

After six public meetings in key geographical locations, a public hearing was held on February 23, 1984, to receive comments on an amended Regulation #3 to Act 211 which governs wastewater operator certification and wastewater plant classification. Comments were received at the hearing and all have been addressed.

The Commission hereby approves the amended Regulation which essentially makes the following changes to the existing Regulation:

1. Expands the powers and duties of the Licensing Committee
2. Revises the classification of operators which includes definitive guidelines leading to a career goal
3. Authorizes two new classes of licensees, Special and Technical
4. Sets specific training requirements
5. Classifies wastewater treatment plants in accordance with latest advances in design technology
6. Sets in motion firm administrative procedures for licensing operators.

In summary, the new Regulation sets forth in definite language the tools for managing the operation of wastewater systems in Arkansas consistent with the requirements of the state Water and Air Act.

COMMISSIONERS

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C. Broyles
CHAIRMAN

SUBMITTED BY: Gerald B. Fagan DATE PASSED: 5-25-84

STATE OF ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF POLLUTION CONTROL AND ECOLOGY

Regulation No. 3, As Amended March, 1984

PURPOSE: To establish the training, classification, qualifications, and licensing of operators of Public Wastewater Treatment Plants and other purposes.

AUTHORITY: Section 3(a) of Act 211 of 1971 (The Act) authorizes the Commission on Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology to adopt implementing rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the powers and duties of the Commission under the Act.

Section 1. Definitions

All terms included in this section shall have the same meaning as established by the Act.

Section 2. Licensing Committee Powers and Duties

- (a) Establish, publish a schedule, and conduct examinations for the qualifications of applicants for license.
- (b) Recommend issuances of license by Class based upon the results of examinations and verification of qualifications.
- (c) Collect and deposit such fees as may be required to conduct the powers and duties of the Committee, provided that such fees shall not exceed the statutory limit.
- (d) Establish such administrative policies as necessary to carry out the powers and duties of the Committee.
- (e) Conduct such inquiries and establish findings necessary to advise the Commission on irregularities encountered in the management of the licensing program.
- (f) Conduct such inquiries and establish such facts as necessary to advise the Commission on the actions of licensees.
- (g) Establish and implement such administrative sanctions as necessary to promote the professional integrity of wastewater licensees.

- (h) Promulgate, on at least an annual basis, a schedule of training to be offered and/or recognized by the Committee to fulfill the requirements of this regulation.
- (i) Establish and promulgate such criteria as the Committee may deem necessary to define the areas of competence for each classification of operators. Establish criteria, make determinations, and recognize substitutions of equivalency, education, or experience as it deems appropriate.

Section 3. Classifications of Operators

Operators classified hereunder shall be applicable to the classification of wastewater treatment plants contained in Section 5 of this regulation.

(a) Apprentice

An operator without experience or transferable license must be qualified as a Class I operator within one (1) year of employment at a public wastewater treatment plant.

(b) Class I

- (1) High school graduate, GED or equivalent
- (2) Satisfactory completion of forty (40) hours of approved training
- (3) Completion of one (1) year experience in wastewater treatment or related field
- (4) Satisfactory completion of a Class I examination

(c) Class II

- (1) Hold a Class I or equivalent license
- (2) Satisfactory completion of a total of eighty (80) hours of approved training
- (3) Completion of a total of two (2) years of experience in wastewater treatment or related field
- (4) Satisfactory completion of a Class II examination
- (5) Satisfactorily carry out the responsibilities of a Class I operator

(d) Class III

- (1) Hold a Class II or equivalent license
- (2) Satisfactory completion of one hundred twenty (120) hours of approved training
- (3) Completion of a total of three (3) years of experience in wastewater treatment or related field provided, however, that at least one (1) year shall be in wastewater treatment plant operation
- (4) Satisfactory completion of a Class III examination
- (5) Satisfactorily carry out the responsibilities of a Class II operator

(e) Class IV

- (1) Hold a Class III license or equivalent for at least three (3) years
- (2) Satisfactory completion of a total of two hundred (200) hours of approved training
- (3) Completion of six (6) years of experience in wastewater treatment provided, however, that at least two (2) years shall have been in direct charge of a wastewater treatment plant or one of its major components
- (4) Satisfactory completion of a Class IV examination
- (5) Satisfactorily carry out the responsibilities of a Class III operator

(f) Special (S) or Technical (T)

(1) Class I or II Special Classification

- (A) Satisfactory completion of requirements (b), (1), (2) and (4) or (c), (1), (2) and (4) of this section, respectively
- (B) Be currently employed for one (1) or two (2) years, respectively, in a related supporting occupation (e.g. Department of Pollution Control or Department of Health personnel)

(2) Class III or IV Technical Classification

- (A) Satisfactory completion of requirements (d), (1), (2) and (4) or (e), (1), (2) and (4) of this section, respectively
- (B) Be currently employed in a related supporting occupation

- (3) Persons licensed under this section shall not be licensed as operators of wastewater treatment plants or any portion thereof

Section 4. Training

- (a) For purposes of this regulation, training requirements may be, as a minimum, acquired from the following sources, provided, however, that such training course, presentation, demonstration, workshop, seminar, or other agenda item receive prior approval of the Licensing Committee:

- (A) District Meetings of the Arkansas Wastewater Operators Association
- (B) Meetings of the Arkansas Water Pollution Control Association
- (C) Southern Arkansas University Environmental Academy (On and Off Campus Sessions)
- (D) Other sources approved by the Committee

- (b) Fifteen (15) hours of approved training are required yearly. Hours in excess of fifteen (15) may be carried forward for one year.

