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South Carolina Environmental Certification Board 2017 newsletter

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SOUTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION BOARD

2017 Newsletter

MEETING DATES

The SC Environmental Certification Board will meet at the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Room 108, Columbia, SC, at 10 a.m. on the following dates:

- May 9, 2017
- August 15, 2017
- November 14, 2017

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Office Contact Information

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www.llronline.com/POL/Environmental/

BOARD MEMBERS

Elizabeth L. Williams-Chairman	Represents Teaching Institution
Charles E. Cortez	Represents Water Distribution Operators
Robert G. Davis, Jr.	Represents P/C Wastewater Operators
Stacy K. Taylor	At-Large Designee
Douglas B. Kinard	Represents DHEC
Ken Rentiers	Represents DNR
James E. Rodgers, Jr.	Represents Well Drillers
Phillip A. Thompson-King	Represents Biological Wastewater Operators
Sidney "Ken" Tuck, Jr.	Represents Water Treatment Operators

OFFICE INFORMATION

OFFICE STAFF

Molly Price – Administrator
Meredith Buttler – Program Assistant
Hardwick Stuart – Advice Counsel

BOARD OFFICE HOURS

The Board is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., except on the following State holidays:

- Wednesday, May 10, 2017, for Confederate Memorial Day
- Monday, May 29, 2017, for National Memorial Day
- Tuesday, July 4, 2017, for Independence Day.
- Monday, September 4, 2017, for Labor Day.
- Friday, November 10, 2017, for Veteran's Day.
- Thursday - Friday, November 23-24, 2017, for Thanksgiving Day.
- Friday - Tuesday, December 21-26, 2016, for Christmas Day.



Renew your license online now:

<https://eservice.llr.sc.gov/SecurePortal/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fOnlineRenewals%2f>

**The deadline to renew
your license is June 30, 2017.**

LICENSE RENEWALS DUE BY JUNE 30, 2017

Licensees were mailed “reminder” cards the first week of April. These cards include a confidential user identification that are required to access the online system. You must have a credit card (MasterCard or Visa) or checking account to renew online. New for Online Renewals this year is a feature that allows licensees to complete their renewal applications and email a payment link to a proxy (third party) to make payments on their behalf. The online renewal system is compatible with Internet Explorer 7 or higher. The Board encourages you to join many of your fellow licensees by utilizing the secure online renewal system!

Paper renewal forms are also available at www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Environmental. You must submit the completed 2017-2018 renewal form with a check or money order or your paperwork will be returned unprocessed.

Please contact the Board at (803) 896-4430 or at Contact.Environmental@llr.sc.gov with questions regarding the renewal process.



CHECK OUT THE BOARD'S ONLINE SERVICES

LLR offers licensees many great online services. You can check the status of your application, change your address, and print pocket cards. You can avoid paying \$5 for a duplicate pocket card by printing one right from the website. To access online services, you will need the user identification and password provided with your “reminder” card for renewal.

<https://eservice.llr.sc.gov/SSO/Login/LoginPage?ReturnUrl=%2fSSO%2f>.



LEARN MORE ABOUT CONTINUING EDUCATION

Between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2017, every operator must obtain a total of 12 hours (clock hours) of continuing education or pass an exam of the next highest level. Operators should keep records of all courses attended. When you receive your renewal form in 2017, there will be a space to record the number of hours you have received.

Continuing Education Report Forms can be found online at: http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Environmental/PDF_Files/CE%20Form%20posting%20version.pdf.

For additional information on courses that are relevant to water and/or wastewater treatment facilities, please refer to the ABC's CE Course Topic Criteria available at: http://www.abccert.org/abc_certification_program/Renew_your_ABC_Certification.asp.

Are you unsure of the CE requirements for SC? Additional information is available at: <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/environmental/index.asp?file=ECONTED.HTM>

Failure to obtain Continuing Education credits will result in license suspension. ECB Regulations 51-4.



New Examinations

As of May 1, 2017, new exams will be administered for **Water Treatment, Water Distribution and Biological Wastewater Treatment**. The new exams, developed by the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC), were developed based on an industry-wide job analysis survey with questions crafted by top operators from across North America. The new examinations are only intended for those licensees wishing to pursue upgrades or initial licensure in those categories. Examinations for Bottled Water, Physical Chemical Wastewater Treatment, and Well Drillers will remain the same.

