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SEPTEMBER 2015 • NUMBER 129

BRITISH COLUMBIA
OPERATORS

Digest



Reminder:

The current CEU reporting period will be ending on December 31, 2015. Please submit your course completion certificates for courses taken in 2014 and 2015. If you are not sure of your status, please check your profile at <http://www.search.eocp.ca/>. Thank you to those of you who have submitted your course materials and are up to date with the EOCP.

New Guidelines for Direct Responsible Charge (DRC)

There is general agreement that the Direct Responsible Charge (DRC) requirement is a bottleneck for Operators seeking higher levels of certification and for owners in establishing smooth succession planning pathways. DRC experience in facilities/systems has typically been earned by the chief operator or by an operator substituting in the chief operator role. This has been a roadblock for other operators in the facility/system to acquire DRC experience and advance their certification level.

In practice, other roles besides Chief Operators have decision-making responsibility within many facilities and systems. This gives other Operators the opportunity to acquire DRC work experience at the same time as the Chief Operator or the substitute. The EOCP offers owners an opportunity to identify when more than one operator is earning DRC hours (see the Program Guide) but this is not well known and very few facilities have taken advantage of this opportunity.

The board has recently approved changes which, when implemented will:

- Enable more than one Operator at a time to earn DRC work experience.
- Enable Level 1 Operators to begin

accumulating DRC work experience (currently restricted to Levels II, III and IV)

- Require Operators of water distribution or wastewater collection systems to have DRC work experience to apply for Level III and IV operator certification.

These changes will better align BC with ABC's Model Standards and Canadian Best Practices and will make our practices more consistent with those of Alberta and Ontario.

At the core of the revised DRC model is the DRC Plan. This is a form to be completed and approved by both the Chief Operator and the

continues on page 3



Better understanding of municipal water delivery was the goal of this August Open House in Clearbrook. See story page 4.

2015 EOCP Board Election Results

The 2015 EOCP Board election had a record 7 candidates running for two Operator positions. This was also the first year where members were able to submit their votes electronically.

Two positions were filled by acclamation. **Chris Brown** accepted a one year term as an Operator Representative, and **Rob Fleming** accepted a three year term as the Government Representative.

210 ballots were cast in the election with **Patricia Miller** being re-elected to a three year term as an Operator Representative after receiving the highest number of votes.

There was a tie for the second available Operator position between **John Kalinczuk** and **Kevin Brown**, which resulted in a runoff election. This tie breaking election saw 185 ballots cast, with John Kalinczuk being elected for the second three year term as an Operator Representative.

The EOCP would like to thank the other candidates, **Kevin Brown, Robert Eison, Michael Firlotte, Willard Kimble, and John Reynolds**, who participated in the election.



Chris Brown



Rob Fleming



Patricia Miller



John Kalinczuk

Environmental Operators Certification Program

The BC Operators Digest is the official newsletter of the Environmental Operators Certification Program. Submissions for publication in the Digest are welcome. Please email them to the EOCP office at eocp@eocp.ca. Changes of address, annual dues, Continuing Education Requirements, exam applications, as well as general inquiries about the program should be addressed to:

ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATORS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

201 – 3833 Henning Drive, Burnaby, BC V5C 6N5

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2015 EOCP Annual General Meeting

The EOCP held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 30, 2015. This was the second year that the meeting was held electronically, and 49 Operators attended.

The minutes of the meeting, and the Power Point presentation are on the EOCP website for you to view at <http://www.eocp.ca/about-us/annual-general-meeting/>

Congratulations to Randy Craig, who was the winner of the \$250 gift card draw for those Operators who attended the meeting.

EOCP OFFICE STAFF

Ashifa Dhanani Executive Director

Kim Eames Office Manager

Stephanie Hall Exam Co-ordinator

Heather Wallace Program Assistant



Electronic EOCP Newsletter

The EOCP is trying to do our part to reduce our carbon footprint, by sending out the digest electronically. If you are reading this digest in hard copy, please contact the EOCP office at eocp@eocp.ca to ensure we have your correct email address and contact information. It is our goal to go 100% electronic with the digest. We are currently at 92%, and need 356 email addresses to attain our goal. Please help us make that happen!!

Dry Times Ahead?

— by Brian Thorburn



Is this year just an anomaly with the weather patterns and the unusual and warm winter we had last year? What can we, as Operators, do in the future to ensure that we are able to maintain a safe and emergency water supply?

The summer of 2015 will be remembered for many different reasons by all of us. For some, who have been affected by forest fires, they will remember that, just as I remember the year the Kelowna fires occurred as I was evacuated for a couple of days. As Operators though, many of us will remember this summer as the year of the drought and challenging water supplies.

