

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
RULEMAKING FOR CROSS CONNECTION) R20-21
CONTROL DEVICE INSPECTORS OF) (Rulemaking – Public Water Supply
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES 35 ILL. ADM.)
CODE 604.1520)

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF
MATTHEW MAAS
ON PROPOSED 35 ILL. ADM. CODE PART 645.1520
JUNE 3, 2020

My name is Matthew Maas and I am the Director of the Environmental Resources Training Center (“ERTC”) at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. I have held my current position at the ERTC since August 2017. Prior to working for Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, I held various positions with American Water Works for 15 years in the states of Missouri and California. The primary purpose of my position is to manage the day-to-day operations of the ERTC. Responsibilities include developing strategic plans for securing external grants and projects through federal and state funding agencies, managing staff, managing external grants and projects, and coordinating capital improvements of the center. Responsibilities also include coordinating, marketing, and recruiting for training programs offered through the center, as well as teaching of necessary pre-service and in-service students at the ERTC and throughout the state. I have attached a copy of my Curriculum Vitae as Attachment 1.

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT BETWEEN ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY GOVERNING SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE
AGENCY PROCUREMENT NO. FWN 19105
Contractor: Environmental Resources Training Center at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Via an Interagency Agreement and under the statutes of the State of Illinois in Section 604.1510, the ERTC is the designated institution to train licensed plumbers and certified water operators to become Cross Connection Control Device Inspectors (“CCCDIs”). ERTC provides ten week-long training opportunities from September through June each year at various locations throughout the state of Illinois. Since 2007, the ERTC has managed and processed the annual renewal of over 3,200 plumbers and water supply operators who are certified as CCCDIs. Currently, the ERTC dedicates four employees (on a part-time basis) to the Cross Connection Control program. The Cross Connection Director runs the program, creates teaching and testing materials, fields questions, and travels one week per month (nine months per year) to administer the training. The Laboratory Manager travels one week per month (nine months per year) to aid in the hands-on portion of the training. The Cross Connection Administrator fields questions and recertifies all CCCDIs annually. The Office Manager schedules/registers plumbers and water operators for CCCDI training courses.

2020 CCCDI RENEWAL UPDATE

Due to the timing of the public health emergency related to COVID-19, it is possible that plumbers attempting to obtain continuing education units for license renewal were affected. As an example, the ERTC was scheduled to conduct a plumber's continuing education course on March 27th. It was cancelled. At the time of cancellation, the course had 27 registrants. With this knowledge, the Illinois Department of Public Health ("IDPH") extended their deadline for the renewal of plumber's licenses. This decision has a potential impact on renewing CCCDIs since a valid plumber's license is a requirement for the renewal.

As of May 29th, there is a total of 3298 active CCCDIs in the ERTC database. To date, 602 CCCDIs have been renewed and 652 CCCDI renewals are currently pending. Thus, 2044 CCCDIs have not yet applied for renewal. Without contacting each CCCDI on their individual status, it is impossible to determine how many are actually affected by the pandemic, but the count of 2044 illustrates a number of potentially affected individuals.

RECOMMENDATION

Because a valid plumber's license is a requirement for the renewal of CCCDIs, the ERTC is in favor of extending the license deadline for renewal. An extension would allow those affected to recertify their plumber's licenses under the new IDPH deadline and give time for renewal of the CCCDI license. Furthermore, an extension allows CCCDIs to remain certified and continue protecting our water distribution systems by ensuring that all backflow prevention devices are working properly.

CONCLUSION

This concludes my pre-filed testimony. I will be available to answer any questions or provide additional clarification at the hearing.

By:



Date:

6-3-20

Matthew Maas
Director
Environmental Resources Training Center
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Campus Box 1075
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Attachment 1

Matthew Maas
99 Rottingham Court
Edwardsville, IL

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Environmental Resources Training Center
Director**

(August 2017-Present)

Duties include: Manage the day-to-day operations of the ERTC. Responsibilities include developing strategic plans for securing external grants and projects through federal and state funding agencies, managing staff, managing external grants and projects, and coordinating capital improvements of the center. Responsibilities also include coordinating, marketing, and recruiting for training programs offered through the center, as well as teaching of necessary pre-service and in-service students at the ERTC and throughout the state.

**American Water Works
California American Water (Sacramento District)
Operations Manager
(May 2015-August 2017)**

Duties include: Responsible for 13 water and wastewater districts in Sacramento. Managed 80 employees in operation, distribution, cross connection, and field service. Responsible for \$4m/year operational budget. Worked with engineering on project management of upgrades. Conducted due diligence on potential acquisitions. Presented at community events to educate the public on water.

**American Water Works
Missouri American Water (St. Louis District)
Water Quality Specialist
(January 2009-May 2015)**

Duties include: Daily analyzation of water quality samples for regulatory reporting and process control. Recommending treatment changes to operators based on results. Conducting research projects as determined by corporate.

**American Water Works
Missouri American Water (St. Louis District)
Water Quality Supervisor
(January 2007-January 2009)**

Duties include: Ensuring proper treatment at the North County Plant. Compiling all regulatory reports. Ordering treatment chemicals. Supervision of 4 laboratory technicians.

American Water Works

Missouri American Water (Joplin District)

Water Quality Supervisor

(October 2004-January 2007)

Duties include: Ensuring proper treatment at the Blendville Treatment Plant and surrounding well sites. Collecting all regulatory water samples. Compiling all regulatory reports. Ordering treatment chemicals. Indirect supervision of 6 water operators. Recommending treatment changes to operators.

American Water Works (St. Louis District)

Water Quality Laboratory Technician

(November 2002-October 2004)

Duties include: Rotating as lab tech between four St. Louis County plants. Daily collection of water samples. Relaying results to Water Quality Specialist or Supervisor. Laboratory housekeeping. Other duties as assigned.

CERTIFICATIONS

Class A Public Water Supply Operator (Illinois EPA)

Cross Connection Control Device Inspector (Illinois EPA)

Class A Drinking Water Treatment Operator (Missouri DNR)

Class D Wastewater Treatment Operator (Missouri DNR)

EDUCATION

Coastal Carolina University (Conway, SC)

Bachelor of Science (Biology)

1997-2001