

# THE MAIN EVENT

DECEMBER 2007

A Newsletter for Oklahoma Water and Wastewater Operators

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3

## DEQ ANNOUNCES NEW LICENSE/CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

SKYAR McELHANEY, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

The Department of Environmental Quality is changing its procedures for obtaining or renewing individual licenses/certifications. This comes in response to Oklahoma's new immigration law, the Oklahoma Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act, which became effective November 1, 2007. The Act requires that all state agencies verify "lawful presence" of any natural person over the age of 14 applying for state benefits, including agency issued licenses and certifications. This change affects every individual applying for a license/certification or renewing an existing license/certification.

As a result of the new immigration law (HB 1804), applicants who are United States citizens must provide a document to DEQ from

each of the following three categories:

1. A copy of a valid, unexpired driver's license or photo identification card from state of residency; AND
2. An original or certified copy of a birth certificate, a photocopy of a valid, unexpired U.S. passport, a photocopy of a Certificate of Citizenship (N-560 or N-561), or a photocopy of a Naturalization Certificate (N-550 or N-570); AND
3. A signed and notarized Affidavit Regarding Citizenship form. The affidavit must be signed in the presence of a notary public.

For all non-U.S. citizens, applicants must provide to DEQ an Affidavit Regarding Citizenship signed in the presence of a notary public and documentation demonstrating "lawful

presence." A list of acceptable documents is posted on DEQ's Web site at [www.deq.state.ok.us](http://www.deq.state.ok.us) or applicants can call their license program contact.

Additionally, DEQ is required to enter all non-U.S. citizens into the Department of Homeland Security's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program in order to verify eligibility for agency issued licenses and certifications.

DEQ will notarize Affidavits Regarding Citizenship at no cost at the agency's Oklahoma City office during normal business hours. Applicants can also have the affidavit notarized at their own expense by any notary public. Applications can be dropped off in person or sent by mail.

## TOTAL COLIFORM RULE SAMPLING

MICHELE WELSH

Environmental Programs  
Manager, DEQ

Coliform bacteria are colony-forming microorganisms that usually occur in the intestinal tract of animals, including man. *E. Coli* is the most widely accepted indicator of water quality in the United States. The presence of this microorganism is evidence of recent human fecal contamination of water supplies. Referenced in 40 CFR Part 141, the Total Coliform Rule (TCR) improves public health protection through control of coliform bacteria.

Applying to all public water supplies (PWS), the TCR sampling requirement is required monthly or quarterly, based on the water system population. TCR samples must be collected during

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## INTERACTIVE TV RENEWAL CLASSES

Water or Wastewater Operators may attend either a Water or a Wastewater four-hour renewal class for certification renewal. If an operator has a license in water and wastewater, one four-hour class is all that is necessary. ALL CLASSES ARE HELD ON FRIDAYS FROM 12:00 PM TO 4:00 PM. The training at the Midwest City location is held in the LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER, RM 129 at Rose State College. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Kurklin at (405) 702-8148.

### ATTENTION:

Pre-registration is **REQUIRED!** You must contact the receiving facility distance learning coordinator at the facility you plan to attend, and make a reservation by close of business on Tuesday before the Friday training.



**CLASSES WILL BE HELD:**  
 DECEMBER ~~4 AND 11~~; **7 AND 14**  
 JANUARY ~~7 AND 14~~ **4 AND 11**;  
 FEBRUARY ~~4~~ **1** AND 8;  
 MARCH 7 AND 14; AND  
 APRIL 4 AND 11

FACILITY	LOCATION	CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Autry Technology Center	ENID	Kay Snow	(580) 242-2750 Ext. 126
Cameron University-Lawton	LAWTON	Bill Schemonia	(580) 581-2419 or -5551
Cameron University-Duncan	DUNCAN	Cindy Meadows	(580) 255-7566
East Central University	ADA (\$25 fee)*	Stanley Nnochirionye	(580) 310-5625
Eastern OK State College	WILBURTON	Keith Lewis	(918) 465-1782
High Plains Tech Center	WOODWARD	Vonda Phillips	(580) 571-6185
Kiamichi Technology Center	POTEAU	Kathy Davidson	(580) 647-4525
Murray State College	TISHOMINGO	Priscilla Washington	(580) 371-2371 Ext. 123
Northeastern OK A&M	MIAMI	Cindy Bigsby	(918) 540-6253
Oklahoma State University	TULSA	LTS Helpdesk	(918) 594-8285
Panhandle State University	GOODWELL	Sheldon Cayton	(580) 349-1386
Rose State College	MIDWEST CITY	Mark Kurklin	(405) 702-8148
Seminole State College	SEMINOLE**	Mark Kurklin	(405) 702-8148
S. E. OK State Univ.	DURANT	Chance Davis	(580) 745-2102
SOSU McCurtain Co. Campus	IDABEL	Barbara Echols Burton	(580) 376-5222
Stuart High School	STUART	Terry Beck (During school)	(918) 546-2474 Ext. 101
S. W. OK State Univ.	WEATHERFORD	Lessley Price	(580) 774-3149
S. W. OK State Univ.	SAYRE	Lessley Price	(580) 774-3149
Tricounty Tech Center	BARTLESVILLE	Joni Grim	(918) 331-3299
University of Oklahoma	NORMAN	Mark Mitchell (Apr-Jun)	(405) 325-3069
University of Science & Arts	CHICKASHA	Alan Todd	(405) 574-1277
University Center at Ponca City	PONCA CITY	Brenda Stacy	(580) 762-2856