In parts of the province, there was little or no snow pack which supplies lakes and rivers with water throughout the spring and summer. Even west of the Rockies, the snow melt this year was just a blip as they had an unusual winter as well. In comparison, the East Coast of Canada had the winter of all winters, with friends sending me pictures of blizzards occurring even in April and them outside shoveling snow.

Many water utilities anticipated this problematic summer and began water restrictions early on in the summer. As water restrictions are somewhat different throughout the province, there is some confusion in certain areas as to which water restrictions they are on until they reach the no outside watering stage. Some utilities allowed full watering during the summer due to an abundance of raw water, while some alternated watering on even and odd days, or allowed it once or twice a week. The problem it seems is that people don't understand

the importance of these water restrictions until it's too late.

When you drive around in the summer months during a Level 4 drought, and you see green grass on lawns that are under water restrictions, it's not hard to determine that they are watering three or four times their allowable days, as even watering twice a week is hard to keep a healthy green lawn. These people think it's their right to use as much water as they want. My favorite thing to tell them during water restrictions, is that I am sure the fire department will stand around looking at your green lawn after your house burns down from a lack of water and comment on how great it looks.

As Operators, we have a tough job as we have to manage the water in our systems without always having the backing or the authority to implement water restrictions, or in some cases, fine the abusers who are wasting water. Even making big picture changes is a tough haul. What can we do now to ensure that this doesn't happen next year? Unfortunately, the only real thing we can do in anticipation for next year is education. The news coverage of the water restrictions and the various Level three and Level four outright lawn watering bans is a good start for the education for all customers. Unfortunately though, if this upcoming winter is as dry and warm as last year, many utilities could be in a worse condition than this year.

Is this the start of a prolonged change in the weather patterns in our province? Regardless of whether this is just a dry year or the start of drier timers here, it is time to make a change in consumption and the wasting of water in households and lawn irrigation. Better water conservation practices need to be established now so we can continue to enjoy a sustainable future. It's going to be an exciting ride for all of us Operators as we work through this year and look forward to future years challenges. It's never been a better or more important time to be an Operator.

New Guidelines for DRC

continued from page 1

owner/manager, that sets out:

1. the current EOCP facility/system number and classification
2. the normal working hours in a year for that facility
3. a list of the roles that are identified as being in Direct Responsible Charge
4. for each role:
 - a. a list of the processes within the scope or span of control
 - b. a list of the key responsibilities
 - c. a calculation of the expected number of DRC hours available in that role annually
5. how DRC experience will be

recognized for on-call or standby assignments

Each of the roles must satisfy very specific criteria in order to be eligible for DRC; they must:

- be in active control of the facility/system or a significant segment thereof;
- have responsibility for technical direction of the facility/system or a significant segment thereof;
- include substantial on-site duties (sufficient to have the necessary familiarity with the operation of the facility/system);
- have the mandate to make meaningful operating decisions without consultation, and be accountable for those decisions.

The EOCP plans to begin accepting DRC plans on January 1, 2016, and the requirement for DRC experience for Level III and IV Distribution and Collection certification is planned to come into effect on April 15, 2016.

These changes should remove a significant barrier to achieving higher levels of certification, so a timely and successful implementation is important. We want to hear from our members, Chief Operators and owner/managers; we need to know whether you are in support of these changes and whether you have any concerns or unanswered questions. Please follow the link below to our website for more information and an opportunity to provide feedback to the EOCP team.

<http://www.eocp.ca/certified-operators/direct-responsible-charge/>

Clearbrook Waterworks District

Open House

Clearbrook Waterworks District held an Open House on August 14, 2015, with the goal of trying to help rate payers and the general public gain a better understanding of municipal water delivery. EOCP was invited to participate in the open house, along with consultants, trainers, and other service providers in the water industry. The EOCP had a booth at the event, and talked with residents about the crucial role of water and wastewater operators, operator certification requirements, and career opportunities in the water and wastewater industry. There was a great turn out of community members served by the District. Thank you to Jason Hildebrandt for inviting the EOCP to a great event.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to EOCP Board members, **Mike Gosselin** and **John Kalinczuk** who both earned a Professional Operator (PO) designation from ABC.

Mike is now recognized as a Wastewater Treatment Class 1 Professional Operator (PO) and John is recognized as a Water Distribution Class 1 Professional Operator (PO).

For more information about the PO designation, please visit
<http://www.professionaloperator.org/>



Mike Gosselin, EOCP President, speaking about the certification program at the ABC Conference in Long Beach California in January 2015.

