



Operator Training and Certification

**Operator Workshop
October 8/20**

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Regulations Context

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- Like all other municipal and provincial water and wastewater utilities, compliance with regulations will be a significant focus of the AFNWA; it is a corporate priority.
- For drinking water, our framework will be based on the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, as published by Health Canada.
- A significant issue for drinking water standards will be the assessment of groundwater wells to determine if they are under the direct influence of surface water. These assessments have not been carried out in most communities.
- Other significant issues will be control of lead and cross connection control.

Regulations Context

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- For wastewater, our framework will be based on receiving water risk assessments which have not been carried out for most communities.
- The minimum standard will be conformance to the Wastewater System Effluent Regulations [WSER] which stipulates secondary treatment.
- Where effluent is discharged to inland receiving waters [e.g. Saint John River and Bras d'Or Lakes], the standard will likely range from enhanced secondary to tertiary treatment.

WSER – Discharge Limits

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- **Basic requirements:**

- CBOD, TSS, trace residual chlorine [TRC] and un-ionized ammonia cannot be discharged except in accordance with standards:
 - ✦ CBOD 25 mg/L
 - ✦ TSS 25 mg/L
 - ✦ Residual chlorine 0.02 mg/L
 - ✦ Un-ionized ammonia (NH_3) 1.25 mg/L (as N, at 15°C)
 - ✦ Effluent cannot be toxic (trout acute toxicity test)
- Limits apply January 1, 2015, except:
 - ✦ TRC limit for WWTFs <5000 m³/day applies Jan. 1, 2021

Certification

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- In order to comply with Water and Wastewater Regulations, the AFNWA will need certified Operators, up to and including Level 4.
- Water Safety and Sanitation Safety Plans recognize the importance of certification as well.
- Common to both approaches is the need for highly skilled and trained operators.

Training

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- Many Operators have expressed their desire to obtain certification.
- Some frustration over the exams which are distributed by the Association of Boards of Certification [ABC]; more American focused.
- Frustration over the timing of certification courses and the writing of exams; especially in light of Covid disruptions.
- Operators have asked for courses and/or workshops closer to the time of exam writing.

Some Good News

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- **New Brunswick**

- New Brunswick Environment have restarted their monthly exam schedule at the NB Community College in Moncton; every second Thursday.
- Mr. Wade Wheaton has offered to monitor exams for those operators who wish to write the exam in their own community [Mr. Wheaton used to run the certification program for NB Environment and is now promoting trade programs within First Nation communities].

- **Nova Scotia**

- Exams have started again through NS Environment [3 sessions held in September]

AFNWA Support

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- The AFNWA will facilitate opportunities for classroom learning or on-line learning; what ever is in the Operator's best interest.
- We have found an instructor through ACWWA who is willing to teach the course in a classroom setting with Covid protocols in place.
- AFNWA will cover all costs for this training including travel and hotel costs within Atlantic Canada.

Other Training

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- AFNWA will support any Operator or aspiring Operator who wants to learn; from obtaining a GED to taking courses through Community Colleges.
- Many trades and diplomas offered through Community Colleges that align with jobs at the AFNWA [plumbers, electricians, natural resources environmental technology, civil engineering technology, electronic engineering technology, GIS Technician].
- AFNWA will support continuing education throughout your career with the utility.

Wela'lin!

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Questions?