\* The fee for Ada should be paid at the receiving site. \*\*Pre-register with Mark Kurklin instead of Seminole Jr. College.

IF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES ARE EXPERIENCED DURING THE RENEWAL TRAINING,  
 PLEASE CALL (405) 736-0327 or (405) 370-6424.

## WRITTEN EXAM SESSIONS

Written exam sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. Exam applications can be printed from the DEQ website, [www.deq.state.ok.us](http://www.deq.state.ok.us). They are also available from the Operator Certification Section at (405) 702-8100. Please be sure to use the current exam application (rev 7-2007). **PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY.** Any combination of two D and/or C exams may be taken at the same exam session. All exam applications must be post-marked three weeks before the exam session. The nonrefundable and nontransferable application fee (\$40 per exam) must be mailed with your application. Exams can be rescheduled within 120 days; however, all fees are forfeited if an exam is not taken within 120 days. If you have questions, please call Angie Ratcliff at (405) 702-8150. **WITHIN THREE WEEKS OF EXAM COMPLETION, A REPORT OF YOUR EXAM RESULTS WILL BE MAILED TO YOUR HOME. IN ORDER TO PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY, RESULTS CANNOT BE GIVEN OVER THE PHONE.**

<b>EXAM LOCATION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
<b>Sapulpa</b> , Central Tech, 1720 S Main Street, ABEF	January 18	December 28
<b>Midwest City</b> , Rose State College, Rm 118 Health/Env Science Bldg., Hudiburg Dr.	February 1	January 11
<b>Woodward</b> , High Plains Institute of Technology, 3921 34th St, Rm 201-B	February 8	January 18
<b>Sapulpa</b> , Central Tech, 1720 S Main Street, ABEF	March 14	February 22
<b>Midwest City</b> , Rose State College, Rm 118 Health/Env Science Bldg., Hudiburg Dr.	April 4	March 14
<b>Lawton</b> , Great Plain AVTS, 4500 W. Lee Blvd, Bldg 600, Rm 656	April 11	March 21

## Online Exams Sessions

The online exams are scheduled to take place directly after most regularly scheduled training classes. In order to take an online exam the student must complete the entire training class that is associated with that exam. As soon as each individual completes the exam, they will be able to view and print their results. All students should contact the training facility/sponsor to confirm that an online exam will take place after the class. The requirements necessary to be approved for the online exam are the same as for the written exams: an exam application must be completed and mailed with the application fee (\$40 per exam) to the DEQ three weeks prior to the exam date.

### Order Form for Operator Certification Study Guides

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Study Guides:

Water \_\_\_\_ x \$4.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_

Wastewater \_\_\_\_ x \$4.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_

Distribution/Collection \_\_\_\_ x \$4.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_

For shipping and handling, please add \$2.00 for one or two study guides. For three or more guides, call Debbie Segoves for bulk rates, at 405 702-8173.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_

After completing this form, please clip out and return it with a check, money order, or purchase order made payable to the Operator Certification Section.

Please mail to:

Dept. of Environmental Quality

Financial & Human Resources

PO Box 2036

OKC, OK 73101-2036

Please allow up to 3 weeks for delivery.





## CLASS SC

For all Standard Classes, you must register with the sponsor for the course you want to attend. It must be postmarked no later than three weeks before the exam date. Please

