Who We Are

• Serving Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming
• About 1,400 members
• ~17,000 operators
  • 15,686 certified in Colorado
Operator Training Requirements

Drinking Water Bureau

Operator Certification
Wyoming's certified operators protect public health by providing safe drinking water. They protect the environment by cleaning up our wastewater before releasing it. They also protect the investment Wyoming's taxpayers have made in our water and wastewater infrastructure by operating facilities correctly. The Wyoming Operator Certification Program ensures that operators obtain the correct training to become certified, keep their certifications current, and also requires that facilities are operated by correctly certified operators.

Governor Gordon proclaims February 1st through 7th, 2021 as Wyoming Professional Water and Wastewater Operator Week. Read the proclamation!

New Login Process Is Here! Review these simple instructions to help you navigate the new process and set up your new, easier-for-you login!

Hundreds of in-person, online, correspondence and virtual trainings are available for you! New trainings are added frequently, so check back often!

- Find scheduled In-person Training, or
- Browse Upcoming Webinars, or
- Search for an approved training listed by training type (core or rule), provider, or title!

Emergency Contact Information:
Wyoming DEQ is coordinating with the following entities to cover any operator shortages that may arise due to COVID-19. For information about the current COVID-19 virus status in Wyoming, please visit the Wyoming Department of Health’s COVID-19 website, or the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) website.

- EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Program: Contacts and Rule Managers Phone: 1-800-227-8917 | After-hours Phone Line: 303-621-627 | email: r8dwa@epa.gov
- Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems (WARS Contacts)
- Wyoming Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (WYWARN)

For more information on how to become a Wyoming Certified Water and/or Wastewater Operator.

KEY INFO for OPERATORS...

NEWS & Updates HERE!
License renewal requirements (every 3 years):

- Class A – 30 hours
- Class B – 24 hours
- Class C – 18 hours
- Class D – 12 hours

**Training Unit Categories**
- Water
- Wastewater
- Industrial Wastewater
- Collection
- Distribution
- Supplemental
- Regulatory – 1 contact hour required each time license is renewed

**Wastewater treatment plant operators remove pollutants from domestic or industrial waste.**

Used water, also known as wastewater, is treated and either returned to streams, rivers and oceans, or used for irrigation. Operators operate equipment to purify and clarify the water or dispose of sewage. They clean and maintain equipment, tanks, filter beds and other work areas.

**Classes (levels) of Colorado domestic and industrial wastewater treatment facility operators:**

- Wastewater Treatment Class D - entry level
- Wastewater Treatment Class C
- Wastewater Treatment Class B
- Wastewater Treatment Class A - most advanced
- Industrial Wastewater Treatment D - entry level
- Industrial Wastewater Treatment C
- Industrial Wastewater Treatment B
- Industrial Wastewater Treatment A - most advanced

**Wastewater collection operators maintain and repair wastewater collection systems.**

Operators ensure public health and safety by preventing and/or responding to sewage overflows and blockages. They inspect, clean, maintain, construct and repair the wastewater collection systems including sanitary sewers, storm drains, pump stations, pipes, manholes and catch basins.

**Classes (levels) of Colorado wastewater collection system operators:**

- Collection Class 1 - entry level
- Collection Class 2
- Collection Class 3
- Collection Class 4 - most advanced level
Certificate renewal requirements (every 3 years):

- Water Sampling
- Small Water / Advanced
- Water Supply
- Distribution Systems
- Small Wastewater / Advanced
- Wastewater
- Wastewater Lab
- Collection Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wastewater Certifications</th>
<th>Examination Application Fee</th>
<th>Experience Required (Years)</th>
<th>Training Credits Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small Wastewater (SWW)</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adv. Small Wastewater (SWWA)</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater Level 1 (WW1)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater Level 2 (WW2)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater Level 3 (WW3)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater Level 4 (WW4)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>1 year as WW3</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater Lab Tech 1 (WWLT1)</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater Lab Tech 2 (WWLT2)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater Lab Tech 3 (WWLT3)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Systems 1 (CS1)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Systems 2 (CS2)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Operator Training Requirements – Wyoming

- Certificate renewal requirements every 3 years
- 24 hours required
  - 8 in Core topics
  - 2 in Rules training
  - 14 in Non-core areas
- Core (just a few listed)
  - Backflow prevention
  - Emergency response
  - Instrumentation/SCADA
  - Wastewater Treatment Plant O&M
- Collection System O&M
- Rule (just a few listed)
  - SDWA
  - CWA
- Regulatory updates
- 1 CEU = 10 hours of training

