

AMENDMENTS TO THE UTILITY OPERATOR CERTIFICATION ACT BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE AGAIN

As most of you know the New Mexico Operator Certification Office is proposing revisions to the Act for the third time. NMED is hopeful that the amendments make it through the legislature this time. House Bill 153 and Senate Bill 293 are the bills to watch. You can follow the progress by going to the website of the legislature at: <http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/default.asp>. The NMED Operator Certification Office hopes that you will support these bills. It is the future of your profession.

These amendments were developed through a stakeholder-based workgroup made up of representatives of NMED, New Mexico Rural Water Association (NMRWA), the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), the New Mexico Utility Operator Advisory Board (NMUOCB), the New Mexico Municipal League (NMML), and the New Mexico Water and Wastewater Association (NMWWA). The workgroup met periodically over the last year to develop proposed amendments that are reasonable and necessary and will benefit utility operators and the general public.

Q: What is NMED Certification Office proposing?

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)/Operator Certification Program has developed proposed amendments to the Utility Operator Certification Act that have been introduced during the 2005 New Mexico legislative session. The amendments improve NMED's ability to consistently apply the provisions of the Act. They also amend the current fee structure so that collected fees support programmatic operations of the Surface Water Quality Bureau Facility Operations Section (SWQB FOS)...better known to operators as the Certification Office.

Level	Proposed Fee Changes	
	Exam	Renewal ¹
SW, SWA,		
SWW, SWWA	\$25.00	\$20.00
Level 1 & 2	\$35.00	\$25.00
Level 3 & 4	\$50.00 ²	\$35.00

¹Fees are based on a 3-year renewal cycle.
²Fees by statute may not exceed \$50 maximum in the first year.

Q: Why are the proposed statute amendments necessary?

The Utility Operator Certification Act remains essentially unchanged since 1972. The proposed amendments retain the original emphasis on protection of public health, the environment, and infrastructure investments through ongoing training and certification of the State's water and wastewater utility operators.

Q: Is NMED increasing fees to \$200 per exam?

NO. The proposed amendments to the statute only set *maximum* fees that can be charged and are based on a 30-year projection. The actual fees that will be charged are promulgated by the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) and are set forth by regulation, not by statute.

The current fees for exams and certificate renewal are \$15 across the board. Current regulations have established a 3-year certificate renewal cycle, and there is no proposed change to that renewal cycle.

The stakeholder-based workgroup developed a proposed sliding fee schedule that would be adopted through a regulation development hearing before the WQCC and will include an opportunity for public comment/testimony. The proposed exam fee schedule is summarized in the adjoining table and the details are posted on the New Mexico Facility Operator Web Site at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/fostop.html>

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Q: Is there a limitation on the magnitude of the fee increase that can be adopted by the WQCC?

The proposed statute amendments *limit the initial increase* that the WQCC can adopt, and further limit fee increases to a *maximum of 5% annually* thereafter. Based on past experience (i.e. the current fee schedule has been in place and unchanged for 20 years), NMED anticipates that fee increases will not occur on an annual basis. So in reality, July 2005 would be the earliest date that the fee change could come into effect. The \$200 cap for all levels of certification as well as the operator exam fee could not be reached until 2020. And even that date is dependent on the fees being raised a maximum of 5% *every year*.

Q: Will we start to lose operators due to the high cost of test fees, and renewals?

Actually, if you compare New Mexico's test and renewal fees with other states, our fees are currently very low at \$15 per exam and \$15 for a 3-year certificate renewal (that's only \$5 per year). Even when you factor in the proposed increases, we are below the national average. Take a look at the fees in some other states, including our immediate neighbors.

	Exam ¹	Renewal ²
Oklahoma	\$130	\$90
Colorado	\$85	\$60
Arizona	\$70	\$25
Texas	\$105	\$80
Utah	\$70	\$50
Oregon	\$205	\$40
Washington	\$157	\$93
Montana	\$240	none
Tennessee	\$180	\$50
Missouri	\$135	\$45
Arkansas	\$100	\$60
Florida	\$340	\$120
Louisiana	\$275	\$75

¹Fees may include a mandatory application fee as well as an exam fee.
²All Certificate renewals are based on a 3-year cycle.

Q: If the fees go up and I just paid for my renewal, do I have to pay more money?

No. Renewal cycles are based on the date of your first certification. You will not be liable for increased fees until your certificate(s) is due for renewal.

Q: Do fees currently support the Operator Certification Program? How will the proposed amendments change the level of support provided to the program? Do they really need all that money?