### BEGINNING D LEVEL

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>CREDIT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
Stillwater	Water	Dec 04-06	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Water & Wastewater	Dec 04-06	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Oklahoma City	Water & Wastewater	Dec 04-06	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Oklahoma City	Water	Dec 04-06	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Wastewater	Dec 05-06	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Oklahoma City	Wastewater	Dec 05-06	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Water	Dec 06-07	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Tulsa	Water & Wastewater	Dec 09-11	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Wastewater	Dec 13-14	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Tulsa	Water & Wastewater	Dec 18-20	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Water	Dec 18-20	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Wastewater	Dec 19-20	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Water	Jan 03-04	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Stillwater	Water & Wastewater	Jan 08-10	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Water	Jan 08-10	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Choctaw	Water	Jan 08-09	16 hrs	ORWA	405-672-8925
Stillwater	Wastewater	Jan 09-10	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Wastewater	Jan 10-11	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Tulsa	Water & Wastewater	Jan 15-17	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Water	Jan 15-17	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Duncan	Water	Jan 15-16	16 hrs	ORWA	405-672-8925
Tulsa	Wastewater	Jan 16-17	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Enid	Water	Jan 29-30	16 hrs	ORWA	405-672-8925
Stillwater	Water & Wastewater	Feb 05-07	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Water & Wastewater	Feb 05-07	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Water	Feb 05-07	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Water	Feb 05-07	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Wastewater	Feb 06-07	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Wastewater	Feb 06-07	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Water	Feb 12-13	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Broken Bow	Water	Feb 12-13	16 hrs	ORWA	405-672-8925
Midwest City	Wastewater	Feb 14-15	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Bartlesville	Water	Feb 26-27	16 hrs	ORWA	405-672-8925
Stillwater	Water & Wastewater	Mar 11-13	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Water & Wastewater	Mar 11-13	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Water	Mar 11-13	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Water	Mar 11-13	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Water	Mar 11-12	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Stillwater	Wastewater	Mar 12-13	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Wastewater	Mar 12-13	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Wastewater	Mar 13-14	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Tulsa	Water & Wastewater	Apr 01-03	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227

# **SCHEDULES**

Register at least two weeks in advance. To take the exam, send the application to the DEQ and please remember to check with the sponsor to be sure that classes will take place.



## **BEGINNING D LEVEL**

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>CREDIT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
Tulsa	Water	Apr 01-03	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Tulsa	Wastewater	Apr 02-03	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Water & Wastewater	Apr 08-10	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Water	Apr 08-10	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Wastewater	Apr 09-10	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Water	Apr 15-16	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Midwest City	Wastewater	Apr 17-18	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Stillwater	Water & Wastewater	Apr 29-01	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Water	Apr 29-01	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	Wastewater	Apr 30-01	16 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227

## **INTERMEDIATE C LEVEL**

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>CREDIT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
Midwest City	Water	Dec 04-05	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Stillwater	Water	Dec 11-13	24 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	Wastewater	Jan 24-25	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Midwest City	Water	Jan 31-01	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Midwest City	Dist. & Coll.	Mar 20-21	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Midwest City	Wastewater	Apr 08-09	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Midwest City	Water	Apr 10-11	16 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364

## **LABORATORY**

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>CREDIT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
Oklahoma City	B/A Wastewater	Dec 03-06	32 hrs	ORWA	405-672-8925
Midwest City	C Wastewater	Dec 11-14	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Stillwater	C Water	Dec 17-20	32 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Hulbert	C Water	Dec 17-20	32 hrs	ORWA	405-672-8925
Stillwater	C Water	Jan 14-17	32 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	B/A Water	Jan 15-18	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Midwest City	B/A Wastewater	Jan 29-01	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Midwest City	C Water	Feb 05-08	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Midwest City	C Wastewater	Feb 26-29	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Stillwater	C Wastewater	Mar 17-20	32 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	C Water	Apr 01-04	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Stillwater	A Wastewater	Apr 21-25	40 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	B Wastewater	Apr 21-24	32 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	C Wastewater	Apr 29-02	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364

**ADVANCED A & B LEVEL**

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>CREDIT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
Midwest City	B/A Water	Jan 08-11	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Midwest City	B/A Wastewater	Feb 19-22	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364
Stillwater	A Water	Feb 25-29	38 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	B Water	Feb 25-28	30 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	A Wastewater	Mar 24-28	38 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Stillwater	B Wastewater	Mar 24-27	30 hrs	Accurate	800-516-5227
Midwest City	B/A Water	Apr 22-25	32 hrs	Rose State	405-733-7364

*Home Study Correspondence Courses*

California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) offers correspondence courses for operators. These training programs were prepared for the U.S. EPA by persons working in the field to help others develop the knowledge and skills necessary to do their jobs and pass certification exams. California manuals are used as a reference for Oklahoma operator certification exams. DEQ recognizes and give credit for these courses. The manuals can be purchased without enrolling in a correspondence course. For information, please call CSUS at (916) 278-6142.

*MSU Management Courses*

Michigan State University (MSU) offers two management courses: 1) Supervisory Management in the water/wastewater field, and 2) Maintenance Management in the water/wastewater field. DEQ recognizes and gives credit for these courses. For information, call (800) 356-5705.

**TOTAL COLIFORM RULE SAMPLING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

regular intervals during the month, with the exception that groundwater systems serving 4,900 persons or fewer may collect samples on the same day.