EOCP Corporate Recognition Award



PHOTO: Brandi Schier, Sun Peaks Independent News

Sun Peaks Utilities was the recipient of the 2013 EOCP Corporate Recognition Award. The award is presented by the EOCP to a local government, provincial government agency or other organization that has demonstrated exceptional support of the EOCP. From left to right: 1ST ROW – Operators **Mike Linthorne**, **Scott Boyer**, **Pat Miller** (holding the award, Director of Utility Services), and **Nate Kalinocka**. 2ND ROW – **Jim MacKenzie** (Accountant/Chief Meter Reader), **Keith Bentley** and **Brent Romyn**.

INTERVIEWS: With EOCP Society Award Recipients Josh Torry and Shaun McGaw

The EOCP provides a financial award each year to eligible students in the Water Engineering Technology program at the Kelowna Campus of Okanagan College. This year, Josh Terry and Shaun McGaw were the recipients of the award.

Why do you want to become a water/wastewater Operator?

Josh Torry I chose to become a water/wastewater operator because I found the co-op opportunities and course work at Okanagan College to be very interesting. I am also intrigued to see what the future of water/wastewater operations and technology will bring to



Josh Torry

accommodate a continually growing population in conjunction with global depletion of water resources. From this current situation, I suspect many great

opportunities will arise for younger workers just entering the industry.

Shaun McGaw Becoming a Water Distribution and/or Water Treatment Operator interests me because of the multiple disciplines associated with both professions on a day-to-day basis. The disciplines that interest me include: skilled trades work, natural resource management, environmental science, and urban planning. Secondly, increased attention is being placed on the management of water resources. Therefore, I feel a career related to the management of this important resource will be as rewarding as it will be challenging.

What is your goal in entering this field?

Josh Torry My goal in entering the water/wastewater engineering field is to obtain a position at a wastewater treatment plant and eventually obtain my level 4 in wastewater treatment operations. I also plan to eventually

obtain a red seal as an instrumentation technician. This desire to learn more about instrumentation technology and troubleshooting sprouted from the instrumentation course provided in the Water Engineering Technology program at Okanagan College.

Shaun McGaw

My overall goal in entering the Water Distribution/Water Treatment Operator field is to continue gaining experience that will ultimately

make me a better operator. By doing this, I will continue to upgrade my EOCP certification levels. In the short term, I intend on writing my Water Distribution Level I operator exam upon completing my last four months of the Water Engineering Technology diploma program at Okanagan College, BC.



Shaun McGaw

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New Definition for Water Treatment

The EOCP Board of Directors, with the approval of the Ministry of Health, has recently made a change to the definition of a water treatment facility; the revised definition is as follows:

A facility that includes treatment using physical, chemical or biological processes, including any method of primary disinfection, to produce potable water is to be classified as a water treatment facility.

Primary disinfection can include chlorination, ultraviolet and ozonation. The rationale for this change is that a facility performing a process that is intended to accomplish **primary disinfection** must be operated by a person certified as a water treatment operator. However, a facility performing **secondary disinfection** (generally with chlorine) on water that is already potable can be operated safely by a person certified as a distribution operator.

With this change, some Water Distribution facilities in the province will be separated into a Water Treatment and a Water Distribution facility.

For more information about the definition change, please visit the EOCP website at

<http://www.eocp.ca/facilities/new-definitions/>

Want More Information About Web Based Exams?

Please visit the EOCP website at

<http://www.eocp.ca/program-info/web-based-exams/>

High School Requirement

In February 2014, as part of Canadian Best Practices, the EOCP made the high school requirement mandatory for new Operators writing their OIT, Multi Utility Level I and Level I certificates. This also applied to those Operators who want to move from small system or bulk water certificates to an OIT, Multi Utility Level I or Level I certificate. The high school requirement has always been in place, but the EOCP did not ask for proof of high school until this time.

This requirement does not affect those Operators who were certified as an OIT, Multi Utility Level I, or Level I prior to February 2014.

The EOCP requires an official copy of the high school diploma or transcript. This document must indicate that the student has met the grade 12 graduation requirements.

GED, adult dogwood (graduation), and red seal trade certificates are also accepted as an equivalent. We also accept official copies of diplomas for post-secondary education as equivalent.

