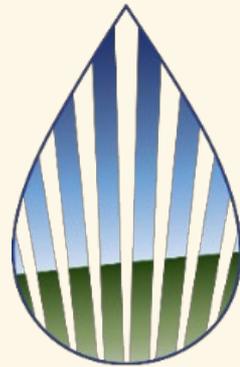


# Water Pollution Control System Operator Regulations (8.4)



NORTH CAROLINA  
**OPERATOR  
CERTIFICATION**  
— PROGRAM —

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NC Division of Water Resources

Department of Environmental Quality

2024

# website

- ❑ [deq.nc.gov/opcert](http://deq.nc.gov/opcert)
  - Choose Wastewater Program
  - email: [certadmin@deq.nc.gov](mailto:certadmin@deq.nc.gov)  
[patrick.beggs@deq.nc.gov](mailto:patrick.beggs@deq.nc.gov)
- ❑ can just Google NC DWR opcert



# NCAC 15A 8G

## Water Pollution Control System Operator Rules

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**Water  
Pollution  
Control  
System  
Operators  
Certification  
Commission**

**WPCSOCC**





# WPCSOCC Purpose

- protect public health
- conserve & protect water quality
- protect public investment
- classify facilities
- provide operator certification

# WPCSOCC

- ❑ 11 members
- ❑ Appointed by Secretaries of DEQ and DA&CS
- ❑ Classify systems
  - Decides what certified operator type is needed
- ❑ Certify operators
  - Exams ✓
  - Continuing Education / Renewals
  - Responsibilities / Disciplinary actions

# Classification of Water Pollution Control Systems

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What kind of WPC system is it?

## Permit Information

- Nature of wastes
- Treatment processes
- Size and complexity
- Method of disposal/reuse

Tells us the treatment used and therefore the skills, knowledge, and experience required.

## Classifications

- Surface Irrigation (SI)
- Biological WW (WW)
- Collections (CS)
- Physical/Chemical (PC)
- Land Application (LA)
- Subsurface (SS)

# Classification of Surface Irrigation Systems

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Systems that use surface irrigation for treatment, reuse or disposal

## Types of Permits

Wastewater Irrigation

High-Rate Infiltration

Reclaimed Water



# Classification of Surface Irrigation Systems

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## Pretreatment

- ▶ Lagoon
- ▶ Septic tank
- ▶ Sand/media filter
- ▶ Dosing tank
- ▶ Grease trap
- ▶ Oil/water separator
- ▶ Disinfection



Classification = SI

# Classification of Surface Irrigation Systems

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Operator in Responsible  
Charge (ORC)

Backup ORC(s)



SI

← Facility  
Classified: SI →



SI

We email the Owner or Contact Person listed.

# Classification of Surface Irrigation Systems

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Operator in Responsible  
Charge (ORC)



Backup ORC



← if permitted flow  
< 1500 gpd,  
100% domestic →

exception

# Facilities with Additional Treatment

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## If Pretreatment includes:

- ▶ Aerobic Treatment Unit
- ▶ Package Plant
- ▶ WWTP

## Then facility also needs WW2(+)

WW2  $\leq 0.5$  MGD

WW3  $>0.5 - 2.5$  MGD

WW4  $>2.5$  MGD



Classification = SI & WW2(+)

# More than one classification type

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Operators in Responsible Charge (ORCs)

Backup ORC(s)



SI & WW #

← Facility Classified SI & WW# →



SI & WW (#-1)

# ORC Designation Form

**Water Pollution Control System Operator Designation Form**  
**WPCSOCC**  
**NCAC 15A 8G .0201**

Permittee Owner/Officer Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

.....

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Permit #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 County: \_\_\_\_\_

**! SUBMIT A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH TYPE OF SYSTEM !**

Facility Type & Grade:

	<u>Type</u>	<u>Grade</u>		<u>Type</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Biological WWTP	_____	_____	Surface Irrigation	_____	N/A
Physical/Chemical	_____	_____	Land Application	_____	N/A
Collection System	_____	_____			

.....

**Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC)**

Print Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certificate Type / Grade / Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

"I certify that I agree to my designation as the Operator in Responsible Charge for the facility noted. I understand and will abide by the rules and regulations pertaining to the responsibilities of the ORC as set forth in 15A NCAC 08G .0204 and failing to do so can result in Disciplinary Actions by the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission."