Currently the Utility Operator Certification Act requires that all fees be deposited to the State's General Fund. This means that fees paid by utility operators *are not* currently earmarked to support the Operator Certification Program.

“The Facility Operations Seciton and the Environment Department have no intention of returning to the commission for a fee increase for at least 3 years after these proposed fees are set in place...so that wouldn't be until 2008 at the earliest.”
Mike Coffman

The proposed amendments will ensure that utility operator fees directly support program operations that in turn support operators. However, the fee schedule as proposed will only provide approximately 20% of the annual budget of the Operator Certification Program. The NMED Operator Certification Office is currently supported (staff only) with Corrective Action Fund monies. Fees collected will revert back to operators in many different forms - study materials, correspondence courses, etc.

Q: What kinds of activities will the fees support?

The proposed fees will support general service and supply line items for the Certification office, such as printing certificates, training materials, and postage to mail operators their certificate renewal statements. They will pay for some on-line training materials and web-site support including computer hardware and software to maintain the operator database. Travel expenses for operator testing sessions will also be covered. These fees will help the certification office to provide: training credit and certification tracking, evaluation and approval of training courses, free on-line training, and eleven (11) exam sessions per year. Most other states provide only 1 or 2 exams per year.

Depending on the fees collected, the fees *may* pay for Certification Office salaries, or contracts to external training providers. For example, this newsletter is published with monies that are contracted to the Water Utilities Technical Assistance Program (WUTAP); WUTAP instructors are able to provide training at NMWWA schools through an FOS contract; the NMWWA TOMS training sessions were paid for by a previous FOS contract.

Q: Why should operators support these changes?

First and foremost - To protect the public health, taxpayer investments, and the environment. A strong Operator Certification Act strengthens the requirement on municipalities to hire certified operators.

Second - To secure the flow of Federal funds into New Mexico. If there is no EPA approved certification program in the State of New Mexico, 20% of the Federal funds earmarked for distribution in New Mexico's State Revolving Loan could be withheld. These monies are used to upgrade and build water and wastewater facilities for municipalities throughout the State.

Third - Maintaining the relationship of operator reciprocity. NM licences have reciprocity with almost every other state in the US. The only exclusions are from states that do not offer reciprocity to *ANY* other state or those that refuse reciprocity to NM because NM does not accept the license of their state. (New Mexico will not accept the license of an operator coming from a state that does not meet our high standards of operator training.)

Q: What's Next?

Once the proposed amendments are accepted during the 2005 legislative session, and the statutes adopted, the NMED will propose regulation changes to align with the adopted statutes. At this time the fees will be set by the WQCC as proposed by the stakeholder based workgroup. This is projected for some time in 2005.

Mike D. Coffman, New Mexico Environment Department, Operator Certification Officer

2005 NMWWA AWARDS



Marie Ortiz received the "Caroline Martinez" Award

NMWWA Scholarships were awarded to Robert Torres & Phillip Campbell.

Good Housekeeping Awards went to:

- City of Gallup - Activated Sludge
- City of Roswell - Ground Water
- City of Las Cruces - Lagoons
- City of Las Vegas - Surface Water
- City of Roswell - Mechanical
- City of Rio Rancho - Activated Sludge

The Max Summerlot Award went to Town of Taos ,OMI

Charles Caldwell Award for the highest increase in membership for 2004 went to the Northwest Section.

Outstanding Operator of the Year awards went to:

- Jeff Garcia, City of Las Cruces
- Sammy Maestas, Los Alamos County
- Joe Ramon Vialpando, City of Las Vegas
- Leroy James, NTUA
- Ray Estorga, City of Las Cruces

Section President's Award went to:

- NE - TSAY WW Plant
- NW - Northstar Water Co.
- SE - City of Artesia WW Plant
- SW - Las Cruces Public Schools
- WC - City of Gallup WW Plant
- CT - City of Belen WW Plant

CERTIFICATION NEWS



NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR UTILITY OPERATORS CERTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD POSITIONS

The Utility Operators Certification Advisory Board is appointed by the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission to function with the Commission to establish qualifications of operators, classify utility systems, adopt regulations and advise the administration of the Utility Operators Certification Act. The terms of appointment for three current members expire on June 30, 2005.

