

## State Environmental Commission

### March 08, 2006 Regulatory Hearing

#### Agenda Item III

#### **Appointment of Advisory Board to the State Environmental Commission on Certification of Operators of Public Water Systems**

**Recommended Action:** NDEP is requesting the SEC to re-appoint the Advisory Board on Certification of Operators of Public Water Systems for a period of at least 2 years. During this time period NDEP is requesting the SEC to direct the Advisory Board to coordinate efforts with the advisory board for Waste Water Treatment Plant Operators and review potential opportunities for consolidation and improvement in both the water and wastewater certifications programs.

A list of the existing members and their bios, along with a proposed motion is presented below.

Background: The 2005 Nevada Legislature enacted SB 395, which among other things transferred certain responsibility for the operation of Nevada's safe drinking water programs from the State Health Division to NDEP.

Regarding the certification of operators of public water systems, SB 395 states that the "Commission may appoint an Advisory Board to act in an advisory capacity in matters relating to the certification of operators of community water systems." It is important to recognize that before the safe drinking water programs were transferred to NDEP, this Advisory Board reported to the State Board of Health. SB 395 now gives the SEC the option to continue, or not continue, the use of this Advisory Board.

Over the past two years this Advisory Board has worked on revising the regulation governing the certification of operators of public water systems (i.e., NAC 445A.617 through 445A.652). This revised regulation was adopted by the SEC at the October 2005 meeting. The adopted regulation requires increased skills and knowledge to operate public water systems for individuals certified by the Division as safe drinking water operators.

Since 1993 NDEP has maintained a similar advisory board to support the certification program for Waste Water Treatment Plant Operators, e.g., sewer plant operators. This activity is authorized under NRS 445A.425 (1) (e). This board provides advice directly to NDEP and not the SEC; however its functions are similar to those performed by the Advisory Board for the Certification of Operators of Public Water Systems.

It's worth mentioning here that a recent survey by Farr West Engineering, consultants to NDEP, found that utilities that employ both drinking water and

wastewater operators retain a 70 percent dual certification rate (i.e., 7 of 10 operators hold certifications in both functions). There may be an opportunity to coordinate these boards in the future.

Reason for Appointing the Advisory Board for Certification of Operators of Public Water Systems: With the transfer of the safe drinking water programs to NDEP, NDEP has initiated an evaluation of the operator certification programs for both Public Water Systems and Wastewater systems. Differences between the two programs include issues such as fees and requirements for qualifying education, testing and continuing education. The NDEP will be examining these two programs over the coming year and with input from the two advisory boards will make recommendations for improvements to the programs.

In addition to this ongoing effort, existence of the Board provides NDEP a mechanism by which NDEP can routinely communicate with the regulated community. The Board has historically held quarterly meeting at which the Health Division and now NDEP are regular participants.

Once again, NDEP is requesting the SEC to re-appoint the Advisory Board on Certification of Operators of Public Water Systems for a period of at least 2 years. During this time period NDEP is requesting the SEC to direct the Advisory Board to review potential opportunities for consolidation and improvement in both the drinking water and wastewater certifications programs.

#### **Existing Advisory Board Members**

- Darrin Price (Chairman), Sun Valley G.I.D.,
- Lynn Forsberg – Elko County
- Chet Auckly, S.E.E. Company LLC
- Cameron McKay (Secretary), Round Hill GID
- Marie Pollack (Vice Chair)
- Marcellus Jones, Las Vegas Valley Water District
- Harvey Johnson, Incline Village GID

**Suggested Motion:** Appoint an Advisory Board to the State Environmental Commission on Certification of Operators of Public Water Systems. The Advisory Board will consist of the above listed members who are appointed for a two-year term:

## **Membership Profiles**

### **Advisory Board to the State Environmental Commission (SEC) on Certification of Operators of Public Water Systems**

**March 2006**

#### **Darrin Price (Advisory Board Chairman)**

Darrin Price is the Public Works Director for the Sun Valley General Improvement District in Sun Valley a community located just north of Reno, Nevada. Darrin has over 20 years experience in the water and wastewater industry. Mr. Price is a certified Grade 4 Water Distribution Operator and a certified Backflow Specialist and Tester. He is currently finishing his Bachelors degree in Business Administration with a minor in Civil Engineering. Darrin is a member of the CA/NV Management and Development Training committee and is currently chairman of its Advisory Board. Mr. Price has authored many articles for publication in trade magazines and given training to operators on both water distribution and cross-connection control.