.....

**Back-Up Operator in Responsible Charge (BU ORC)**

Print Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certificate Type / Grade / Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

"I certify that I agree to my designation as a Back-up Operator in Responsible Charge for the facility noted. I understand and will abide by the rules and regulations pertaining to the responsibilities of the BU ORC as set forth in 15A NCAC 08G .0205 and failing to do so can result in Disciplinary Actions by the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission."

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**Mail or Fax to:** WPCSOCC  
 1618 Mail Service Center  
 Raleigh, NC 27699-1618  
 Fax: 919/733-1338

- Submit within 120 days when ORC **OR** Backup is vacant
- Submit within 7 days when ORC **AND** Backup are vacant
- Download from website

# ALL Certified Operators

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- Comply with Operator Rules (8G)
- Notify of address change within 30 days
  - email: [certadmin@deq.nc.gov](mailto:certadmin@deq.nc.gov) (DWR)
- Annual Continuing Education (6 credits)
- Renew certificate annually by Dec 31
- Renew online for best results

# Continuing Education

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- Every year you need 6 credits
- Needs to be an approved class for WPCSOCC
- Save your certificates
- Get the class # if it isn't on the certificate
- Find classes on the website

# How do I find my Continuing Education credits needed?

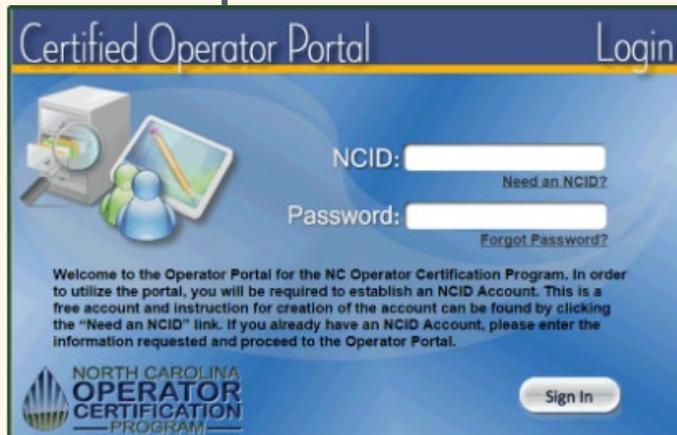
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Website: [deq.nc.gov/opcert](http://deq.nc.gov/opcert)

- Training Page:

- **To find the # of continuing credits you have or need:**
  - [enter your operator # in this form](#) , or
  - [check these reports for a list of all active operators](#) (400+ pages in alphabetical order, updated weekly)

- Certified Operator Portal:



The screenshot shows the login page for the Certified Operator Portal. At the top, it says "Certified Operator Portal" and "Login". Below this, there is a graphic of a water treatment unit and a tablet. The login form includes fields for "NCID:" and "Password:". Below the NCID field is a link that says "Need an NCID?". Below the Password field is a link that says "Forgot Password?". At the bottom of the form is a "Sign In" button. Below the form, there is a welcome message: "Welcome to the Operator Portal for the NC Operator Certification Program. In order to utilize the portal, you will be required to establish an NCID Account. This is a free account and instruction for creation of the account can be found by clicking the 'Need an NCID' link. If you already have an NCID Account, please enter the information requested and proceed to the Operator Portal." At the bottom left, there is the logo for the "NORTH CAROLINA OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM".

# Renew your Certificates Annually

Reports run  
~ Oct 15

Invoices mailed  
~ early November

Best to renew  
online with  
e-payment

WPCSOCC	
Renewal Invoice	
Due Date	Dec. 31
WW	SI
CS	LA
PC	SS
Con Ed Needed	6.0 hrs
Amount Due	\$50-300

Per Certificate



# Invalid Operators

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- Renewal due Dec 31
- Invalidated January 1
- \$50 late fee
- Invalidation letters go out
  
- If you have Con Ed, just pay.
- or, get the Con Ed, then pay.
  
