

Operator Certification Stakeholders Workgroup Meeting Summary April 18, 2005

- A. Introductions
- B. Andy began with discussions on 3745-7-1. The group discussed the need for the definition “available” and U.S. EPA’s guidelines requiring certified operators to be “available” when decisions regarding operational changes are made. The group also discussed the definition of a year, 2080 hrs, which comes from the simple formula of 52 wks/yr x 40 hrs/wk. The group also discussed the definition of “month” which comes from 2080 hrs divided by 12 months. Applications for exams will be updated to require operators to document the number of hours experience.

The types of “acceptable experience” for examination were discussed. The group decided to remove the provisions for onsite work on operation and maintenance manuals and for experience as an employee of a governmental agency. The group also determined that the a provision should be added to “on-site investigations and inspections of operations.” The provision should state “that require coordination of work with active treatment processes, collection or distribution systems.

The group also determined that “wastewater collection” in paragraph (L)(3) should be replaced with “sewerage system.”

Workgroup members suggested a definition for “Treatment Facility” may be necessary. Susan Ashbrook agreed to draft a definition of treatment facility for the next meeting.

- C. The group discussed 3745-7-06. The group determined that paragraph (A)(1) should have “a written” replaced with “the standard” examination.

The effective dates should be added to Paragraphs F and H.

The group also requested that the amount of experience reduced in paragraph (F)(1) be clarified.

After lengthy discussions regarding the semi-sequential examination process the group agreed to consider a Class III requirement of “60 months experience with 12 months as a Class II certified operator in the same field.”

- D. The group discussed 3745-7-09. The City of Columbus provided a revised draft of the rules. Ohio EPA was encouraged by the submittal, but is adamant that the requirement for logbooks be kept in the rule in order to provide a mechanism for determining compliance with the minimum staffing time requirements. Unfortunately, the provision allowing alternative log formats was left out of the version discussed, but it will be added back in. Discussions centered on what duties Ohio EPA could require and the fact that conditions are sometimes out of control of the operator. Provisions to address this concern will be added into the rule.

Andy indicated that he would schedule the next meeting based on members availability.

Note: We are actively seeking input to the proposed revisions. If you have concerns please draft alternative language or options.