



THE CERTIFIER

THE Newsletter for Environmental Certification Authorities

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Alan Cherubin, ABC Board President

Given that the writing of this message is the week prior to the Thanksgiving holiday here in the U.S., it seems appropriate to review my term as president through the prism of collective accomplishment and gratitude. It has been a distinct pleasure to serve in this capacity at such a transformational time for our organization.

Among the highlights this past year:

- In February, the Board of Directors welcomed Paul Bishop as ABC's fourth Chief Executive Officer in its 36 year history. Under Paul's leadership, ABC is actively seeking to enhance existing services while preparing the organization for growth in service and membership.
- Your Board of Directors approved, for a membership vote, a proposal to restructure the Board. This Bylaws proposal provides for a balance among existing areas we serve while anticipating those with evolving opportunity. (Note: votes for this proposal are due by December 10).
- The adoption of recommendations from the Finance Committee to manage reserve funds with twin goals of capital preservation and an income stream on which to advance elements of the Association's strategic plan.
- With the assistance of a Registered Parliamentarian, sweeping changes to Policies and Procedures were made. Simplifying and streamlining this essential document will result in a more efficient organizational operation while clearly defining the roles for each volunteer and staff.

President's column continued on page 3...

LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION?

ABC NOW OFFERS BIOSOLIDS AND PLANT MAINTENANCE EXAMS

AMES, Iowa –ABC is pleased to introduce two new certification programs: plant maintenance technologist and biosolids land applier certification, which provide employers and employees numerous benefits, according to Paul Bishop, CEO.

"We're excited about the opportunity for technologists and land appliers to demonstrate their proficiency and obtain professional recognition through this certification," Bishop said.

After nearly two years of groundwork and hundreds of volunteer hours, the exams will be added to ABC's list of services and like the almost 35,000 national and international operators who take an ABC examination annually, technologists and land appliers will now have the opportunity to take an exam that is designed specifically to test the knowledge and skills required in their profession.

ABC offers varying levels of certification to individuals that meet specific education and experience requirements.

Biosolids: Two levels of certification are available for biosolids land appliers.

Class I – Focuses on knowledge and skills required for field operators.

Class II – Focuses on knowledge and skills required for managers.

Plant Maintenance: Four levels of certification will be available for plant maintenance technologists. Class I and II will be available by February 2009. Class III and IV are planned for release in 2010.

Class I – Lubricating, performing readings, conducting rounds, and performing routine preventive maintenance.

This edition of *The Certifier* holds the latest in certification news and events, including:

Page 2 – A joint meeting brings industry together and creates future vision

Page 3 – Changes for the Certifier

Page 4 – An updated ABC contact list

THE CERTIFIER is published by © Association of Boards of Certification
208 5th Street Suite 201
Ames, IA 50010-6259
515.232.3623
www.abccert.org

WHAT'S INSIDE
2
3
4



Check out the *NEW* ABC Biosolids Land Appliers Certification program

Salt Lake City, Utah. Photo submitted by Christine Radke

Class II – Tearing down equipment, performing repairs, installing and reinstalling.

Class III – Inspecting and managing Class I and II duties, and analyzing and performing predictive maintenance.

Class IV – Inspecting and managing Class I - III duties, recommending purchases, and developing schedules and budget.

If you are interested in using ABC's examinations for biosolids or plant maintenance, please contact Suzanne De la Cruz at sdelacruz@abccert.org

THE WATER CORNER



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO COMPLETE ABC BPAT SURVEY

Personnel actively involved in the backflow prevention field are asked to participate in an ABC job analysis survey. The standardized Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester (BPAT) certification program survey will collect information on tasks performed by BPATs and determine job task coverage on new versions of BPAT certification exams developed by ABC. Participant qualifications include:

1. Test a minimum of 100 assemblies annually with at least three years of experience.
2. Active status in administration of a cross-connection or backflow prevention assembly testing program and hold at least ten years of program experience.

