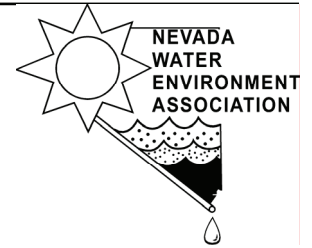




# CERTIFICATION NEWS



Volume 1, Issue 2

December 2001

## Progress on Eliminating the Grade V Certification Exam

The Certification Board held four separate meetings this past year and discussed the elimination of the Grade V exam. We examined the feed back that we received from operators throughout Nevada.

The Certification Board solicited for comments about the elimination of the Grade V test in the last newsletter. The comments were mostly positive for eliminating the Nevada Grade V Wastewater Operator exam.

Some of the items that were discussed: what was the original intent of the Grade V? Do we need IV or V Grade levels in the State of Nevada? Why would a larger facility or the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection require a Grade V license?

Operators who have taken a Grade V exam may question the test's validity. Is the Grade IV

test valid enough for Nevada? This edition of the newsletter shows this years grade IV passing rate at only 29.0%, the lowest passing rate by far of all grades. This statistic seems to indicate the Grade IV to be the most difficult of all the tests.

At least 45 other states only require up to a Grade IV. An example would be someone from the St Louis, Kansas City Missouri, Miami or Atlanta Georgia Facility's only require a Grade IV level of certification. The individual would get reciprocity for a grade IV. The problem is Nevada requires a Grade V to operate the larger treatment plants in the state. The person may not meet the qualifications set forth within the NPDES discharge permit and would have to pass a Nevada Grade V Operator exam in order qualify for a posi-

tion that requires a Grade V.

As a result the Board decided unanimously to eliminate the Grade V exam. The condition will be operators that possess a Grade V Wastewater License will keep that license as long as they renew it every two years.

In order for the elimination of the Grade V to take place, the NAC Chapter 445A regulations will have to be changed. The Certification Board reviewed the regulation changes at the October 2001 meeting. The NDEP will hold workshops and present the regulation changes to the Environmental Commission.

The cut off for taking the Grade V Wastewater exam will be determined based on the timing and results of the NAC regulation changes.

## Operator Pins

Thanks to a generous donation from the Nevada Water Environment Association and the hard work of Board member David Mendenhall the operator pins are now a reality.

They are great! Every Certified Operator, Lab Analyst, and Industrial Waste Inspector in

good standing will receive one with their current grade level on it. People with expired certificates, Provisional Operators, and Operators-in-Training (OIT) are not eligible to receive a pin.

When an OIT submits evidence of required experience they will automatically receive a pin with

their certificate.

Many pins have already been distributed at the larger facilities. If you have not already received a pin you will get one when you renew. Persons wanting their pins sooner than their renewal date can renew early.

## Wastewater Operator Test Questions

### Grade IV

- 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
4. What is the organic loading to an anaerobic digester , given the following information:
- Digester Volume = 50,000 ft<sup>3</sup>  
 Feed Sludge:  
   volume = 8,000 lb/day  
   %TS = 4.5%  
   %VS = 74%

### 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 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



**NEW!**  
 E-Mail address  
 Nvwwcertboard@  
 ol.com

## Addresses

We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for the Board to have your current address. One of the main reasons people become decertified is non-receipt of the renewal notice the Board sends out. After the last newsletter mailing we received dozens

of address changes from the Post Office (at a cost to the certification program of \$0.33 each plus the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, which the Post Office will not forward).

As a result, Dianne changed those addresses in the database

and now many of you will be receiving the newsletter for the first time. We are still missing good addresses on several people. If you know any of the people listed below please ask them to fax their current address to the Board at (702) 433-1498.

Scott Chappell  
 Gary C. Flatley  
 Rom "Scott" L. Folger  
 Mark B. Gray

Larry A. Kohler  
 Reg D. Lang  
 Leonard P. Martinez  
 Carolyn R. Schnitkey

John Kirby Shaw  
 Stella Stout  
 William J. Whitmore  
 Michael Jay Wilson

**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**

Don Richey Sr. (775) 832-1242  
Pete Rozis (775) 289-2150  
Bill Shepherd (702) 450-4417  
Tim Smith (702) 565-2048

**CERTIFICATION CALENDAR**

**January 2002**

February 21, 2002  
March 11, 2002  
March 25, 2002  
April 11, 2002

**EXAMINATION**

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

**April 11, 2002**

May 23, 2002  
June 11, 2002  
June 25, 2002  
July 10, 2002

**EXAMINATION**

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

**July 11, 2002**

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

**EXAMINATION**

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

**April 12, 2001**

**EXAMINATION**

**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
	1	1	100
	4	1	0
Total		5	40
Industrial Waste Inspector	4	4	100
	3	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

NONPROFIT ORG  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 LAS VEGAS NV  
 PERMIT NO. 2658

## 2001 ABC Conference

We have recently been informed by the Association of Boards of Certification that the cost for providing and scoring exams is raising by \$2.00 per exam at the beginning of next year.

That amounts to about \$300 more per year to run the Certification Program. The good news is that we will not be increasing the

cost to take our exams.

The operators in Nevada are fortunate that we have a dedicated Board of volunteers who are fortunate to work for employers that often pay for Board members travel expenses.

We are fortunate to have Dianne West as our Assistant Program Administrator who must be forced

to take payment for all the good she does. And we are fortunate to have the support of the Nevada Water Environment Association.

All of these elements come together to run a program that is self-sufficient and economical.

We will do our best to keep the certification rates as low as possible into the future.

Answers to Wastewater 5. d  
 Operator Test Questions  
 1. d  
 2. b  
 3. c  
 4. b

**Congratulations** to the following people who have passed the July and October 2001 certification exams for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, Wastewater Quality Analyst, or Industrial Waste Inspector

<b><u>WWTP Operator</u></b>	Tyler Mason	Mike Triszczuk	<b><u>Reciprocity WW Grade II</u></b>
<b><u>OIT/Grade I</u></b>	Michael Miller	<b><u>Industrial Waste Inspector</u></b>	Gregg Chirpka CA
Eric Cooley	Thomas Moulten	<b><u>Grade 1</u></b>	Russell Cricker CT
<b><u>Grade I</u></b>	Michael Nevarez	Robert Roberge	Kenneth Navarre Jr. CA
Stephen Bennett	<b><u>Grade III</u></b>	Robert Shipton	<b><u>Reciprocity WW Grade III</u></b>
Robin Dunham	Scott Bell	Daren Swartzlander	Ken Rosenstock NC
Joe E. Elsea	Mark Dunbar	Robert Thomas	<b><u>Reciprocity QA Grade 3</u></b>
Kylie Hatch	John Shaw	<b><u>Grade 2</u></b>	Jeffery Allen Noller WA
Tom M. Hoffert	<b><u>Grade IV</u></b>	Daniel Fischer	
Richard Hoy	Frank Ficarrotta	<b><u>Grade 4</u></b>	
Michael Johnson	Paul T. Gielgens	David Ruegge	
Tyler Blaine Mason	Scott Nelson	<b><u>Quality Analyst</u></b>	
Jerry A Pyatt	Frank Stringer Jr.	<b><u>Grade 2</u></b>	
Larry R. Stever	<b><u>Grade V</u></b>	Dawn Boyer	
<b><u>Grade II</u></b>	Michael Gagne	<b><u>Grade 4</u></b>	
Harold Bruce Bowen	James Padilla	Jefferey Noller	