How will this impact licensees?

Implementation of the new examinations began May 1, 2017. The computer-based testing format will not change; however, score reporting will be delayed while ABC compiles all test scores and calculates the new passing scores. Score reporting may take until mid to late July. The Board will work with ABC to get you your scores as soon as possible and apologizes for the inconvenience.

Study Materials

For all updated exams, ABC has revamped its Need-to-Know Criteria and Formula/Conversion Tables to better assist with examination preparations. The new Need-to-Know Criteria will be weighted, reflecting the various license levels. Materials are now available on ABC's website:

[Biological Wastewater Treatment*](#)

[Water Distribution*](#)

[Water Treatment*](#)

*Class I is equivalent to Level D and Class IV is equivalent to Level A.

For those who take the exams during May, all trainee and reciprocity deadlines will be pushed back to accommodate the delay in score reporting.

For further information or questions, visit abccert.org or contact the Board at contact.environmental@llr.sc.gov or (803) 896.4430.

THE BOARD WANTS TO REMIND YOU

- Renewal payments must be submitted by June 30, 2017. A penalty of **\$200** per license applies after that date.
- Exams are administered by Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), twice a day, Monday through Saturday. If you need to schedule an exam, please contact AMP at (800) 345-6559 or www.goAMP.com.

For Exam Study

Materials, click on this link: http://abccert.org/testing_services/study_guides.asp
Or
<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/po/environmental/index.asp?file=licensure.htm>.

- **12 hours of continuing education must be completed by June 30, 2017.**
- Home address changes and employment changes can be made online or by mail. Employment changes must be submitted within 15 days.
- You can submit applications online! Online applications are a fast, easy, and secure way to submit for certification to the Department. Please visit <https://eservice.llr.sc.gov/NewAppsV2/Login/LoginPage?ReturnUrl=%2fNewAppsV2%2f> to start the application process. You may also apply with a paper application. All applications are available at: <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Environmental/index.asp?file=pub.htm>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to wait a year to take the next exam?

No. If you are in good standing with the Board, you only have to wait a period of 7 business days to apply for the next exam.

When will I receive my renewal forms?

“Reminder” cards are mailed out the first week of April each year. Reminder cards contain your user id and password reset instructions for online renewal payments, which are faster and easier.

Do I have to pay a fee to be upgraded to a level of certification?

No. However, you will need for the “Operator of Record,” to submit an Experience Verification for the level of certification you are requesting. http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Environmental/DOTForms/ECB_Experience_Verification_2017.pdf.

Does South Carolina have a reciprocity agreement with other states? How do I apply for reciprocity? What are the requirements?

South Carolina does not have an agreement with any state; reciprocity is determined on an individual basis. The Board must first receive a complete application with a check or money order for \$50. Once your application is processed, a questionnaire form will be submitted to the reciprocating state regarding verification of licensure information. To be considered for certification via reciprocity, your license must be current in that state with no disciplinary actions.

Are well drillers required to have a bond?

Yes. Well drillers are required to furnish proof of a \$25,000 surety bond. A list of bonding companies and a sample bond can be found on the Board’s website at:

<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Environmental/index.asp?file=licensure.htm>.

The Bond must show:

1. The applicant maintains a current bond in his/her own name.
2. The applicant is a bona fide employee of a corporation that maintains a current bond in the corporate name.
3. The applicant is a bona fide employee of a licensed well driller.

Are you required to send the “original” bond or can you submit a copy of the bond?

You must submit the “Original” bond with the raised seal. The Board does not accept copies.

What is a Bond Acknowledgement Form, and am I required to submit it along with the bond?

Yes. This certifies that all well drillers employed by this company are operating under this bond.



LICENSURE STATISTICS AS OF APRIL 19, 2017

Prefix	Subcategory	Active Licensees
EBL (Biological)	A	934
	B	425
	C	420
	D	525
	T	407
EBW (Bottle Water)		40
EDS(Water Distribution)	A	452
	B	209
	C	375
	D	533
	G	129
	T	497
EPC (Physical/Chemical)	A	404
	B	222
	C	290
	D	598
	T	374
EWD (Well Driller)	A	214
	B	233
	C	41
	D	223
EWT (Water Treatment)	A	601
	B	210
	C	332
	D	427
	E	91
	T	296

TOTAL ACTIVE LICENSES: 9,502

South Carolina
 Environmental Certification Board
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