Final Rulemaking

25 Pa. Code, Chapter 302
Administration of the Water and Wastewater Systems Operators' Certification Program

Environmental Quality Board
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Background – Federal Requirements

- ## 1996 Amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act
  - ### Program in place by October, 2002 EPA Guidelines published February, 1999
- ## Annual Review
  - ### Loss of 20% of the State Revolving Loan Fund -- $7.4 million in 2010
- ## Current Status of Program

Background – State Requirements

- Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems Operator Certification Act
  - Applies federal standards to wastewater treatment system operators
  - Criminal history check
  - Security training
- Signed February 21, 2002
- Program implementation through interim regulations (Technical Guidance #383-2300-001)& guidelines

Public Comment Period

- Proposed Rulemaking
  - July 11 through September 9, 2009
  - Received 154 comments from 77 commentators
- ANFR
  - January 23 through February 26, 2010
  - Received 54 comments from 13 commentators

Advisory Committees

- State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators
- Certification Program Advisory Committee (CPAC)
- Small Systems Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board (TAC)
- Input Given:
  - December, 2009 – All three groups
  - March, 2010 – Certification Board

Summary of Comments Major Changes

- Definitions
- Scope
- Collection Systems
- Laboratory Supervisor Subclassification
- Operator Liability
- Duties of Operators
- Process Control Decisions and Plans
- Security Training
- SCADA Systems
- Circuit Riders

Summary of Comments
No Change Made

- Automatic Extensions

- Available Operator Report

- Consequences of Process Control Decisions

Summary of Comments "Banking" of Credits

- EPA Regions interpret guidelines differently
- Data management and staffing issues
- Outstanding issues and questions
- Proposal
  - Solicit input from the regulated community
  - Final recommendation to the EQB within three years

Fees & Compliance Costs

- Fee Structure based on premise that "everyone should pay"…
- Operators
  - Average cost to get certified … **$235**
  - Average cost to maintain license … **$360**
- Owners
  - Costs depend on the number of systems owned
  - Maximum cost is **$10,000** for any one owner
- Training Providers/Examination Providers
  - Examination Provider Average … **$600**
  - Costs to the Training Provider depend on number of courses
  - Maximum cost is **$10,000** for any one provider

Comments Requested

- Reciprocity
  - General Examination vs Comprehensive

Next Steps

- Publish the regulations as final

- Begin collection of fees to support program

- Resume services put on hold last year due to budget issues as quickly as possible

Questions?