

# PC1 Rules & Regulations – Summary Handout

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## **Operator Rules – NCAC 15A 8G**

### **Water Pollution Control System**

#### **Operators Certification Commission**

**WPCSOCC:** 11 members appointed by DEQ and Dag; classify systems; certify operators; exams; ConEd; responsibilities; disciplinary actions.

### **PC1 Exam Requirements**

18+; HS diploma/GED; approved training school; perform calculations; understand regulations; application requires signatures, school certificate, \$101 fee.

### **Math & Exam Logistics**

Formula sheet provided; calculator allowed; no phone; exam is 50 MCQs with ~4 math problems; 70% = pass.

### **Regulatory Organizations**

EPA, NC DEQ, DWR, regional offices, permittee, operator.

### **Clean Water Act**

PL 92-500: goals: eliminate pollutant discharge; fishable/swimmable waters; created NPDES. Became Clean Water Act (1972)

## **NPDES Program**

Sets discharge limits; improves water quality; eliminates point sources; delegated to states.

### **NPDES – NC Authority & Permits**

Set treatment tech; effluent limits; monitoring, reporting, O&M; penalties; pretreatment; owner & operator responsibilities.

### **Common Parameters**

Flow, pH, DO, BOD, TSS; additional: settleable solids, fecal coliform.

### **System Classification**

PC systems = discharge permit; PC1 physical processes, groundwater remediation; PC2 chemical processes.

### **Certified Operator Responsibilities**

Maintain certification; ensure compliance; certify reports; keep log; visit system; operate & maintain; notify owner within 24 hrs and in writing within 5 days; be available for inspections.

**Backup ORC**

Can act as surrogate; 40% visitation; up to 120 consecutive days; fulfills all responsibilities.

**Contract Operators**

Notify owner within 5 days of changes or issues.

**Owner Responsibilities**

Designate ORC/Backup; notify regional office within 10 working days; penalties up to \$25,000/day.

**Rules to Know**

15A NCAC: 02H .0100; 02H .0500; 02H .0800; 02H .0900; 08G.

**Reporting – General**

Notify regional office within 24 hrs of bypass, significant discharge, unit failure, hazardous passage; press release for 1,000-gallon spill; written follow-up in 5 days.

**DMR Reporting**

Submit DMR/eDMR no later than last day of month after reporting period.

**Flow Calibration**

Annual calibration; keep records 3 years.

**Logbook**

Dates/times; tests/results; O&M; observations; communication; retain 3 years.

**Laboratory Certification**

Certified labs; Field Parameter cert for conductivity, DO, pH, settleable residue, TRC, temperature; all DMR data must be certified.

**Pretreatment Programs**

Prevent pass-through, sludge contamination, worker/environment harm; required for SIUs.

**Inspections & Enforcement**

NOV issued for violations; common causes: exceedances, missed monitoring, no permit, late renewal, improper ORC designation.

**Disciplinary Action**

Grounds: lack of care, failure to apply knowledge, incompetence, fraud; outcomes: reprimand, suspension, revocation; may involve SBI/FBI.

**Bottom Line**

Know permits; keep records; document everything; seek help; protect operator status.