To order BC transcripts go to the BC Ministry of Education website at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/transcripts-and-certificates/order-online>

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Changes for Exam Eligibility if Working Outside BC or Yukon

Operators who live in BC and Yukon, but are working in other provinces, now have to write their certification exams in those provinces. This is a change from the past practice of allowing residents to write certification exams in BC or Yukon while working elsewhere. This change took effect in the fall of 2014, in the spirit of co-operation with other Canadian certification boards, and to follow Canadian Best Practices.

Operators certified in other provinces coming to work in BC can apply for reciprocal certificates with the EOCP.

Digest Advertising Opportunities

Business card-sized ads are available for \$75 per issue or \$250 for four issues, GST included. For ads of other sizes, please contact the EOCP office.



In Memory of Leo Albrecht

EOCP Board Member
from 1992 to 2006

Leo Albrecht passed away peacefully on April 21, 2015, he was 71. He leaves his loving wife, Nancy, his daughter, Brenda, and one granddaughter. Leo was well known to almost all wastewater operators and many EOCP members. Leo wrote his first certification exam in 1980, and became a lifetime member in 2010. He held certificates in WWT IV, WWC III, and WD III. Leo was an EOCP Board member from 1992 to 2006. During this time, Leo assisted in the development of the EOCP Small Wastewater System exams. Leo also developed and instructed courses in Wastewater Treatment from Level I through IV, and he instructed small systems courses for AANDC.

He will be fondly remembered for his readiness to lend a hand, to instruct, and for his vast knowledge of water and wastewater. Leo was a past employee of the City of Kamloops and of Corix Utilities for most of his life.

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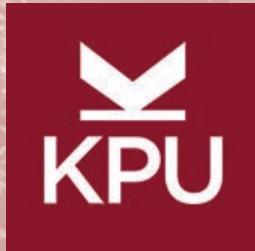
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Kwantlen Polytechnic University to Offer Operator Training

Kwantlen Polytechnic University will deliver water and waste water courses across Western Canada, taking over the training courses previously offered by World Water & Waste Water Solutions.

"WWWS is expanding its operations in the Caribbean region, and KPU, as a polytechnic university, is the ideal organization to carry on building the business is Western Canada," said Valerie Jenkinson, CEO of WWWS.

KPU is able to provide onsite training across B.C. and the other western provinces, as well as in the Yukon. It also has access to top-notch classrooms, a cross-connections lab and a media room that allows for the live delivery of classes to as many as 16 remote locations at once.



"This will enable us to reach smaller communities that do not always have the time or resources to fly in instructors or fly out operators who need to keep their skills current," said Jim Pelton, the Executive Director of Continuing & Professional Studies at KPU.

KPU has recently become an EOCP test centre so that operators can take their EOCP certification exams as soon as their classes are done, providing they meet the EOCP certification requirements. KPU is also very pleased to announce the hiring of Ron Enns, who will serve as Manager of Business Development for this new line of training.

"I have been an operator in this industry for 13 years and I am excited to get the opportunity to join KPU and help provide the best possible training available," said Enns.

For questions or more information, Ron Enns may be reached at **604-836-6133** and at **ronald.enns@kpu.ca**

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STATISTICS FROM JANUARY 1, 2015 TO AUGUST 30, 2015

EXAMS

570 Operators have written exams during this period.

385 were web based exams and **185** were paper based exams.

FACILITIES

148 facilities were added or upgraded during this time.

CEUs

1,820 Operators have submitted CEUs since January 1, 2015.

There were **5,507 submissions**, with a total of **9,337.15 CEUs** earned during this time period.

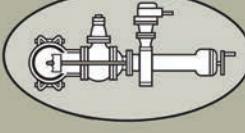
This means that Operators spent **93,371.5 hours** taking training.

NEW OPERATORS AND OPERATOR UPGRADES!

Check out the newest and latest upgrades on Operator status. Go to the EOCP website and click on the Operator **Highlights Tab** and then Click on **New Operators** for an up to date list.

FACILITY CLASSIFICATION TO AUGUST 30, 2015					
Classification	IV	III	II	I	Total
WD	32	50	173	158	413
WT	17	34	74	11	136
WWC	16	17	70	97	200
WWT	25	30	104	96	255
IWWT	2	1	4	0	7
SWS					853
SWWS					213
Total					2,079

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TO AUGUST 30, 2015								
Classification	IV	III	II	MUII	I	MUI	OIT	Total
WD	74	193	784	6	835	14	46	1,952
WT	39	57	161	3	215	6	46	527
WWC	13	70	453	6	667	16	37	1,264
WWT	103	135	242	9	271	13	43	816
IWWT		4	12		13			29
Totals	229	459	1,654	24	2,001	49	172	4,588
BWD								40
SWS								695
SWWS								226
Total								5,549

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