



CERTIFICATION NEWS



Volume 1, Issue 2

July 2002

Progress on Eliminating the Grade V Certification Exam

The elimination of the Grade V exam was discussed by the certification board at all four meetings this past year.

Some of the items discussed were: What was the original intent of the Grade V? Do we need V Grade levels in the State of Nevada? Why would a large facility or the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection require a Grade V license? Is the Grade IV exam comprehensive enough to cover all qualifications needed to operate the largest facility's in Nevada?

Also discussed was the fact that most other states only have four grades which creates a problem for high-level operators moving to Nevada. For example, a Grade IV operator from Indianapolis, Indiana who has been operating the Indianapolis wastewater treatment plant would not "qualify" for employment at the City of Las Vegas plant without taking and passing the Grade V exam.

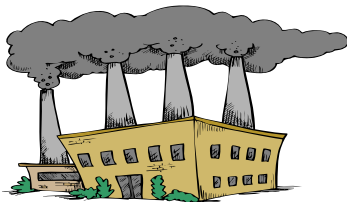
After many hours of discussion, the Certification Board voted to eliminate the Grade V exam; however, op-

erators that currently possess a Grade V license will keep it as long as they renew it every two years.

Before the Grade V exam can be eliminated, the NAC regulations will have to be changed. The NDEP has held workshops and will present the regulation changes to the Environmental Commission on September 11, 2002.

The final date for taking the Grade V Wastewater exam could be October 2002. This will depend on the timing and results of the NAC regulation changes.

Don Richey Retires From The Certification Board after serving for more than 10 years. Don was employed by the Incline Village General Improvement District for 28 years. His contributions to the Certification Board throughout the years were numerous. We wish Don a Happy and Joyful retirement and we will miss his presence on the Certification Board. The NWEA Executive Board voted on a replacement. We welcome Harvey Johnson to the Board.



Industrial Waste Exam Changes

The Industrial Waste Inspector exams have come under scrutiny in the past couple of years. Several persons taking the exam noticed quite a few duplicate questions and some other problems. Don Richey looked into this matter and

solicited for ideas from Industrial Waste Inspectors throughout the state.

John Solvie from the City of Las Vegas volunteered to help the board with revamping the Industrial Waste exams. John was the only person in Nevada that held a Grade IV Industrial Waste Certificate so that he could analyze all four

grades. John obtained the pool of questions from ABC and decided on which questions best fit our program. The exams seemed to have quite a few Operator type questions instead of Industrial Waste Inspector questions. The Certification Board would like to thank John Solvie for his hard work and dedication.

Wastewater Operator Test Questions

Grade I

1. A pump's seal water should be set at what pressure?
 - a. 112 to 113 psi below the pump the operating discharge pressure.
 - b. At the same pressure as the pump operating discharge pressure.
 - c. 1 to 2 psi more than the pump operating pressure.
 - d. 5 to 10 psi more than the pump operating pressure

Grade II

2. An operator conducts a plant check and the secondary effluent is very turbid. Which is the best item to check ?
 - a. Do not take action because everything is ok
 - b. Reduce the sodium hypochlorite feed
 - c. Check the dissolved oxygen level in the aeration tanks
 - d. Remove a primary sedimentation tank from service.

Grade III

3. The activated sludge condition characterized by weak , small floc, low SVI , turbid supernatant and the absence of filamentous organisms is called?
 - a. Denitrification
 - b. Nitrification
 - c. Severe Sludge bulking
 - d. Pinfloc

Grade IV

4. What is the organic loading to an anaerobic digester , given the following information:

Digester Volume = 50,000 ft

Feed Sludge:

volume = 8,000 lb/day

% TS = 4.5%

% VS = 74%

Grade V

5. Which of the following characteristics describe a good manager?
 - a. Apathetic, moody, authoritarian
 - b. Provides work resources , respectful of upper management, micro-manages
 - c. Has integrity, Industrious, Gets along with people.
 - d. Control Finances, gets involved with the process, yells at employees when mistakes are made.

(Answers are on page 4)

Wastewater Quality Analyst Section



Written By: Angela Rosenblatt

The Nevada Water Environment Association issues wastewater quality analyst certifications for the state of Nevada. Wastewater quality analyst certification can prove to be valuable to many wastewater professionals. Most laboratory positions in the wastewater plants of Nevada require their analysts to procure some level of certification. Additionally since wastewater plant operators are often required to perform and be familiar with laboratory analyses, wastewater quality analyst certification may also be a useful means to demonstrate their abilities. This also demon-

strates to the public that there are standard criteria that validates the knowledge of the wastewater professional. Certification also encourages learning as advanced certification may be used to aid in promotional opportunities, thereby ensuring that analysts are furthering their knowledge and becoming more valuable employees.

Each qualified person is required to take a written examination based upon the level of certification sought. The exams include topics such as water quality chemistry and microbiology, plant operations, record keeping, quality assurance and safety.

There are four grades of certifica-

tion that a wastewater quality analyst can obtain. A high school diploma or GED and 6 CEU's are minimally required for all four grades. In addition, one year of full time experience is also required to apply for a Grade I certification. A Grade II applicant must be in possession of Grade I Water Quality Analyst certificate and have 2 years full time experience. A Grade III applicant must be in possession of a Grade II Water Quality Analyst certificate and have 3 years full time experience. The Grade IV applicant must be in possession of a Grade III Water Quality Analyst certificate and have 4 years full time experience.



NEW!
Check out the NWEA website NVWEA.ORG for more certification information

Check out the Certification link on NVWEA.ORG!!! We now have certification brochures, test and renewal applications, Plus more!

