

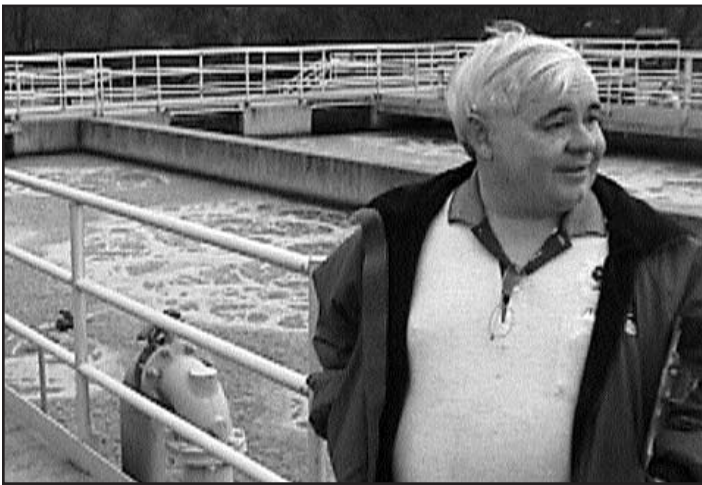


# Digester/Over the Spillway

"for optimum operation/maintenance of all water and wastewater facilities"

## Five Plants, One Operator Hailed as "Best" at Conference

### IAWPCO Hosts 68th Conference in Springfield



Operator of the Year Robert M. Turley of New Lenox.

Four municipal waste treatment plants, one industrial facility, and one outstanding operator were named tops in their categories during the 68th conference of the Illinois Association of Water Pollution Control Operators at the Crowne Plaza Exhibition and Convention Center in Springfield in late April.

#### Operator of the Year

Robert M. Turley, superintendent of the New Lenox treatment plants, was named operator of the year. Turley operates two plants with a combined capacity of 2.10 mgd. His recognition noted both plants consistently produce excellent effluent quality with very low

ammonia levels, and have an effective collection system maintenance program that reduces flows. Turley initiated effective actions to correct odor complaints at one of the plants, which is located near the business district, and was credited with a "super" safety program. He serves as instructor for other operators, and is the author of published articles on biofilters and manhole repair.

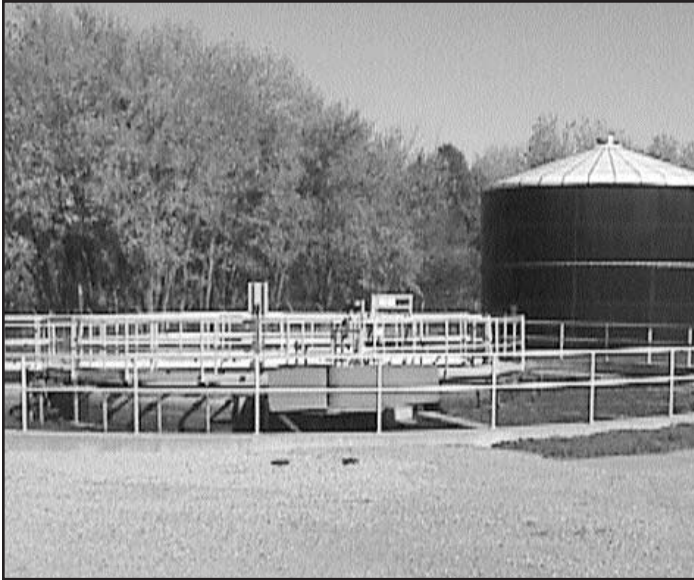
Other nominees for Operator of the Year included Dave Sullivan, Pontiac; Dennis Splitorff, Albion; Tim Allgire, Millstadt; Ron Merriman, Hillsboro, and Jennifer Becker, East Dubuque.

In Group 4, the city of Breese was named from a field of five. The other nominees were the cities of Henry and Lanark, Kickapoo State Park, and the Rend Lake Conservancy District.

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*Pinckneyville plant overview.*

Don Thomas is superintendent of the Breese plant, that began operation in 1977. Designed for an average flow of 0.6292 and a maximum flow of 1.57 mgd, it serves a community population of 4,048. The treatment process uses two aeration lagoons, a facultative cell, intermittent sand filters and effluent disinfection.

The plant has consistently been in compliance with its NPDES permit, makes a good use of its effluent for golf course watering, and has earned outstanding support from the Public Works Director and the city administration.

In Group 3, candidates were the city of Fulton, the village of Browns, Fox Ridge State Park and the north plant at Mount Olive. The award went to the Browns treatment plant, which uses recirculating gravel filters that provide secondary levels of treatment as well as nitrification. The system also uses a unique collection system under which each customer is served by a small pumping station that discharges septic tank effluent to a small two inch diameter pipe collection system. The Browns plant serves a population of 207.

It was recognized for its excellent effluent quality with 5/mg/l BOD and 6 mg/l TSS, even though the plant operator had to start “from scratch” learning how to operate the unusual system that includes maintenance of the individual home pumping stations.

Dennis Splitorff is contractor operator and Rodney Williams is wastewater superintendent for the Browns plant.