Section 5. Classification of Treatment Plants

(a) Factors for Classification

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Equivalent population served -----	1 per 2000
Lift station(s) -----	1 per station
Variable speed pumping -----	5
Mechanical raked bar screen(s) -----	2
Comminutors (grinding) -----	1
Grit removal -----	5
Primary settling and sludge removal -----	4
Stabilization pond(s) -----	8
Holding pond(s) -----	8
Aerated lagoon(s) -----	10
Trickling filter(s)	
Standard rate -----	10
High rate -----	12
Staged -----	12
Activated sludge	
Mechanical aeration -----	15
Diffused air -----	16
Pure oxygen -----	18
Rotating biological disk(s) -----	14
Oxidation ditch -----	15
Overland flow -----	10
Chemical treatment (wastewater or sludge) -----	8
Disinfection	
Chlorine -----	5
Ozone -----	7
Ultraviolet light (UVL) -----	5
Sand or multimedia filters -----	10
Receiving stream dilution	
Good (greater than 10:1) -----	2
Fair (2:1 to 10:1) -----	5
Poor (less than 2:1) -----	10
Sludge treatment	
Gravity thickener(s) -----	5
Centrifuge(s) -----	8
Other thickening -----	5
Anaerobic digester(s) -----	10
Methane recovery -----	2
Sludge heating -----	3
Aerobic digester(s) -----	6
Vaccum or coil filter(s) -----	8
DAF unit(s) -----	10
High pressure (Zimpro) -----	12
Incinerators -----	8

Factors for Classification Continued

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Sludge disposal	
Landfill with heavy equipment -----	2
Land spraying -----	4
Drying bed(s) -----	4
Sludge lagoon(s) -----	6

(b) Classification

Class I -----	1-25
Class II -----	26-49
Class III -----	50-74
Class IV -----	75-over

- (c) All wastewater treatment plants or any portion, thereof, the operation of which is essential to overall plant performance shall have a licensed operator of equal or greater classification established by subsections (a) and (b) of this section on call to make operational judgement decisions.
- (d) All personnel that can affect wastewater treatment plant operations shall be licensed.

Section 6. Administration

- (a) Request for Examination - Any person desiring to take a Class examination for which he/she is otherwise eligible and is unable to attend a scheduled examination established by the Committee under Section 2(a) of this regulation may file an application with the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology, 8001 National Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209.
- (b) License Renewal - Licenses are valid for one year (July 1 - June 30) and may be renewed without examinations provided training requirements as set forth in Section 4(b) are met. The managers of each wastewater facility will forward to the License Committee (Executive Secretary) in June of each year, on the renewal form provided, the names of all operators employed along with training information. The one form will be accompanied by one renewal check for the total amount due, e.g. 20 operators x \$5.00 equals \$100.00. Failure to renew license by July 31, will require payment of an additional \$5.00 administrative handling fee for each operator.
- (c) Lapsed License - Any operator who allows his license to expire for over one (1) year and does not comply with the above training requirements during said year will be required to take a new examination before license consideration. The Class at which the operator would be re-examined will be at the discretion of the License Committee.

- (d) Revocation of License - The Commission may revoke or suspend the license of an operator provided that (1) the Licensing Committee has first imposed sanctions under Section 2(g) for a period not to exceed six (6) months and (2) the License Committee finds that the imposition of administrative sanctions was unsuccessful in remedying the non-compliance and (3) the License Committee has served proper legal notice and conducted a hearing before the Committee and (4) the Licensing Committee finds that the licensee has practiced fraud or deception, that reasonable care, judgement, or the application of his knowledge or ability was not exercised in the performance of his/her responsibilities, or the licensee is incompetent, unable, or unwilling to perform his/her responsibilities.

Section 7. Effective Date

This regulation is effective upon adoption except that all persons licensed prior to July 1, 1984, shall continue to be licensed under the requirements existing at the time of their last license renewal provided that in no case shall such license be renewed, unless explicitly authorized by the Committee, after January 1, 1986, without having first complied with the provisions of this regulation.

Approved this 25th day of May, 1984

Phyllis Hewitt

Director

Bois Clinton

Governor

Clyde Broyles

Chairman