Certification Board

Chairman

Steve Cottrell (702) 293-4134

Vice Chairman

Starlin Jones (775) 861-4104

Program Administrator

Leo Drozdoff (775) 687-4670
ext 3142

Vice Program Administrator

Dianne West (702) 433-1498

Board Members

Vacant Position

Pete Rozis (775) 289-2150

Bill Shepherd (702) 450-4417

Tim Smith (702) 565-2048

CERTIFICATION CALENDAR

EXAMINATION

July 11, 2002

August 22, 2002
September 10, 2002
September 24, 2002
October 9, 2002

EXAMINATION

Notification of pass or fail
Application deadline for Oct. exam
Test approval/denial notification
July certificates mailed

October 10, 2002

November 21, 2002
December 08, 2002
December 23, 2002
January 08, 2003

Notification of pass or fail
Application deadline for Jan. exam
Test approval/denial notification
October certificates mailed

January 09, 2003

February 20, 2003
March 10, 2003
March 24, 2003
April 09, 2003

Notification of pass or fail
Application deadline for April exam
Test approval/denial notification
January certificates mailed

Certification Fees

Make checks payable to NWEA. Mail checks, correspondence, applications and renewals to the **Certification Board, P.O. Box 50229, Henderson NV 89016-0229**

Renewals \$30

Renewal notices are mailed 30 days before expiration; please call the Hotline if you don't receive one; fee extends certification for two-year period

Examinations \$60

Proctored in Las Vegas, Reno, and Ely on the second Thursday of January, April July, and October; application deadline is 30 days prior to exam date

Reciprocity \$75

Be sure to include a copy of your certificate that clearly shows the expiration date

Operator-in-Training \$60

Valid for two years and renewable after that. Includes cost of Grade I exam. Converts to Grade I with proof of one year's experience.

Replacement Certificate \$20

2001	Grade	No. of	%
Waste-water Treatment Operator	I	27	74.1
	II	26	69.2
	III	32	43.8
	IV	31	29.0
	V	13	53.8
Total		129	52.7
Lab Analyst	1	0	0
	2	3	33
	3	1	100
	4	1	0
Total		5	40
Industrial Waste Inspector	1	4	100
	2	3	0
	3	0	0
	4	4	25
Total		11	72.7



HOTLINE

(702) 433-1498

The Hotline is an answering machine. Messages are retrieved in the evenings and weekends only. We're sorry but it's not possible to immediately return calls.

The Hotline is also able to receive faxes at the same number.

ADDRESS

All correspondence for the Certification Board should be sent to P.O. Box 50229, Henderson NV 89016-0229

Certified Mail

The Certification Board uses a Post Office box to receive mail. Since mail is usually picked up from the box after normal working hours Certified Mail cannot be claimed until the next working day. This often results in a delay of

several days in processing items that are sent "Certified". Normally, standard mail with a good return address on it will suffice in sending something to the Board. If you want confirmation that your mail arrived send it Priority Mail - With Delivery Confirmation. Delivery Confirmation is not Proof of Delivery. If you have to have that, then you must send it Certified.

Nevada Water Environment Assoc., Inc.
 Certification Board
 5740 S Eastern Ste 120
 Las Vegas NV 89119-3049

Return Service Requested

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The Blue Brochure Will Have a New Look

Thanks to Tim Smith the blue brochure that explains how to become a certified operator in the State of Nevada will have a new look this year. The revised 2002 blue brochure has been modified to be much more user friendly. This will hopefully eliminate questions that come up repeatedly about operator certifi-

cation. On October 03, 2001, the board had a meeting and discussed every detail of the blue brochure. We found that some of the information was confusing or just vague. Once the NAC Chapter 445 regulations have been changed regarding the elimination of the Grade V test, the new revised blue brochure

will be available. The brochure will be available on the new Web-site as well as in a hard copy form.

The laboratory analyst and industrial Waste Brochures have also been revised and will be easier to use. These new brochures will also be available at end of summer of 2002

(Answers to test questions on page 2)

1. D
2. C
3. D
4. = 0.11 lb VS/ft³/day
5. C

(Explanation to Math Question #4)

$$\text{Organic Loading} = \frac{\text{lb raw sludge/day} \times \% \text{ Volatile Content}}{\text{Available Digester Volume}} = \frac{8000 \text{ lbs/day} \times 0.74}{50,000 \text{ ft}^3}$$

Congratulations to the following people who have passed the January and April 2002 certification exams for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, Wastewater Quality Analyst, or Industrial Waste Inspector

<u>WWTP Operator</u>	Noel Huber	Richard Gisler	Jeffrey Noller
<u>Grade I</u>	Michael Haddenham	Millard Paterson	<u>Reciprocity</u>
Christopher Baker	Robert Matys	Lloyd Reardon	Cortez Swanigan
Kyle Burton	Joe Miller	<u>Grade V</u>	
Jacquelyn Edwards	Merlin Taylor	Gary Hutchinson	
Casey Kelly	<u>Grade III</u>	Phillip Sanders	
Stephen Gustafson	Joe Fontaine	<u>Industrial Waste I</u>	
Raymond Johnson	Raymond Wheeler	<u>Grade 2</u>	
Mark Madsen	Randy Owen	Darin Swartzlander	
David Musselman	Richard Deelstra	<u>Quality Analyst I</u>	
Eric Sautter	Randolph Gray	Kent Loader	
Timothy Sheets	Kenneth Johnson	Raul Naranjo	
James Walker	Paul Winn	Charles Trushel	
Ray Williams	<u>Grade IV</u>	<u>Quality Analyst III</u>	
Dale Wooters	Fredrick Howard	Danuta LaRance	
<u>Grade II</u>	Mark Clarkson	<u>Quality Analyst IV</u>	