The city of Pinckeyville took home the award in Group 2, from a field that also included the villages of German Valley and Dwight, and the city of Red Bud.

Pinckneyville’s plant treats waste from 10 percent of the municipal population plus a state correctional facility, using two circular activated sludge second treatment units, tertiary filtration and ultraviolet disinfection. Effluent is stored for equalization of discharge, then discharged through what had been, before abandonment, a two mile water main. Sludge is aerobically digested, dewatered on enclosed drying beds, then used in land application. Plant operator is Kevin VanDiver.

In Group 1, the Joseph L. Devlin plant at the village of Roselle took the honors. Contenders included Robinson, Wood River, and Mt. Vernon.

The Roselle plant is designed to treat an average daily flow of 1.0 mgd. The original plant was built in 1928, refurbished in 1950, and upgraded in 1988. The system includes 100 miles of sewers and 10 pumping



*Breese plant effluent waters the local golf course.*

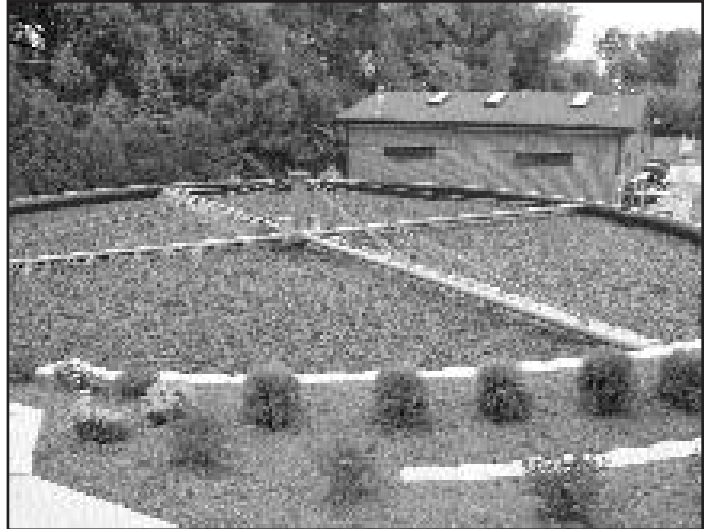


*Breese chlorine tank.*

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Rochelle/Devlin plant Super Duper Pooper Scooper.*



*Rochelle/Devlin plant trickling filter.*



*Browns gravel filter*



*Caterpillar/Mapleton dust collector wastewater primary clarifier.*

stations and uses preliminary treatment, primary clarifiers, an activated sludge process, tertiary filters, chlorination and dechlorination. Aerobically digested sludge is dewatered on belt filters or drying beds and land applied. Excess flow is treated with a first flush tank, clarification and disinfection. The plant was recognized for its excellent effluent quality, the village's diligent efforts to remove inflow and infiltration to the collection system and its preventative maintenance and safety programs. John LaRocca is superintendent.

Caterpillar Tractor Co.'s Mapleton plant won out in a field of three nominees in the Group K industrial waste treatment category. The other nominees were Snap-On Tools Corp. at Mt. Carmel and National Starch & Chemical Co., Meridosia.

Carey French is staff engineer for the industrial waste treatment facility that treats two separate waste stream, one including sanitary waste and acid/alkali oil industrial waste, while the second handles waste from the wet dust collectors. The many high-tech process units include activated sludge, equalization, pressure diatomaceous earth filtration, activated carbon units and special sludge processing units. Despite the complexity of the process, they have consistently high quality effluent, a very effective computer-based preventive maintenance program, and an excellent safety program with mandatory training. Operator involvement occurs during the planning, design, construction and operation, resulting in recycling of treated effluent that significantly reduces discharge flow to the receiving stream.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Drinking Water Operator Certification

*By Jewel Emerson,*

*acting program coordinator for drinking water certification.*

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Operator Certification Program has seen some changes in the last few years, from the regulation changes, the retirement of long-time friend and colleague, Barb Liebman, a new exam grading system, to even more development of new exams. The Certification Program is moving forward, and the changes that have taken place and will take place in the future all affect our operators.

Illinois currently has 4,758 active certified operators with different certificate levels and different backgrounds. That number is changing all the time with retirements and new faces coming aboard. But whether you've been certified for a lifetime or are just now taking the exam, you need to know about certification.

Once you pass the exam and become a certified drinking water operator, you will have until your certificate expires to complete the required drinking water related training for certificate renewal.

If you have a Class A or Class B certificate, you will need 30 hours of Renewal Training Credit (RTC). If you have a Class C or Class D certificate, you will need 15 hours of RTC. You will need to submit completed training hours on Operator Training Submission Forms in order to receive RTC. The Operator Training Submission Forms need to be completed accurately. Incomplete forms will be sent back to the submitter. We will only approve drinking water related training activities for RTC. We will keep track of your RTC for our records, but you still are required to keep copies of "proof of training" in your file in case you are called for an audit. To count for RTC, training must be completed between a certificate's issuance, effective, or restoration date and the certificate's expiration date. Also, the training will not count for RTC if it is taken twice from the same training provider in the same 3-year period. Keep in mind that if you take training after you renew a certificate and before your renewed certificate becomes effective, it cannot be counted toward your next certificate renewal.