For more detailed information and to participate, visit: www.abccert.org/pdf/abcbpatsurvey11-08.pdf or contact Suzanne De la Cruz, sdelacruz@abccert.org.

JOINT MEETING BRINGS INDUSTRY TOGETHER AND CREATES FUTURE VISION

ABC AND CANADIAN CERTIFIERS GATHER FOR A TWO-DAY EVENT RESULTING IN SOLUTIONS FOR STRONGER CERTIFICATION PRACTICES

Brian Gildner, Ontario Water and Wastewater Operator Licensing Program

TORONTO – Just as operating water and wastewater systems in cold climates presents challenges, certification of operators north of the 49th parallel creates unique issues.

At a joint ABC/Provincial and Territorial meeting in Toronto, September 16-17, key industry leaders met to discuss operator certification and address other issues such as: ABC Canadian Standardized Exams, reciprocity, assessment of CEUs, certification best practices and communication with utilities and other stakeholders.

Emphasizing ABC's commitment to ensuring Canadian members' needs are met, Paul Bishop, ABC Chief Executive Officer, and Suzanne De la Cruz, ABC Chief Operating Officer, began by highlighting ways provinces and territories could work together to harmonize certification standards and practices, share resources and develop mechanisms that allow ABC to facilitate this process.

MAIN OUTCOMES INCLUDED:

- Establishment of the Canadian Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Committee with ABC as an affiliate member. Committee goals include: coordination of work initiated at the meeting between the provinces/territories and ABC, increased communication with national (Canadian) organizations regarding certification and review and revision of the existing Canadian Reciprocity Agreement.
- Establish "best practices" on every aspect of operator certification.
- Development of a common standard for CEU assessments, with the goal of creating a national mechanism to review and assign CEUs.
- Creation of a sub-committee for annual review and revision of regulatory questions on the ABC Canadian Standardized exams.

Participants left confident in the industry's future and with a greater understanding of certification issues and solutions in other jurisdictions. Alberta will host a 2009 meeting to continue momentum for establishing certification program improvements across the country.



ABC is uniquely qualified to deliver unparalleled exams and service to clients around the world.

NEW CONTINUING EDUCATION LISTS AVAILABLE

The ABC Certification Program will be adopting a new list of approved topics for continuing education credit for water, distribution, wastewater and collection beginning January 1, 2009. List development was based on definitions of topic relevancy for water, distribution, wastewater and collection operators' continuing education established during a national relevancy workshop held by ABC in 2005.

The list of approved topics has undergone extensive review by subject matter experts and ABC committee members. Topics were chosen based on relevancy and the need to focus continuing education on expanding technical expertise in the operation, analysis and maintenance of a system and insuring protection of public health, infrastructure and the environment.

Lists of approved topics are available on ABC's website at www.abccert.org. Operators and analysts certified by ABC will be receiving notification of the list in the coming weeks.



CHANGES FOR *THE CERTIFIER*

Martin Nutt: Chair, Editorial Committee, Arkansas Department of Health

Have you been missing *The Certifier*?

Well, we missed a couple of editions as we took some time to revamp the look and content to form a more relevant newsletter. I hope you not only like the changes in this edition, but those to come as we strive to become a must-read newsletter for our member program colleagues and their oversight committee representatives.

Coming soon is a significant face-lift of our internet site to better meet our members' desires and needs. Please be on the watch for that change to happen in February 2009.

ABC has added a new staff member, Jodi Jurgemeyer, whose responsibilities include improving ABC's communication with its internal and external customers. Jurgemeyer brings a tremendous amount of insight

and refreshing ideas on how to take *The Certifier* and our website, two of our primary communication devices, to the next level.

One addition to *The Certifier* is a *Certifier's Corner* where over time we can address the many basic principles of certification. I see it as a place, if you will accept this description, for members to pass on their "been there, done that" experience insights into our profession.