- Must be done by mail

# Invalid Operators

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Always Owe

- ALL your Con Ed hours
- ALL renewal & late fees

Up to 2 years

- Maximum \$250 / 18 credits

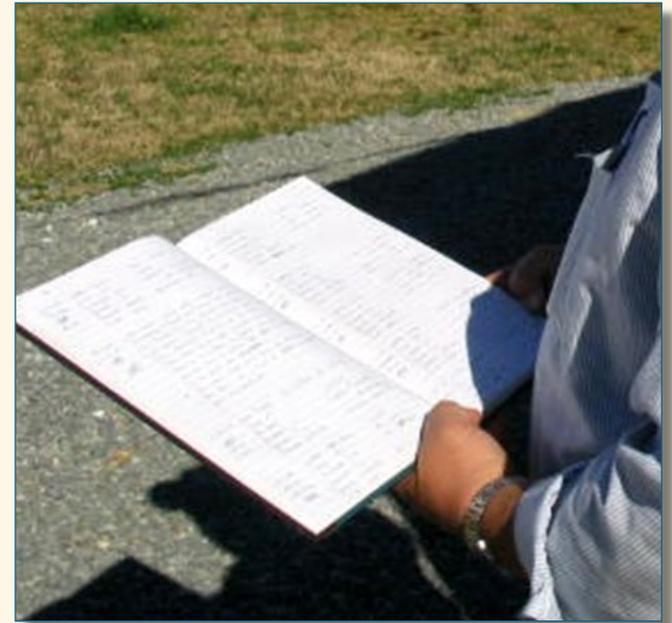
After 2 years

- Pass exam again

# ORC Responsibilities

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- Maintain certification(s)
- Attempt to ensure compliance with permit
- Certify and submit reports and provide copies to permittee
- Keep an operator log and document O&M and visitation
- Visit system as often as needed for proper O&M



# Facility Visitation

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## *Minimum Visitation*

**SI = Weekly**

Except 100% domestic systems < 1500 gpd =  
*2 times/year*

**WW 2, 3, 4 = 5 times/week**

Except 100% domestic systems < 1500 gpd =  
*Weekly*

# ORC Responsibilities

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- ❑ Notify owner:
  - within 24 hours & in writing
  - within 5 days, of
    - Overflows
    - Bypasses
    - Violations
  - in writing
    - Repairs / modifications



# ORC Responsibilities

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- ❑ Be available for:
  - Consultations
  - Emergencies
  - Regulatory inspections



# ORC Responsibilities

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- ❑ No longer the ORC?
  - Notify [certadmin@ncdenr.gov](mailto:certadmin@ncdenr.gov)  
& the DEQ Regional Office
  - In writing, within 14 days



# Backup ORC Responsibilities

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- ❑ Can act as surrogate for ORC
  - 40% of the required visitation
  - 120 consecutive days if the ORC is absent due to vacancy, or personal / family illness
- ❑ Fulfill all ORC responsibilities



# Contract Operator Responsibilities

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- Notify the owner in 5 days of:
  - Change in ORC designation
  - Any situation requiring owner action

If you want to be listed as a contract operator, fill out the online form.

# ORC Responsibilities

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## Operator

- Understand legal responsibilities permit places on owner.
- Make reasonable efforts to secure resources and to ensure compliance.

vs

## Owner

- Provide resources necessary for operator to do his or her job.
- Allow operator to do that job as required by 8G (WPCS operator rules).

# Disciplinary Action

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What if you do not fulfill your responsibilities?





## WPCSOCC Purpose

- protect public health
- conserve & protect water quality
- protect public investment
- classify facilities
- provide operator certification

# Disciplinary Action by WPCSOCC

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When accepting an appointment, WPCSOCC members swear an oath to uphold their duties to protect human health, water resources, and public investment

# Disciplinary Action

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What are the Grounds for Disciplinary Action?

- Failure to use reasonable care or judgment
- Failure to apply knowledge and abilities
- Incompetence or inability to perform duties
- Practicing fraud or deception

# Disciplinary Action

- ❑ Show cause meeting
- ❑ Disciplinary Committee
- ❑ Possible outcomes
  - Letter of reprimand
  - Suspension of certificate(s)
  - Revocation of certificate(s)
- ❑ Focus of investigations
  - Usually the ORC
  - Sometimes the Backup ORC
  - Can be another certified operator



# Other Disciplinary Action

## Prosecution by SBI or FBI

- Knowing and willful violations
- Possible consequences
  - Fines
  - Probation
  - Prison



# Bottom Line

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- Be familiar with rules & permit(s)
- Keep accurate records
- Document everything
- Seek assistance when needed
- Protect your certified operator status



# Questions?



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