The Advisory Board seeks nominations of certified operators to serve on the Board for the three-year term to end June 30, 2008. The requirements for membership are current utility operator certification and the ability to attend the meetings of the Board (missing three consecutive meetings results in automatic removal). The Board meets several times a year, with most meetings held in Santa Fe. In addition, the Board is looking for members who have a breadth of experience in operating public water and wastewater utility systems, and who have good contacts with other operators in the field.

Nominations may be made by the candidates themselves, by employers, or by sponsoring organizations. Please include the nominee's address, telephone number, and description of their work experience and qualifications to serve on the Advisory Board. Letters of recommendation are also welcome, whether submitted with a formal nomination or separately. Nominations may be submitted to the Advisory Board in care of the Facility Operations Section at the following address:

**Facility Operations Section
NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502**

The Board will review all nominations at their meetings in Albuquerque, March 17, 2005 and June 2005 and will forward them to the Water Quality Control Commission for consideration. The Board is particularly interested in interviewing candidates at one of these meetings. All meetings of the Advisory Board are open to the public.

If you have any questions regarding the Advisory Board, please contact Mike Coffman, Team Leader, for the NMED Facility Operations Section at (505) 827-0108.



Mike Coffman & family with his "John Clark" Award

2005 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2005

MARCH

NMRWA TRAINING — 27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DATE: March 21-24, Monday-Thursday

LOCATION: Albuquerque, Sheraton Old Town

CONTACT: N.M. Rural Water Association, 505-884-1031,

www.nmrwa.org

NMED EXAM: March 24, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by Feb. 22nd at the latest.

APRIL

NMWWA NORTHWEST SECTION —

JOHN ALLISON MEMORIAL WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 – 2, Basic water & wastewater

DATE: April 4-7, Monday & Thursday

TIMES: 8:00 to 5:00 each day

LOCATION: Farmington, San Juan College, 4601 College Blvd.

REGISTRATION: \$120, members; \$150, non-members

Advanced registration is requested

CREDITS: 26 hours

CONTACT: Cindy Huntsman, 505-334-8684

NMED EXAM: April 8, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by March 9th at the latest.

NMSU WUTAP WORKSHOP —

ADVANCED SECONDARY TREATMENT

TOPICS: advanced activated sludge, sequencing batch reactors, fixed media systems, UV disinfection

DATE: April 19-20, Tuesday & Wednesday

TIMES: 8-5, both days

LOCATION: Santa Fe Community College, Health & Fitness Bldg. Room FE2015

REGISTRATION: \$100. ***Advanced registration is required***

CREDITS: 14 hours

CONTACT: NMSU WUTAP, 505-984-0676, FAX 982-3137

RAGSDALE AND ASSOCIATES —

ADVANCED WATER CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Level III/IV Water Systems Certification

DATE: April 26-28, 2005 - 21 Credit Hours

LOCATION: TVI-WTC, Albuquerque, NM

COST: \$200.00 - Pre-registration required

CONTACT: Fred Ragsdale - 505-293-4658

NMRWA TRAINING — SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: April 27-28, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Truth or Consequences, Civic Center

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

MAY

RAGSDALE AND ASSOCIATES — ADVANCED WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Level III/IV Wastewater Systems Certification

DATE: May 10-12, 2005 - 21 Credit Hours

LOCATION: TVI-WTC, Albuquerque, NM

COST: \$200.00 - Pre-registration required

CONTACT: Fred Ragsdale - 505-293-4658

NMRWA TRAININGS — WW NUTRIENT MONITORING & BASIC MICROSCOPY

DATE: May 9, Monday

LOCATION: Truth or Consequences, Civic Center

DATE: May 11, Wednesday

LOCATION: Las Vegas, Civic Center

DATE: May 12, Thursday

LOCATION: Albuquerque, Wyndham Hotel - Airport

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

NMWWA NORTHERN SCHOOL

TOPICS: This general water & wastewater operations school is for both basic and advanced, Levels 1-4.

DATES: May 16-19, Mon. to Thurs.

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Taos, Convention Center, 121 Civic Plaza

REGISTRATION: \$200 for members, \$250 for non-members.

Advance registration is required for all classes.

CONTACT: NMWWA, Caroline Martinez, 505-753-8840,

FAX 505-753-9810.

CREDITS: 26 hours

NMED EXAM: May 20, 8 to 2:30. Submit your test application by April 20th at the latest.

