

Position Profile

Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Advisory Committee

Profile Overview

Competition #: 571

Role(s) Required: Member

Agency Website:

[Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Advisory Committee](#)

Responsible Ministry: Environment and Parks

Opening Date: 06/08/2018

Closing Date: 07/02/2018

Role(s) Required

The Minister of Environment and Parks is seeking applications from individuals interested in serving as a member on the Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Advisory Committee. This posting will be used to fill two separate opportunities.

One position will be filled by December 31, 2018:

- one municipal government employee in a managerial position (not elected) responsible for potable water supply and/or wastewater disposal

One position will be filled by December 31, 2018:

- one faculty member of a post-secondary institution where that person conducts training related to municipal water supply and wastewater operations

Role Description

Committee members share the same duties and responsibilities. They are required to provide recommendations on business arising from the administration of the Operator Certification Program, including:

- certification program policy;
- applications for certification;
- facility classifications;
- applications for certification renewal;
- certification examinations;
- evaluation of specific training/education with respect to the program;
- experience and education relevance;
- determination of certification program fees; and
- other matters that may be requested.

The standard term for appointment to the Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Advisory Committee is three years.

About the Agency

Municipal governments and the Government of Alberta invest millions of dollars annually in water and wastewater facilities and have infrastructure worth billions of dollars. To help ensure proper operation and maintenance of these facilities, and to protect the health of its citizens and the environment, the Alberta Environment and Parks Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Program (Certification Program) was developed.

A forerunner to the current Certification Program was established in 1969 in conjunction with the Western Canada

Water and Sewage Conference (now Western Canada Water). In 1974, a committee of the Federation of Associations on the Canadian Environment (subsequently the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association) was established to consider compatible certification programs for all provinces. This was done in conjunction with the Association of Boards of Certification, an international organization of certifying authorities, headquartered in Ankeny, Iowa. This allowed for standardization and recognition of the certification program across North America.

In 1975, a Voluntary Certification Program was started in Alberta. In February 1982, the Clean Water (Municipal Plants) Regulations were amended to require that the day-to-day operation of all municipal plants be supervised by a certified operator.

In 1993, Alberta's *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA) was proclaimed to replace the existing environmental legislation including the *Clean Water Act*. The regulations under EPEA require that the operation of waterworks systems, which include water treatment plants and water distribution systems, and wastewater systems, which include wastewater treatment plants and wastewater collection systems, be supervised by one or more persons certified in accordance with the approval or registration and outlined in the Water and Wastewater Operators' Certification Guidelines (Guidelines). Based on recommendations from the Certification Advisory Committee, further revisions, effective January 1, 2005, were implemented. The changes of significance include mandatory entry level training, continuing education unit requirement for certification renewal, and the extension of renewal period.

Certification Advisory Committee Members

Members of the Certification Advisory Committee are appointed by the Minister to provide review and recommendations concerning the Certification Program. The Committee may consist of the following representatives:

- one representative from Environment and Parks;
- one municipal government employee in a managerial position (not elected) responsible for potable water supply and/or wastewater system;
- one management representative from an industry that is required to have operators certified under the program;
- one representative of the Alberta Water & Wastewater Operators Association;
- one faculty member of a post-secondary institution where that person conducts training related to municipal water supply and wastewater operations;
- four active operating personnel holding valid certificates with representation from both the water and wastewater fields;
- one active operating person holding a valid certificate for the domestic wastewater or potable water operations in an industrial facility;
- one representative from an Environment and Parks regional office; and
- one other person at the discretion of the Minister.

The Chairman of the committee is appointed by Environment and Parks from among the committee members. A quorum for meetings is six members. The committee members serve three-year terms, which are staggered so that at least two of the positions will expire each year. Committee members may be re-appointed.

Agency Classification

The Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Advisory Committee is a public agency not subject to the *Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act* (APAGA). The Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Advisory Committee is an advisory committee that provides recommendations to the Director as per Section 80 of EPEA.

Skills and Experience

Members are required to:

- Have familiarity with EPEA as it applies to water and wastewater facility approvals/codes and certification, along with a working knowledge of the Water and Wastewater Operators' Certification Guidelines.
- Have an overall commitment to the water and wastewater industry.
- Promote community and stakeholder relations.
- Soundly and fairly apply industry knowledge.
- Think strategically and critically.
- Be familiar with and act in accordance with Robert's Rules for Meetings.

Specialized Knowledge and Expertise

Applicants should have current background and experience in key areas of water and wastewater operations.

A post-secondary education with a focus on environmental or civil technology studies would be considered an asset.

Remuneration, Time Commitment and Meeting Location

There is no compensation associated with committee member positions.

Members are reimbursed for expenses as outlined in the [Government of Alberta Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Policy](#).

The Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Advisory Committee meetings are held for one or two full days, three times each year in Edmonton. Additionally, each month a teleconference or web conference meeting will be held for approximately one hour.

Additional Notes

It is recognized in Alberta as a fundamental principle and as a matter of public policy that all persons are equal in regard to race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation. Multiculturalism describes the diverse racial and cultural composition of Alberta society and it is important that this diversity is recognized in the board members of Alberta's public agencies.

Contact Information

For additional information pertaining to this competition, please contact either Tanya Hunter or Vernice Bello.

- Tanya Hunter, Team Lead, Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Program, 780-427-7713, Tanya.Hunter@gov.ab.ca
- Vernice Bello, Certification Program Coordinator, Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Program 780-643-1992, Vernice.Bello@gov.ab.ca