

# **DRAFT**

## **Utility Operator Certification Advisory Board**

### **Minutes of Project Meeting January 26, 2006**

#### ***Present:***

Michael Alvidrez, Reymundo Gutierrez, Cindy Huntsman, Joe Ramirez, Kit Roush, Ken Mosley, Miguel De La Cruz, Dale Graham

#### ***Introductions:***

Mike Coffman – NMED, Robert George – NMED Ground Water Bureau, Violette Valerio-Hirschfeld – NMED/DWB, Marie Ortiz- NMED SWQB, Ray Olsen – Santa Fe Summit, and Robert Henshaw- Santa Fe Summit.

#### ***I. &II. Review & Approval of Agenda:***

Ken Mosley asked for the approval of the agenda, Mr. Coffman asked to move Item 9 to Item 4. The Board approved moving Item #4 and moving all other item down one. Mr. Ramirez made the motion with amendments to approve the agenda, motion seconded by Mr. Gutierrez. Motion carried.

#### ***III. Review & Approval of Past Minutes***

Mr. Mosley moved to accept the approval of the September 22, 2005 minutes. Mr. Mosley asked if the Board needed to discuss some of the Board changes to the regulation should be talked about now or wait until Item # 9. Mr. Coffman stated that they should discuss them in Item 9. Ms. Huntsman made a motion to accept the minutes with her name correction corrected. Mr. De La Cruz seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

#### ***IV. Santa Fe Summit Collection System:***

Mr. Coffman explained the collection system at Santa Fe Summit. Mr. Coffman introduced Mr. Robert George with the NMED Ground Water Bureau. Mr. George explained to the Board some of the problems the collection system is having with spills occurring at the Summit and what the concerns are with the Ground Water Bureau. Mr. Ray Olsen and Mr. Robert Henshaw discussed with the Board all the issues facing the collection system at the Summit. They also discussed the agreements with the City of Santa Fe, the developer of the subdivision, and what do other development do to address this issues. Mr. Coffman stated to the Board the their duties are to determine if the Santa Fe Summit Collection System falls under the UOC Regulations as a collection system and secondly, if the system is determined that it does, will the collection

system require a certified operator. Mr. Mosley stated the definition of a “collection system”, as it related to the UOC regulations. The Board and representatives from the Summit had a lengthy discussion on the issue. The Board determined as per the UOC Regulations that the Santa Fe Summit collection system needs to obtain the services of a Certified Operator.

Mr. Coffman brought to the Board the issue on the City of Santa Fe Distribution System Certification. The positions with the City are inspectors on the water distribution system. Mr. Coffman explained that these workers do not have the language in their job descriptions that require them to be certified. The City does not feel that they need to be certified. The Board reviewed their duties and information related to their job duties. The Board discussed the issues and determined that the City of Santa Fe needs to employ a certified operator responsible for the operation and maintenance on the distribution system.

In both cases the Board directed Mr. Coffman to write each system a letter explaining the Boards recommendations.

#### ***V. Drinking Water Bureau Program Review***

Ms. Violette Valerio-Hirschfeld with the NMED DWB, District One Office. Ms. Hirschfeld proposed to the Board the approval of training coarse submitted by the Technical Learning College. The board directed Mr. Coffman to review the Coarse and assign Training Credits. Ms. Valerio-Hirschfeld informed the Board about a testing kit. She mentioned that she had contacted three of her systems of the kits to determine base line levels in their water systems. Ms. Valerio-Hirschfeld asked if the Water Study Guide was going to be updated. Mr. Coffman asked if DWB would update the Chapter on Drinking Water Regulations. Ms. Valerio-Hirschfeld stated that Mr. Rob Pine would be working on it.

***VI.*** The Board signed and approved the Open Meetings Act Resolution for 2006. Ms. Huntsman made the motion to approve the Act and Mr. Ramirez seconded it. The motion passed.

#### ***VII. Security Question approvals***

Mr. Coffman asked the Board to approve the EPA Security Questions proposed in November 2005. After a quick discussion Ms. Huntsman made the motion to approve the validated questions. Mr. Graham seconded it. Motion passed.

### ***VIII. Increase Questions on Exams***

Mr. Coffman explained to the board that we had concerns that operator were memorizing the upper level exams. Mr. Coffman asked the Board to approve the increase of 20 questions on the Level 3 exams and 30 questions on the Level 4 exams. These questions will replace the 5-point questions currently used on the exams. The Board approved the change to the exams.

### ***IX. Certification Program Review:***

Mr. Coffman started the Mr. Brent Moore is putting together the petition to submit to the WQCC meeting. At the March meeting he will request a hearing. There is a 45-day filing period once the request is made. Mr. Coffman and Ms. Ortiz discussed the Certman Data Base. The new system is being developed and is a priority of the Department. We are hoping that the new system will be up and running in a couple of months. Mr. Coffman stated that the new regulations will include five new levels of certification. One question Mr. Coffman opened the Hobbs examination session to all operators who want to take an exam. The Hobbs session was set up with the NMRWA as a small examination session but only 3 applications have been received. The discussion lead into “what can we do to get more small systems into the loop. Mr. Roush asked if there any indication in Level 4’s taking the test this time, why are there more higher levels. Ms. Ortiz stated that there is no reason why it is like that. There are no direct indicators.

### ***X. WQCC Regulation Review***

This topic was covered in Item nine. There was no other discussion on this topic.

### ***XI. Other Business***

Mr. Coffman brought to the Board Mr. Joe Serrano a Level 4 Water operator who let his certification lapsed. Mr. Serrano’s certification expired in November of 2004. Mr. Serrano asks if the Board would reinstate him. The Board discussed the situation and decided by regulation 20.7.4.25 that he is not certified and will have to retest to get his certification back. Mr. Mosley asked for other business. The Board set the next meeting for March 9, 2006 at the Albuquerque District One Office at 9:00 am.

***XII.*** Adjournment

Mr. Mosley asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gutierrez made the motion to adjourn; Mr. Joe Ramirez seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.