#### **Lynn Forsberg**

Lynn attended Salt Lake Community College from 1976 until 1978 graduating with a certificate in construction management. He worked as a private contractor and a contract project manager until 1980 when he went to work for Park City, Utah as the Public Works Supervisor until 1981. Since that time he has lived in Wendover Utah where he was the Public Works Director until 1985 then West Wendover for Elko County as the Public Works Director until 1990. With the incorporation of the City of West Wendover Lynn went to work for Elko County, he started as the Public Works Supervisor and subsequently now is the Public Works Director.

Lynn has served on the Operators Certification Advisory Board since 1998 and has during his tenure been the secretary, chairman of vice, and chairman. He has enjoyed his association with other operators and board members. Lynn holds a wastewater grade 1 treatment plant operator certificate and water operator certificates as grade 3 distribution, grade 4 OIT Distribution, and grade 2 Treatment Plant Operator. He is the operator in charge for the Montello water and sewer system, the Jackpot water and sewer system, Lamoille water system, Jarbidge water treatment and distribution system, and advisor to Mountain City water system and wastewater disposal.

#### **Chet Auckly**

Chet Auckly is Director of Water Quality and Environmental Affairs for the California Water Service Company and President of S.E.E. Company, LLC. He has over 30 years as an Analytical/Biochemist, Microbiologist, Water Quality Manager, Researcher, Trainer/Educator, and Water Treatment Problem Solver.

Chet is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist in California and a Certified Grade IV Water Treatment Operator. Mr. Auckly holds an A.A. (Physical Science/Math), B.S. (Biology/Chemistry), M.S. (Environmental Engineering) and On-Going Post Graduate Studies in, Chemistry, Water Treatment and Business Administration and has both published and/or presented over 30 technical papers in the Water/Water Reclamation Field. Chet is the recipient of the George A. Elliott Memorial and the George Warren Fuller Memorial Awards of Excellence in the Water Field (California-Nevada Section American Water Works Association (AWWA) and International AWWA, respectively).

He is Past Chair of the California – Nevada Section AWWA. Chet is a recent past member of the Board of Directors, Past Chair of the Conference Management Committee, and Past Member of the Administrative and Policy Council of the International AWWA.

### **Cameron McKay (Advisory Board Secretary)**

Cameron McKay began his career in the water industry after retiring from 20 years in the oil and gas industry, most of which was spent overseas. He has since spent 15 years in the water industry starting as an operator for Kingsbury General Improvement District before accepting his current position of District Manager at Round Hill General Improvement District.

Cameron currently holds a Grade 3 Water Treatment and a Grade 3 Water Distribution certificate as well as being a certified Backflow Tester and Specialist. Cameron is also the owner/ operator of Sierra Water Management, a company that operates a number of smaller water systems in the Lake Tahoe and Northern Nevada areas. Very active in the water industry, McKay currently sits on the Water and Wastewater Training Coalition as well as being the secretary for the Operator Certification Advisory Board. He is also very active in training in both operations and operator safety.

### **Marcellus Jones**

Marcellus Jones Jr. has 34 years of experience in the water industry. Mr. Jones has been with the Las Vegas Valley Water District for 17 years as the Distribution Systems Manager responsible for managing a 24-hour work force consisting of 9 supervisors and 83 employees responsible for maintaining approximately 3,542 miles of pipe over 300,000 service accounts, 59,000 valves, and other appurtenance to supply potable water for domestic and industrial use.

Before this Marcellus was with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for 17 years. Mr. Jones holds a State of Nevada and California Grade III in Distribution. Marcellus received the George A. Elliott Memorial Award - AWWA-CA/NV in 2003. Marcellus has been a member of AWWA since 1987, CA/NV Competition Committee Chair, 1995- 2000, National Pipe Tapping Committee Chair 2002-2005, Tri-State Committee Chair 2004-2005 and the Assistant Conference Director for CA/NV AWWA 2004-2006.

**Harvey Johnson**

Harvey graduated from the University of Wisconsin (Superior) with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry. He joined the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) in 1977 as a Chemist. As a chemist, he was responsible for analyzing the water and wastewater systems as well as other operational duties. He held the positions at IVGID of Assistant Superintendent, Operations Manager and most recently Utilities Superintendent. He is certified as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator IV; Water Treatment Operator Grade T2, Mechanical Technologist Grade II. Harvey also holds a certificate of Public Management from the University of Reno, Nevada.