The first *Corner* will be in the spring edition of *The Certifier* and we need you to join in – we're eager to hear one of your favorite insights. To be included, submit your ideas in a Word document to Jodi Jurgemeyer at jjurgemeyer@abccert.org.

In the meantime, enjoy the winter edition of *The Certifier*.

Continued from front cover...

It was indeed a busy year, with notable improvement to ABC's infrastructure and ability to deliver on its founding principles. I would like to extend my gratitude to staff, volunteers, and each of those who serve on the Board of Directors for helping to make these a reality.

I was apprehensive at how 2008 would unfold as I sat down in January to chair my initial board meeting. Previously, the board had at times been sharply divided over significant issues and I was unsure if this would continue during my term.

It did not. In the course of 2008 this Board of Directors chose to focus on higher value strategic initiatives, acknowledging the considerable responsibility and impact of this board upon the organization it governs.

Without exception, each member of the board made a conscious and willing contribution to reposition this governing body to act in the long-term interests of the Association.

In 2009, President Robert "Bob" Hoyt will inherit an organization capable of building upon the success of this past year, fully aware of the need to respond to the evolving environmental certification professions we serve.

In closing, I am grateful for having been a part of the effort to advance the board to be a supportive steward of the mission of this unique Association. As a non-profit member organization, ABC relies upon the expertise and willingness of volunteers to ensure quality exam products and services. It also relies upon these same members to offer candidates who will seek this same level of quality and professionalism at the board level.

We all benefit when sharing this commitment to protect public health, the environment, and life itself.

ABC ANNUAL CONFERENCE JANUARY 27-30, 2009

This year's annual conference in La Quinta, California, will feature roundtable discussions and guest speaker sessions. Registration information can be found at www.abccert.org along with a complete conference agenda.

ABC Board of Directors Meeting –
January 27, 2009 at 8:30 a.m., La Quinta, CA

ABC Annual Business Meeting –
January 29, 2009 at 3:00 p.m., La Quinta, CA

IWPCA BIOSOLIDS CONFERENCE MARCH 18, 2009

The one-day conference held in Ankeny, Iowa, will include Ron Covert, ABC Wastewater Technical Assistance Coordinator and Jodi Jurgemeyer, ABC Communications and Marketing Coordinator, in a panel discussion on the new biosolids certification program offered through ABC.

UPDATED ABC CONTACTS

Over the past few months, ABC has seen a few staff changes. For information regarding ABC, membership requests or program inquiries, please contact the related staff member from the updated list below:

Chief Executive Officer: Paul D. Bishop, pbishop@abccert.org – ABC policies and procedures and board activities.

Chief Financial Officer: Ann Hall, ahall@abccert.org – Annual conference, membership inquiries, and financial questions.

Chief Operating Officer: Suzanne De la Cruz, sdelacruz@abccert.org – Certification and testing programs, transition to ABC exams, contract issues.

Communications & Marketing Coordinator: Jodi Jurgemeyer, jjurgemeyer@abccert.org – Communications and marketing requests, articles for The Certifier, publications, website.

Exam Development Coordinator: Ann Eddy, aeddy@abccert.org – Exam orders, exam printing and shipping.

Office Manager: Lorrie Banks, lbanks@abccert.org – General ABC questions, office management.

Testing and Certification Coordinator: Judy Rittland, jrittland@abccert.org – Exam scoring inquiries and ABC certification program support.

Testing Coordinator: Beth Safranski-Derrick, bsafranski@abccert.org – Exam scoring inquiries.

Wastewater Technical Assistance Coordinator: Ron Covert, rcovert@abccert.org – Standardized and customized wastewater exam development and question review.

Water Technical Assistance Coordinator: Michael Somerville, msomerville@abccert.org – Standardized and customized water exam development and question review.

In order to assist us in processing exam orders and scoring as quickly as possible, we ask that you use the following email addresses:

Exam orders: testing@abccert.org **Scoring inquiries:** scoring@abccert.org

