



## OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM NEWS JANUARY 2012

### APPLICATION DEADLINES

In response to suggestions from CWPs and those who want to achieve certification, the Certification Council and CECTI have, with the approval of WWFOCB, revised the exam application deadlines to allow more opportunity for applicants to sign up during the year. Water Professionals from **any** category will be able to apply, rather than wait for the application dates for the respective categories; i.e., Collection and Distribution or Water/Wastewater Treatment, Industrial Wastewater or Small Systems, and TNC.

The revised application deadline dates are:

**March 1** (Summer)  
**July 1** (Fall)  
**November 1** (Winter)

Information on the exam sites and dates will be posted on [www.OCPOweb.com](http://www.OCPOweb.com) approximately six (6) weeks prior to each date. That is, the information for March 1 will be posted on or about January 15; July 1, on or about May 15; November 1, on or about September 15.

Most sites will accommodate applicants from any category; however, some sites and dates that are in conjunction with a specific short school are open to the category addressed; i.e., Collection and Distribution Short School or Water/Wastewater Intermediate School, etc. will be designated for those categories. This will show on the schedules for exams.

### SEQUENTIAL EXAMS

Those who applied on or before December 1, 2011, are taking multiple-entry exams varying in length from 100 to 200 questions, depending on the level.

Those who apply in 2012 will take 100-question sequential exams. The change to sequential exams was requested by both CECTI and the Certification Council. This change was promulgated by WWFOCB and will appear in Regulation 100, which was revised in late November 2011.

An example of what sequential means is that if one is currently a **C** or **2** Operator, then the **ONLY** exam that person may take is the **B** or **3** exam. **B** or **3** certificate holders may sit for the **A** or **4** certificate. One must still have the required experience and Training Units (TUs) in order to be approved to take the respective exam.

Further, if you skipped a level in the past, you can no longer do so; i.e., if you currently hold a level **D** or **1** and have taken and failed a level **B** or **3**, you will now be required to take and be certified for a level **C** or **2**, before you can take the level **B** or **3**.

## **NEW TEST TIMES**

Beginning with the tests scheduled for the new Application Deadline dates noted in the foregoing, the times for all exams will be **8:00am** to **3:00pm**. No test booklets will be given out after 12:00 Noon. The only exception to this will be the late Friday afternoon exam given following the Leadville School. If you enrolled for this exam, see your approval letter for details.

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

With the foregoing changes, the Program Office anticipates there will be additional time required to process an increased number of applications because any Operator from Water/Wastewater or Collection/Distribution may apply at each deadline. The staff projects that it may take up to three (3) weeks to prepare the applications for review by the Committees.

Once the Committees have completed the review, it will take approximately one week to print and mail the 900+ approval/disapproval letters. Your patience is requested during this new process timeline. Ultimately, this will result in helping Operators achieve their goals in a more timely fashion.

Just a reminder, if you fax your application to OCPO, be sure **your return fax number** is on the application. The staff faxes back a response within an hour letting you know your application was received (unless it was sent on the weekend or after hours). This is done to keep you from having to call the office to see if your application has been received. By the way, OCPO receives approximately 70% of the applications in the last three (3) days prior to the deadline. So, **no**, the fax isn't broken; it truly is busy and we encourage you to keep trying. Of course, the best way to avoid this is to apply early.

About email: If you change your email address, be sure to let OCPO know about this change. And let your company IT personnel know that you may receive email from OCPO, so it doesn't go into "spam." PLEASE NOTE: OCPO cannot receive any application forms electronically due to security issues.

You may recall that we will periodically send important news via email. We always put the letters OCPO in the subject line so you will know it comes from the office. If you chose to "opt out" of email, you'll still get News Notices, such as this one.

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Ray Olson, CWP, Chairman  
Colorado Water Distribution and  
Wastewater Collection Systems  
Certification Council

Jerry Biberstine, CWP, President  
Colorado Environmental Certification and  
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AND

The Staff at the Operator Certification Program Office (OCPO)