NMRWA TRAINING — SURFACE WATER WORKSHOP

DATE: May 18-19, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Bloomfield, Multicultural Center

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

JUNE

RAGSDALE AND ASSOCIATES — PUMPS O&M WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Centrifugal Pump Operation, Troubleshooting and Maintenance

DATE: June 7-8, 2005 - 14 Credit Hours

LOCATION: TVI-WTC, Albuquerque, NM

COST: \$140.00 - Pre-registration required

CONTACT: Fred Ragsdale - 505-293-4658

2005 NEW MEXICO TRAINING CALENDAR 2005

NMWWA SOUTHWEST SECTION —

JAKE HANDS MEMORIAL WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Water & Wastewater

DATE: June 8-9, Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5, both days

LOCATION: Ruidoso, Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca

REGISTRATION: \$80, members; \$100, non-members.

Advanced registration is requested.

CREDITS: 13 hours

CONTACT: James Pacheco, 505-528-3653

NMED EXAM: June 10, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by May 11th at the latest.

NMRWA TRAINING – SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: June 8-9, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Ruidoso, Convention Center

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

JULY

NMWWA WEST CENTRAL SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Water & Wastewater

DATE: July 6-7, Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5, each day

LOCATION: Gallup, UNM Gallup, 200 College Dr.

REGISTRATION: \$80, members; \$100, non-members.

Advanced registration is requested.

CREDITS: 13 hours

CONTACT: Pat Sanchez, 505-863-1211

NMED EXAM: July 8, 8 to 2:30

Submit your test application by June 8th at the latest.

NMRWA TRAINING — SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: July 6-7, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Taos, Convention Center

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

DABCC OEWU 255, SEC. 20 —

SURFACE WATER CHEMISTRY,

TOPICS: general laboratory safety; gravimetric & volumetric measurement; pH; conductivity; titrations of acid, bases, alkalinity & hardness; dissolved oxygen; turbidity; jar testing; and precision & accuracy

DATE: July 18-22, 2005

TIME: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Las Cruces, Dona Ana Branch Com. College

REGISTRATION: \$126.00 for Dona Ana County residents;

\$156 for out of district; + \$15.00 (non-refundable)

application fee - Pre-registration required

CREDITS: 3 college credits (transferable to 30 Cert. Hours)

CONTACT: Terry Mount, 505-527-7584: tmount@nmsu.edu;

<http://dabcc-www.nmsu.edu/serv/admin/application.html>

AUGUST

DABCC OEWU 255, SEC. 22 —

WATER AND WASTEWATER MICROBIOLOGY

TOPICS: water and wastewater laboratory safety; water and wastewater sampling; solids analysis; microscopic examination of activated sludge; BOD analysis; and bacteriological analysis

DATE: August 1-5, 2005

LOCATION: Las Cruces, Dona Ana Branch Com. College

REGISTRATION: \$126.00 for Dona Ana County residents;

\$156 for out of district; + \$15.00 (non-refundable)

application fee - Pre-registration required

CREDITS: 3 college credits (transferable to 30 Cert. Hours)

CONTACT: Terry Mount, 505-527-7584: tmount@nmsu.edu;

<http://dabcc-www.nmsu.edu/serv/admin/application.html>

NMWWA SOUTHEAST SECTION WORKSHOP

TOPICS: Levels 1 & 2, Basic Water & Wastewater

DATE: August 10-11, Wednesday & Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5, both days

LOCATION: Hobbs, NM Junior

College, 5317 Lovington Highway, Bob Moran Building

REGISTRATION: \$80, members; \$100, non-members.

Advanced registration is requested.

CREDITS: 13 hours

CONTACT: Leo Wilson, 505-397-9396

NMED EXAM: August 12, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by July 13th at the latest.

WORKSHOP LOCATION CHANGE

Due to scheduling problems, the SE Section Workshop has been relocated to Hobbs, NM.

NMRWA TRAINING – SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: August 10-11, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Silver City, TBA

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org

SEPTEMBER

NMWWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

TOPICS: This general water & wastewater operations school is for both basic and advanced, Levels 1-4.

Calendar continued from page 5

DATES: September 12-15, Monday through Thursday

TIMES: 8 to 5 each day

LOCATION: Albuquerque, UNM Continuing Education Bldg.
1634 University Blvd., NE

REGISTRATION: \$200 for members, \$250 for non-members.

Advanced registration is required

CREDITS: 26 hours

CONTACT: Caroline Martinez, 505-753-8840,

FAX 505-753-9810.

NMED EXAM: September 16, 8 to 2:30.

Submit your test application by August 17th at the latest.

