Ad Hoc Committee on Advanced Water Treatment Operator Training and Certification

STATUS UPDATE

Traci Minamide, LA Sanitation

January 19, 2016
Ad Hoc Committee Members

- Traci Minamide, LA Sanitation (chair)
- Amy Dorman, City of San Diego
- Jim Fiedler, Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Julie Labonte, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Bruce Macler, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Mike Wehner, Orange County Water District
Advanced Water Treatment Operator Training and Certification

• Basic Principle:
  • Wastewater is a resource not a waste
• Overarching Goal
  • Ensure protection of public health and safety
  • Gain public acceptance and build confidence in a reliable water quality source

• Challenge
  • Existing WW and water certification programs do not sufficiently address advanced water treatment
  • A comprehensive certification program is needed to validate operator skills, knowledge, and ability to run these types of facilities
White Paper Analysis
Project Scope Recap

• Collaborative effort: CUWA, WateReuse CA, DDW, DPR Advisory Panel, and other stakeholders including AWWA CA-NV, CWEA, and CASA

• Ph I
  • Literature Review
  • Survey
  • Draft matrix of approaches

• Ph II
  • Oct 19 and 20, 2015 Stakeholder Workshop – reviewed alternatives, discussed pros and cons, reach consensus on recommended approach
  • Identified issues needing further discussion
Starting Point Framework

• Certification Program should cover both IPR and DPR (with exception of surface spreading with tertiary treated water)
• Certification Program needs to work for both water and WW operators
• Certification Program needs to encompass the variation in operating scenarios at utilities
  • WW treatment plants or water reclamation plants with advanced treatment included staffed by WW operators
  • Stand alone adv water trmt fac staffed by water or WW operators
White Paper Conclusions

Agreed Upon approach: one certification for both water and ww operators as a stand alone add-on to existing ww and water certification

- Technology aspects of the potable reuse treatment train should be covered (both IPR and DPR).
- More emphasis should be placed on operator’s role: ability to trouble shoot and react quickly to problems, understanding of critical control points – the human factor will save the day
- Timely development of a cert program is needed for DPR to move forward
- Program must be manageable and enforceable by the SWRCB
Follow up Issues

- Certification Program Sponsor
  - SWRCB administered certification program
  - Interim trade organization certification endorsed by SWRCB
- State Funding/Resource Needs for development of training and certification programs and financing ongoing administration
- Training
  - On-the-job site-specific utility programs
  - Programs developed thru trade associations
  - Programs developed through community colleges
- Grandfathering
- Career Mobility – crossover between ww and w
- Determination of grade level of operators needing certification
- Implementation time frame
Ongoing Activities

- **White Paper**
  - Final released final Jan 2016
- **AWWA/CWEA Membership Survey**
  - Released Jan 11, 2016 to gather baseline data for an operator certification program
- **Water Reuse Research Foundation (WRRF)**
  - Issued a solicitation for proposals (WRFF-15-05) on developing a DPR training/certification program.
  - Proposals due Jan 21, 2016
Questions?