurance premiums.

For a copy of the guide, call FEMA at 202-566-1600 or download the document from www.fema.gov/library/bizindex.shtm

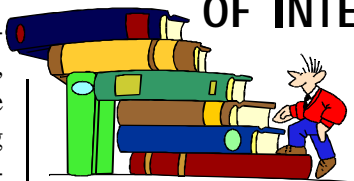
Oregon's Fats, Oils, and Grease Manual

Produced for the Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies, this manual is written to provide municipal pretreatment staff, along with restaurant and fast food business managers and owners, with information about animal-and-vegetable-based oil and grease pollution-prevention techniques that are focused on their businesses. These techniques are effective in both reducing maintenance costs for business owners and preventing oil and grease discharges to the sewer system.

Entitled *Fats, Oil and Grease - Best Management Practices Manual* includes:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Best Management Practices (BMP)

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



- Haulers and Recyclers
- Prohibitions
- Maintenance
- How It Works
- Compliance Inspection and Installation Checklists
- Brochure for Restaurant Managers and Owners

For more information or to download the manual contact Heather Lough at (503) 244-7005.

Fixed Film and Lagoon Troubleshooting Guide Posters

Three excellent and inexpensive posters are available from the National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC). The posters are set up with various observations, probable causes, what to check or monitor, and solutions.

To order:

- Troubleshooting Guide for Rotating Biological Contactors, Item # TRPSOM09, \$2.15 each.
- Troubleshooting Guide for Trickling Filters, Item # TRPSOM15, \$2.60 each.
- Troubleshooting Guide for Lagoons, Item # TRPSOM08, \$3.05 each.

The posters can be ordered from: NETCSC (West Virginia University) at (800) 624-8301 or on the web at: www.netc.wvu.edu

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
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