

OpCertNews



2017 - Issue 3

2016 Operator Certification Program Accomplishments

As 2016 came to a close, the Operator Certification Program staff took a look back to recognize a few accomplishments that were initiated to serve you better.

- Published new newsletter for NC certified operators
- Launched new website serving NC certified operators
- Development of a new operator database
- Conducted in-house wastewater exam reviews
- Published new & improved water and wastewater exam applications
- Published new Animal Waste training manuals
- Inaugurated a new in-house multi-media training room
- Offered two in-house PGH training opportunities for drinking water operators
- Administered more than 3700 certification exams statewide

The Operator Certification Program would like to thank it's staff for their continued efforts, as well as staff in other programs like IT and permitting that played critical roles in executing these accomplishments. We also want to thank the training providers for providing quality schools and continuing education opportunities to our operators. Finally, we want to thank you, the operator, for understanding the need for change and your willingness to evolve with us as we strive to be your best certification resource.

A LOOK AHEAD...We are planning some continuing education training opportunities for waste water facility operators this year, like we did for drinking water facility operators late last year. We will announce them on our [website](#) as soon as we have identified topic areas and scheduled the events.

CONTACT US:

If you have ideas for future issues, feedback or suggestions, please contact:
Maureen.Kinney@ncdenr.gov

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES:

Wastewater: 919-807-6353

Drinking Water: 919-707-9040

Email: certadmin@ncdenr.gov



Recognize Excellence!

Do you know a wastewater operator that excels in their field that...

- has exhibited outstanding knowledge and innovation,
- has contributed time and effort towards training, education and professionalism, or
- has devised, discovered, or invented devices or techniques which enhance the science of system operation?

PROGRAM STAFF:

[Steve Reid](#) – Supervisor

WASTEWATER:

[Jenee Williamston](#) – Processing Assistant

[Beth Buffington](#) – Animal Waste Exam/CE Coordinator

[Maureen Kinney](#) – Exam/CE Coordinator

DRINKING WATER:

[Alaina Strater](#) – Administrative Assistant

[Sonya McLamb](#) – Exam/Training Specialist

[Carmalin Walter](#) – Exam /PGH Coordinator

[Stephen Denning](#) – ORC Coordinator

If so, please consider nominating them for the annual Wilbur E. Long award.

What better way to honor a dedicated colleague or employee?

[Nomination Form](#)

Nominations are open and will be accepted until September 1, 2017.

2017 Exam Dates

Wastewater

March 9
June 8
September 14
December 14

Drinking Water

February 23
March 28 (*electronic*)
May 25
July 25 (*electronic*)
August 31
September 26 (*electronic*)
October 26

**Applications are due
30 days prior to exam date.**



New Members Appointed to the Water Pollution Control Systems Operator Certification Commission



Susan Pope administers oath to Adam Waters and Jonathan Godfrey

At the November 3, 2017 Water Pollution Control Systems Operator Certification Commission (WPCSOCC) meeting, Mr. Jonathan Godfrey was sworn in as it's newest member, fulfilling the statute requirement to seat a faculty member at a four-year college or university and whose field is related to wastewater treatment. This seat was previously held by Dr. David Lindbo, who retired from the Commission in early 2016 after taking a position with USDA in Washington, D.C. Mr. Godfrey was appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, Mr. Donald van der Vaart, and he subsequently was approved by the Environmental Management Commission.

Mr. Godfrey is an Extension Associate with NC State University and the Director of the Onsite Wastewater Training Program within the Department of Soil Science. In that capacity, he is responsible for training wastewater operators in the realms of subsurface (onsite), surface irrigation and land application of residuals. Additionally, he conducts over 50

continuing education wastewater classes across the state, as well as training for septic system installers and inspectors. Prior to NCSU, Jonathan was employed as the lead environmental health specialist for monitoring onsite systems in Chatham County. In his spare time, Jonathan and his family own and operate a USDA Certified Organic farm near Carthage, in Moore County.

We are excited to welcome Jonathan to the WPCSOCC and look forward to his input on the Commission's business in the coming years.

Operator Certification Welcomes: Sonya McLamb

The Operator Certification Program is happy to announce Sonya McLamb as our newest team member. Sonya will be working as an Extension Education & Training Specialist on the drinking water side of the program and will have her hands full reviewing exam applications for distribution and cross connection candidates. She joins the program with 4 years of progressive experience as a training coordinator for the NC American Water Works Association/Water Environment Association (NC AWWA/WEA) and Harnett Health Systems. Look for Sonya at the exam location in Snow Hill and Raleigh and introduce yourself.

Help us make her feel welcome!