### Certification Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate Name</th>
<th>Experience Requirement</th>
<th>Training Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operators must live in or work in the State of Wyoming. The equivalent of a High School Education (HSE) is required for all certifications.</td>
<td>(Based on a 40-hour week)</td>
<td>(Lifetime total of training hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Systems Certifications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well System (small water systems with wells and distribution systems)</td>
<td>6 months of Well System</td>
<td>35 hrs in Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagoon System (small wastewater systems with sewer systems and lagoons)</td>
<td>6 months of Lagoon System</td>
<td>35 hrs in Wastewater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Treatment Plant Certifications (surface water treatment plants)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 Water Treatment Plant (also covers Level 1 Distribution Systems)</td>
<td>6 months of Water</td>
<td>35 hrs in Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 Water Treatment Plant</td>
<td>1 year of Water</td>
<td>70 hrs in Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3 Water Treatment Plant</td>
<td>2 yrs, 1 at Class 2 plant or higher</td>
<td>300 hrs in Wastewater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4 Water Treatment Plant</td>
<td>3 yrs, 2 at Class 3 plant or higher</td>
<td>400 hrs in Wastewater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater Treatment Plant Certifications (mechanical plants and activated sludge)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant (also covers Level 1 Collection Systems)</td>
<td>6 months of Wastewater</td>
<td>35 hrs in Wastewater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant</td>
<td>1 year of Wastewater</td>
<td>70 hrs in Wastewater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3 Wastewater Treatment Plant</td>
<td>2 yrs, 1 at Class 2 plant or higher</td>
<td>300 hrs in Wastewater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4 Wastewater Treatment Plant</td>
<td>3 yrs, 2 at Class 3 plant or higher</td>
<td>400 hrs in Wastewater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution Systems</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1 Distribution Systems (covers ONLY Level 1 Distribution systems)</td>
<td>6 months of Distribution</td>
<td>35 hrs in Distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 Distribution Systems</td>
<td>1 year of Distribution</td>
<td>70 hrs in Distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Systems</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1 Collection Systems (covers ONLY Level 1 Collection systems)</td>
<td>6 months of Collection</td>
<td>35 hrs in Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 Collection Systems</td>
<td>1 year of Collection</td>
<td>70 hrs in Collection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Operator Training Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Cost Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Typically In-Person Currently Virtual</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Luncheon</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Wastewater Operator (PWO) Seminars</td>
<td>Typically In-Person Currently Virtual</td>
<td></td>
<td>One-Day</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operator Schools</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
<td>3 schools held annually</td>
<td></td>
<td>$$ $$ $$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Conference</td>
<td>Typically In-Person Currently Virtual</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>3 days, one full day operator focused</td>
<td>$$ $$ $$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico Water Conference</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>2 days</td>
<td>$$ $$ $$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Events</td>
<td>Typically In-Person Currently Virtual</td>
<td>Few times a year</td>
<td>½ day – full day</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Training</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Technical Advisory Committee

- Lunch events
- Usually focused on specific topic
- Location – specific to presentation subject
- Followed by a tour
- Training units not always available but very informative sessions
- Excellent networking opportunity
- Attended by cross-sectional groups of people (operators, engineers, vendors, academia)
PWO Seminars

- One day seminars spread throughout the year at different physical locations
  - Established annual locations: Englewood, Vail, Estes Park, Greeley
  - Random locations: Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Durango, Albuquerque
- Focused on current topics including regional
- Usually two free seminars each year
- Invited speakers
- Focused on getting 5 to 7 credit hours applicable for Operator License renewal
- Attended by operators
Operator Schools

• Week-long schools started in 1980s focusing on exam preparation
• Exam sessions scheduled at the end of the weeks (same location)
• Denver Metro - beginners, intermediate and advanced schools
• Leadville School – mountain focus – attractive opportunity for speakers and students at 11,200 feet
• Low cost $400 per week
• Great networking opportunity
• Extra events: operator help nights, toilet bowl trivia night, steak night
Leadville Operator School
Annual Conference

- Regular technical 3-day multiple tracks with training units available and posted
- Special operator focused track
  - Usually one full day
  - Regulatory class (required since 2019)
Committee Events

• Innovative Water Technology
  • Focused on new technologies and solutions
  • Actual solutions and pilots highlighted (tours prior to pandemic)

• Biosolids
  • Annual Biosolids Seminar
  • Biosolids Land Appliers certification

• Collection Systems
  • One day seminars
  • Outdoor equipment exhibit (prior to pandemic)
Electronic Training

- 360 Water – not as popular as the other events
- Used mostly by operators in need of last-minute training units
Takeaways

- Multiple physical locations to serve our members
- Short and long training opportunities
- Basic to advanced topics to fit various needs
- Range of costs, some free
- Some paid presenters, most volunteers
THANK YOU!

Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association
Elevating Water Professionals