The State of Oklahoma has approximately 1,600 PWS. Of these, 240 or 15% of Oklahoma's PWS either serve populations greater than 4,900 or treat surface water. However, 80% of the state's population is served by these 240 PWS.

If a PWS serves populations greater than 4,900, or is a surface water treatment plant, TCR samples must be collected at regular intervals during the month. For example, if a PWS is required to collect ten samples per month, five samples should be taken the first week of the month and the remaining five samples taken the third week of the month. If a PWS serves less than 4,900 persons and is not a surface water treatment plant, samples should be taken early in the sampling period, whether monthly or quarterly. Thus, if there are sampling problems, there is sufficient time left in the period to take replacement samples and avoid a monitoring violation.

Rose State College's Oklahoma Environmental Training Center is now providing a free four-hour on-line water and wastewater operator renewal class which is available to any operator who has computer internet access. This class will satisfy the annual DEQ requirement for four hours of classroom instruction to renew a water or wastewater operator's license. To enroll, call (405) 733-7488 and ask to take the online DEQ four-hour license renewal class. Instructions will be given over the phone regarding how to access the class. When the course is finished, a 50 question test must be completed. Anyone who scores 70% or higher on the test will receive a class completion certificate. If you have any questions, please call Bill Clark at (405) 733-7364 or Cookie Nichols at (405) 733-7972.

## BIOMONITORING: Part three of three

### By Nancy Cain, PhD, Environmental Specialist III, DEQ

**How often** does the WET test need to be performed? Every biomonitoring permit, new or renewed, must have at least one year of quarterly WET testing. New permits, which have no previous biomonitoring history to review, are automatically given quarterly testing for the life of the permit. For renewed permits, the number of years of required quarterly testing depends on their previous five years of biomonitoring test results. If there are no failures, only a year of quarterly testing is required, after which a reduction to twice a year may be requested. If the history isn't too bad, two years of quarterly testing will be required. All other permits require quarterly testing for the life of the permit. The permittee's biomonitoring history is used to make this determination.

All permits require at least a year of quarterly testing, initially. Changes in the plant's processes or operation and maintenance could have occurred over the previous five years. This could affect the contents of the effluent and the outcome of the tests. If, during the previous permit, testing had been reduced to twice a year, the toxic effect of these changes might not have been

detected. Also, some toxicity is seasonal and quarterly testing is the only way to discover this.

Why do biomonitoring tests **cost** so much? It is because they are extensive and labor intensive. For example, every test requires testing of replicates of five different dilutions of the effluent being tested, as well as a control. Most of the tests require eight replicates of each dilution. One test has one daphnid per replicate, but requires 10 replicates for each of the five dilutions and the control. The laboratory technician must count the contents of every replicate every day. In the acute test, it is determined if the original organism is still alive after 48 hours. In the chronic test, all original organisms are counted. Then either the offspring of the daphnids are counted, or the fish weighed every day for a week. As these organisms are very small, specialized equipment (i.e., microscopes) are necessary, thus adding to the expense.

**Consequences of failing a test.** If a biomonitoring test is failed, the permittee is allowed two retests to pass it. If one of the retests also results in a failure, the permittee must determine the cause. This exercise is called a Toxics Reduction Evaluation (TRE).

The protocol for the TRE is an EPA methodology. It includes a number of analytical procedures that are designed to find or eliminate specific pollutants. Sometimes the offending pollutant(s) are found during the TRE, and sometimes they are not. The DEQ contends that toxicity problems are often a result of the treatment process itself and/or the operation and maintenance of the plant. Hence, the DEQ requires a thorough audit of the plant at the beginning of the TRE. The TRE takes 28 months. At the conclusion of the 28-month TRE testing period, the permitted facility has two choices. The first is a biomonitoring "WET Limit", and the second is a chemical specific limit if they discover the offending toxicant(s). In either case, biomonitoring continues quarterly for the life of the permit for the species that failed. If the TRE uncovers a specific pollutant causing the toxicity, the permittee has to develop a plan. This plan must eliminate the pollutant from the discharge, or lower its concentration in the effluent so as not to be toxic. The permittee normally receives a compliance schedule for whatever needs to be done to lessen or eliminate the pollutant.

**Debbie Segroves is now responsible for approving Helper and Temporary applications. Please contact her at [debbie.segroves@deq.state.ok.us](mailto:debbie.segroves@deq.state.ok.us) or (405) 702-8173.**



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December 2007

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The 2008 Waterworks and Wastewater Works Advisory Council Meetings will be held on January 25, July 18, and October 10.



### NTNC Classes

Nontransient noncommunity (NTNC) public water systems serving 3,300 persons or fewer are now required to have a certified operator. There is free training available for any NTNC system that does not have a certified operator. Call Kristi Sanger at (405) 702-8144 for further information.

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