



Wastewater Operator CEU Requirement Initiated

By: **Don Craig, Deputy Director**

**June 2019
Newsletter**

**IRWA
ILLINOIS
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At the time of this publication, many of you may have already heard about the 'news' concerning the approval and implementation of the mandate for continuing education units (CEUs) for Illinois Wastewater Operators. This has been on the back-burner in IEPA for quite a while now, and has finally come to fruition. I wanted to go ahead and get this information out, via one of our media publications, in case you have not received communication about the change, in some other electronic or physical form.

I want to thank Dave McMillan, the new IRWA Training Specialist (and who recently retired from many years with IEPA), for providing the initial data update contained below... which contains the specific new regulation requirements.

IRWA will be concentrating in the coming months and years, to provide more training sessions, not only for water CEUs, but for wastewater as well.

The Joint Committee on Administrative Rules has approved the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency proposed rule change contained in 35 IL Adm. Code Part 380. This administrative rule can be found on the Illinois Pollution Control Board Web Site by following this link:

<https://pcb.illinois.gov/SLR/IPCBandIEPAEnvironmentalRegulationsTitle35> .

What everyone has been waiting for is contained in SUBPART G: CERTIFICATE RENEWAL, RESTORATION, AND REQUIRED TRAINING. This series of sections includes information on certificate expiration and renewal.

Section 380.700 - Certificate Expiration

- a) **Class 1 and Class 2**
 - 1) Beginning on **July 1, 2020**, Class 1 and Class 2 Certificates of Technical Competency must be issued **with the expiration date being 3 years after July 1 of the calendar year in which the certificate was issued.**
 - 2) Class 1 and Class 2 Certificates of Technical Competency **issued before July 1, 2020 shall expire on July 1, 2023.**
- b) **Class 3 and Class 4**
 - 1) Beginning on **July 1, 2019**, Class 3 and Class 4 Certificates of Technical Competency must be issued **with the expiration date being 3**

years after July 1 of the calendar year in which the certificate was issued.

2) Class 3 and Class 4 Certificates of Technical Competency **issued before July 1, 2019 shall expire on July 1, 2022.**

Class K and Class R

1) Class K and Class R Certificates of Technical Competency expire **5 years after the date of issuance.**

2) Class K and Class R Certificates of Technical Competency **issued before July 1, 2019 shall expire on July 1, 2024.**

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 5203, effective July 1, 2019)

Section 380.705 - Certificate Renewal Application

a) **Class 1, Class 2, Class 3 and Class 4 Certificates of Technical Competency are renewable.**

b) **Class K and Class R Certificates of Technical Competency may not be renewed. Operators must retake the examination and reapply when a Class K or Class R certification expires.**

c) By **April 1** of the year a certificate is due to expire, the **Agency must notify the operator of expiration** of the certificate at the most recent address, or email address, the Agency has on file for the operator.

d) **The renewal application form must be completed by the operator** and must:

- 1) Specify the current certificate's expiration date, training requirements for certificate renewal, and number of hours of completed training since the current certificate was issued;
- 2) Contain a statement signed by the operator certifying that all information provided in the renewal application form is true and complete; and
- 3) Be submitted to the Agency on or before July 1 of the year in which the certificate expires.

e) The Agency will not process incomplete renewal application forms or renewal applications without the wastewater operator's original signature.

f) Falsification of a renewal application form shall result in denial of certificate renewal and may result in certificate suspension or revocation.

(continued on page 3)



EMERGENCY PLANNING for, in and for YOUR SWP PLAN

By: Mark Mitchell, USDA Source Water Protection Technician

A very important part of your day to day worry is security and emergency preparedness (contingency planning). Contingency planning deals with emergency preparedness, mitigation & response for public water supplies and allows you to evaluate your preparedness for and response to threats to health and safety within your own supply. It requires you to consider your specific vulnerabilities and take steps to mitigate them.

When preparing your emergency preparedness plan, many things need to be evaluated including, but not limited to: determining who is in charge, chain of command, possible needed and available resources, distribution system repair supplies and long and short-term alternative water supplies.

The Illinois Rural Water Association has available templates for use in developing a **CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** for source water protection or for just simply emergency preparedness. This template is available by calling our office to request one, emailing me at mitchell@ilrwa.org or download under the security tab on our website www.ilrwa.org.