NMRWA TRAINING — SMALL WATER O&M

DATE: September 14-15, Wednesday & Thursday

LOCATION: Gallup, TBA

REGISTRATION: 505-884-1031, 800-819-9893

CONTACT: NM Rural Water Assoc., www.nmrwa.org



Doug Roby instructs two lab courses for the Water Technology Program of the DABCC this summer (see calendar for specifics).

The Surface Water Chemistry course on July 18-22, is designed to improve the lab skills of operators and lab technicians with limited lab experience. It will also assist surface water treatment operators to better understand the process and develop process control analysis skills.

The Water and Wastewater Microbiology course on Aug. 1-5, will assist operators and lab technicians to: further develop their analytical skills, understand why certain analysis is conducted, what information may be gained from the analysis, basic troubleshooting, quality control requirements, and the important parameters and calculations required for each of the analyses.

The 3 credit hour courses offer the option to receive a grade for the course or receive only training credits. Those who do not wish to receive a grade may register for the course utilizing the audit option. All students will be required to complete assignments, take quizzes and exams. It is not necessary to be a Water Technology Program student to enroll for either or both of these courses.

The cost for each course is \$126 for a Doña Ana County resident and \$156 for out of district (a proposed tuition increase if approved will raise the cost to \$132/\$162) with a \$15.00 (non-refundable) application fee. Application forms are available at <http://dabcc-www.nmsu.edu/serv/admin/application.html>. Once there click on "Non-degree Application" or "Readmission Application" for returning DABCC or NMSU students. Print & complete the appropriate form, sign it, and mail it with \$15.00 to the address on the form (there is no fee for students who are readmitting).

Once admitted, you may secure a pin number and register on-line at the web-site: <https://www.nmsu.edu/ONLINE/>. You may also register the first day of the course but the Water Technology Program requires at least one week prior notification at (505) 527-7584 or via e-mail to tmount@nmsu.edu. Class size is limited to 16 for each course so register or notify the Water Technology Program ASAP if you will be attending the either of the courses.

For more information, application forms, and registration information, please contact Terry Mount at (505) 527-7584 or by e-mail to tmount@nmsu.edu.

WUTAP BIDS FAREWELL

It has been over eight years since my picture first appeared in this newsletter as part of the announcement that I had been hired by WUTAP to work as a Field Trainer. During my time here, I have had the pleasure of working with numerous operators, managers and others involved in all aspects of water supply and wastewater treatment in New Mexico. Now, I have accepted a position to work with the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section of the New Mexico Environment Department, and so the time has come for me to move on to other challenges in the field.

Before I go, I want to express my thanks to all of the skilled individuals and positive groups that I have worked with over the years, and to encourage everyone to continue to provide such excellent service to the citizens of New Mexico. I learned something from every person I dealt with as a Field Trainer, and I have shared many laughs and successes (and a few failures). My role in the Environment Department will be different from my role as a WUTAP Field Trainer, but my efforts will be directed at the same end result: cleaner water for the people and land that I love.

Because I enjoy teaching so much, I will make every effort to continue to volunteer as an instructor for the New Mexico Water And Wastewater Association, so you will see me around from time to time.

Thank you, everyone, and if you have a ground water discharge permit (and you know who you are), I look forward to working with you in the future.

Robert George

Continued from page 3

The following people received Lifetime Memberships:

Richard Earnest	Patricia Young
Daniel Gutierrez	Fred Renteria
Martin Renteria	Donnie Adams
John Kelley	Fred Seifts

Cindy Huntsman received the "President's Award"



**Jean Hiers presented her daughter's namesake
"Cynthia Hiers-Robinson Instructor of the Year"
Award to: Andrew Medina & Kit Roush**

NEW MEXICO WATER & WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION 2005 NORTHERN SHORT SCHOOL - PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NORTHERN SHORT SCHOOL
May 16-19, 2005
Taos Convention Center
121 Civic Plaza
Taos, NM

Payment in full must accompany this registration form or it will NOT be processed.

NAME: _____ **SOCIAL SECURITY #:** _____
HOME ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____
EMPLOYED BY: _____ **EMPLOYER PHONE #:** _____
NMWWA Member: YES NO **ARE YOU CURRENTLY CERTIFIED:** YES NO

PLEASE NOTE: Pre-registration is *required* and on a "first come - first served" basis. There will be **NO** registration at the door. You must specify which *category* you will attend. When a specific *category* has reached its student capacity, no further registration will be allowed in that area. Registration confirmation will **NOT** be sent. Call (505)753-8840 to confirm registration, Fax # 753-9810.. Refunds apply **ONLY** if cancellation instructions are received one week before the specified school and there will be a \$25 processing fee for all cancellations.

