

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Conference Call Minutes
January 11, 2008**

Board Members Present

John Brutz, Chairman
Nicki Kasi
Michael Kyle
Mary McElhinny
John Schombert
William Ross
Judy Rivera, Legal Counsel
Cheri Sansoni, Board Secretary

Board Members Not Present

Matthew Higgins

Non Board Members Present

Roberta Radel, BWSFR
Dawn Becker, BWSFR

John Brutz called the meeting of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators to order at 10:15 AM.

Approval of December 14, 2007 Minutes

Mike Kyle suggested the following changes to the minutes as follows: Add "vote was unanimous after motion carried under 2008 Exam Schedule" on page 3 and add "vote was unanimous after motion carried under Act 11 on page 4." John Schombert motioned to approve the December 14, 2007 minutes with the above changes. Mary McElhinny seconded. The vote was unanimous and motion carried.

New Applications and Upgrade Requests

The new and upgrade applications were presented to the Board for approval. Cheri Sansoni stated new IT staff have been hired and assigned to resolve the eFACTS experience requirement issue. The Evaluation Report Header Definitions have been revised under the header LIC. Cheri Sansoni added that this definition means the operator took a general exam at different time with a different authorization. Nicki Kasi made a motion to approve all new and upgrade certificates. Mike Kyle seconded. The vote was unanimous and motion carried.

Denials of Applications for Certification Renewal

The following renewal applications were denied due to not enough continuing education within their renewal cycle:

Expired: September 30, 2007

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Hours</u>
James Gunning	WWAE 7-14	197486	0
Spencer Seaks	WWBE 7-14	194806	0

Mr. Seaks requested an extension because he registered for two web courses on August 28, 2007, but did not receive a confirmation e-mail. Mr. Seaks did not contact the Department until October 8, 2007, after the expiration of his certification. Mr. Seaks completed the web courses with the understanding he would appeal the pending denial. Nicki Kasi motioned to deny the extension request because Mr. Seaks did not contact the Department until after his license expired. If Mr. Seaks wishes to become recertified, he will need to re-take the appropriate exams and apply for certification. If Mr. Seaks is recertified, he will receive credit for the courses taken in November and December 2007 and 5.5 hours will apply to his next renewal cycle for continuing education. John Brutz seconded. The vote was unanimous and motion carried.

John Brutz motioned to deny Mr. Gunning's renewal application. Nicki Kasi seconded. The vote was unanimous and motion carried.

Board Secretary Report

Cheri Sansoni reported the grandparented continuing education extension letters and renewal applications are being processed for mailing today. A copy of the letter will be provided to the Board.

Old Business

Nicki Kasi asked if she could apply Chairman Brutz's electronic signature to the Act 11 strict liability letter. Mr. Brutz agreed.

John Brutz asked if there was any word from ABC regarding on-line exams yet. Nicki Kasi said she would contact ABC again to inquire on the status.

New Business

The Board received two letters to request a waiver for the conventional filtration exam. Ed Chescattie, Chief of the Filter Plant Programs Section, sent notices to 89 plants stating that due to changes in EPA definitions, the plants were being re-classified as conventional filtration. Nicki Kasi reported that Gary Moyer is researching the 89 systems to determine how many of the designated available operators for these systems are not certified in conventional filtration. Nicki Kasi stated the conventional examination is comprised of 60 questions and contains sedimentation questions, whereas the direct filtration examination is comprised of 44 questions and contains no sedimentation questions. Therefore, the exams are not equivalent to allow the Board to

grant the addition of the conventional filtration subclass without requiring the operator to pass the conventional filtration examination. Nicki Kasi motioned to deny the requests, but proposed to offer the exams, at no cost. John Brutz seconded. The vote was unanimous and motion carried. Cheri Sansoni will prepare a response letter for the two requests.

Nicki Kasi motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:13.PM.