There are many benefits to be gained by protecting a public water supply's source of water, however maybe the most important is long term protection of a source of water that would be almost impossible to replace and involvement in the protection of a vital community resource, and most important of all a clean supply of water for future generations.

It is our responsibility as stewards of public water supplies to protect the sources we have and enjoy today so that future generations have that same privilege. I cannot stress enough the importance of the idea that in Source Water Protection an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I have seen numerous real life instances here in Illinois where supplies have had no other option but to look for an alternative source of water because another source within their jurisdiction was simply not available or cost prohibitive.

If you need assistance with protecting your source of water please contact me and let me assist you in starting or furthering your protection measures by documenting your **CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** and see where that leads you in your protection efforts.

GPS/GIS MAPPING SERVICES

Through the implementation of GPS & GIS technology, IRWA can effectively produce hard copy and digital maps. With this service available from IRWA, utilities can attain new and accurate maps to better manage their water, wastewater, and storm sewer assets.

The printed maps can be large-scale wall maps up to 36"x48" showing utility features with the desired layers (aerial photos, streets, topography, etc.).

The digital map files on a CD, can be viewed and printed with free software that IRWA will provide and install on a utility computer. The software allows you to view and click on a system feature (such as a valve, hydrant, meter pit, curb stop, manhole, lift station, treatment facility, etc.), and pull up attribute data about each...as well as several other capabilities such as printing, zooming, etc.

Also, IRWA has a working relationship, with DiamondMaps.com, to put your IRWA project maps, on their server, for mobile viewing with a smartphone or cellular capable tablet...including editing capability. This is at no extra charge to the system for the first year's subscription. Continuance of the Diamond Maps service after the first year, is at the utility's discretion.

Payment for GIS services, is a set charge per feature, with IRWA members receiving an automatic 30% discount, and even more of a reduction with bigger projects. More information is also posted on our website at: www.ilrwa.org, or you may call our office at 217-287-2115.



g) Failure to receive the renewal application form does not exempt a certified wastewater operator from meeting the renewal deadline.

h) When a certificate holder has made a sufficient application for certificate renewal (Class 1 through 4), or a new certificate (Class K and R), before expiration of the current certificate, the current certificate shall continue in full force and effect until the final agency decision on the application has been made.

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 5203, effective July 1, 2019)

As indicated by the Illinois EPA, the renewal CEU requirements look very much like the drinking water requirements.

Section 380.715 - Training Renewal Requirements

The requirements for certificate renewal are as follows:

a) Class 1 and Class 2 certified operators must complete and document **30 hours of training during the 3 year certificate period** before the certificate expiration date.

1) A minimum of **20 hours of training must relate to the technical aspects** of wastewater treatment and operations.

2) The Agency will accept a **maximum of 10 hours of training relating to the professional responsibilities** of the operator and to safety.

b) Class 3 and Class 4 certified operators must complete and document **15**

hours of training during the 3 year certificate period before the certificate expiration date.

1) A minimum of **10 hours of training must relate to the technical aspects** of wastewater treatment and operations.

2) The Agency will accept a maximum of **5 hours of training relating to the professional responsibilities** of the operator and to safety.

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 5203, effective July 1, 2019)

Note, Section 380.720, Training Criteria, contains information on differentiating technical training for professional training.

It's recommended that everyone review the entire regulation when you get an opportunity. In particular, you may wish to pay additional attention to the following Sections:

- Section 380.400 General Examination Requirements – describes who can test, how long the grade is for and what it takes to pass;
- Section 380.405, 410 and 415- Letter of admission;
- Section 380.505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535 and 540 Certificate of Technical Competency (experience requirements); and
- Section 380.545 and 550 Agency determination for certification and appeal process.



Save The Date!!

The 2019 Fall Administrative Conference will be held on September 26—27, 2019 at the Par-A-Dice Casino Hotel in East Peoria, Illinois. Information will be posted soon on our website at www.ilrwa.org and sent out in the mail .



IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT

“Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site technical assistance”

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PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

**ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
16TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**

**WHEN: FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2019
10:00 A.M. SHOT GUN START**

**PIPER GLEN GOLF CLUB
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR ANOTHER FUN FILLED DAY WITH PEERS!
Look for more information in June on our website at www.ilrwa.org and in the mail.**