REGISTRATION FEES:

Member Fee:	\$200	_____
Non-Member Fee:	\$250	_____
NMWWA State & Section Dues (if not yet paid):		
Active	\$35	_____
Corporate	\$33	_____
Associate	\$30	_____
Student	\$25	_____
TOTAL	\$	_____

You MUST mark the category of classes that you will be attending in order for this form to be complete.

You may attend one or two categories of classes.

26 credits each category:

<u>ENROLLMENT</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>	_____
50 people	Basic Water (I - II)	_____
50 people	Basic Wastewater (I-II)	_____
50 people	Advanced Water(III-IV)	_____
50 people	Adv. Wastewater (III-IV)	_____

Make check payable to:
N.M. Water & Wastewater Association

Mail form & check to:
Caroline Martinez, Executive Manager
P.O. Box 819
Espanola, NM 87532

Pre-Registration Deadline: May 10, 2005

Make your motel reservations before May 1.
Be sure to tell them you're with NMWWA to get this rate.

- **Days Inn 1333 Paseo Del Pueblo Sur**
505-758-2230 \$40 single
- **Confort Suites 1500 Paseo Del Pueblo**
505-751-1555 \$63 single
- **Budget Host Paseo Del Pueblo, Hwy 68**
505-758-2524 \$33 single

NMWWA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The new year is going to be busy for the State Executive Board. As many of you are aware, State bill 153 (Utility Operator Certification Act) is before the State Legislature again. This bill, if passed will affect operators through out the state. As your President, I will be speaking at Senate and Representative Committee Hearings on your behalf. Do your part, by staying informed on this important piece of legislation.

I am also pleased to inform you, that the Wastewater study guide is now available. Thank you, to the New Mexico Water Utilities Technical Assistance Program, for all the time, effort, and hard work involved in producing this quality guide. Thanks also to Mike Coffman and his group.

The Annual Short School was a great success, and was one of the largest ever. A special thanks to Caroline Martinez and the staff of the N.M.E.D. Certification & Training Office for helping to keep things running smoothly. It takes a great deal of time and work, from all involved to make our association work. Congratulations to all the award recipients. The meet and greet was a blast, Elvis was in the house and everyone had a great time.

I would like to take this opportunity, to thank you for allowing me to be your President. I look forward to the challenges the new year brings, and please remember this is your Association, stay involved.

Louis Lujan

OPERATOR SPOTLIGHT - WILLIAM HARRELSON

Southeast Section

William (Bill) Harrelson began his career in operations in 1998 as an un-certified Control Operator for the City of Hobbs Wastewater Treatment Plant. Nicknamed “Doc” for his studious manner and demeanor, Bill holds a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering he received from NMSU in 1972 and is licensed as a NM Wastewater IV, Water II and Compost Operator. He is currently preparing for additional water certifications.

Experience he gained as a high school math/science teacher have assisted Bill in his current position as WWTP Supervisor, and he is instrumental in providing in-house training to department personnel, though he’ll be the first to tell you he hates public speaking. Aside from his regular duties, Bill is also involved in the implementation of an EPA pretreatment program, planning for an upcoming wastewater plant expansion, and increasing public knowledge of effluent and biosolids reuse.



As a member of NMWWA, he regularly participates in SE Section meetings and functions, including conducting utility tours for the local schools and providing technical assistance to smaller communities.

Away from work, Bill enjoys camping outdoors, traveling and taking his dog on hikes. His professionalism and integrity to his responsibilities as a licensed operator are greatly admired, and on behalf of the SE Section, we say thank you.

NMWWA MONTHLY SECTION MEETINGS

- Southeast Section
 - ⊕ 1st Wednesday, rotating
 - ☎ Leo Wilson, 505-397-9396
- Southwest Section
 - ⊕ 3rd Wednesday, Las Cruces
 - ☎ James Pacheco, 505-528-3653
- West Central Section
 - ⊕ 4th Wednesday, Gallup
 - ☎ Ray Espinoza, 505-863-1210
- Central Section
 - ⊕ 2nd Tuesday, Albuquerque
 - ☎ Jeff Burkett, 505-891-5025
- Northeast Section
 - ⊕ 2nd Monday, rotating
 - ☎ Nick Salayandia, 505-757-4287
- Northwest Section
 - ⊕ 1st Thursday, rotating
 - ☎ Andrew Galloway, 505-334-8684