Water system budget constraints may be an issue. The fees for exams and renewal of certificates have not changed since 1987. It is \$30 for application review and \$10. to take the exam. It's \$10 to take a re-exam and \$10 to renew your certificate. If you allow your certificate to expire and wish to restore it, there is an additional \$10 fee. As far as paying for the training, whether your employer is pro-active in helping you or you have to pay for it yourself, there are some free training events and also some with minimal costs. Operator meetings are a great way to learn more, get RTC and keep within your budget. You can call you local region-

al office to find out about the operator organizations in your area.

Time constraints may be an issue as well. Some operators don't have time to leave the treatment facility and have a hard time getting the training while at work but you still can find training that you can complete through correspondence or on-line. You can look for courses already pre-approved for RTC on our website at [www.epa.state.il.us](http://www.epa.state.il.us), water, public water supply. If you have questions about training, you can call us at 217-785-0561.

Past discussion of problems with training or complaints from operators at the Water Supply Operator Certification Advisory Board meetings have brought forth the "Spirit of the Law." In that, the operators should be kept current on drinking water related material to assure that the drinking water they are helping to produce is safe, clean and adequate in quantity. The impact on public water supplies and operators should not be a negative one, but one that is positive and assuring that an operator is competent and knowledgeable to keep the drinking water supply safe. Regulations on public water supplies are changing all the time, and operators are required to know more now than ever before. It is imperative to keep operators up to date and knowledgeable on drinking water related material.

If you hold a valid operator certificate, congratulations! You are helping to protect our citizens, our future, and our planet. Drinking water supplies and operators do more than produce clean water, they help preserve our natural resources and help protect our watersheds. Clean drinking water is priceless, and it's becoming harder to keep it clean. Operators are changing with the regulation changes, becoming smarter and more equipped to handle multiple water problems. Keep up the good work!

## Digester/Over the Spillway

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**and Jim Miles**

# Drinking Water Operator Candidates Pass Exams

The following candidates successfully passed the certification examination for potable water operators in tests given on Jan 6, April 23, 29, May 2, May 5, and June 2, 2003.

## Class A

Anderson, Michael - Geneva  
Christian, Michael - Central Lake County JAWA  
Coplín, Timothy - Illinois-American – Streator  
Evans, Charles - Batavia  
Fitzgerald, Steven - Aurora  
Goodson, Roger - Aurora  
Hirschman, Max - Streator  
Holmes, Michael - Hennepin  
Locascio, Timothy - Howe Center  
Palka, Rafal - Lindenhurst  
Self, Mark L. - West Dundee  
Spears, Joshua - Illinois-American – Streator  
Stanley, Ronald - Bloomington  
Terrones, Joseph - US Filter – Streator  
Tulloch, William - Aurora  
Young, Paul - North Aurora

## Class B

Arnold, Jay - Thomasboro  
Childress, Jess - Gifford  
Gedde, Mark - Wauconda  
Groth, Carl - Romeoville  
Petrusich, Matthew - Channahon

## Class C

Adcock, Julie - Bloomington  
Baxter, Callen - Nauvoo  
Burdell, Joshua - Three-County Public Water District  
Burdick, William - Pleasant Hill  
Cameron, Clark - Hillsboro  
Carlson, Bryan - Sycamore  
Collier, Steven - Greenville  
Detmers, Duane - Emden

Elias, Michael - Illinois-American – Streator  
Engel, Erin - N.E. Marion County Water  
Escobedo, Pedro - Mundelein  
Evans, Roger - Evanston  
Grant, Robert - South Roxana  
Hildinger, Michael - Lindenhurst  
Hughes, Gwendolyn - Chicago  
Jones, Jason - Metamora  
Juergensen, John - Funks Grove Rest Area  
Kincaid, Mark - Delavan  
Martin, George - Illinois-American – Streator  
Parsano, Rodney - Vermont  
Pence, Rodney - Dallas Rural Water District  
Plichta, Jeffrey - Illinois- American – Streator  
Roach, Walter - Illinois-American – Streator  
Rossi, Raymond - Funks Grove Rest Area  
Schlemer, Kenneth - Pocahontas  
Smith, Geoffrey - Arlington Heights  
Soltis, Raymond - Illinois-American – Streator  
Traiteur, Dennis - Commonfields of Cahokia  
Waschler, John - Illinois-American – Pontiac  
Weber, John - Illinois-American – Pontiac  
Wheeler, David - North Tazwell Public Water District

## Class D

Bays, Christian - Consumers Illinois Water  
Gerdes, Greg - Barrington  
Marsh, James - Consumers Illinois Water  
Pucci, Robert - West Dundee  
Squires, Jr., Coy - Riverton  
Walter, Stephen - Highland  
Wares, Rodney - Consumers Illinois Water

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# New Brochure Will Help Operators Improve Security

There is help for dealing with natural or man-made disasters.

As a consequence of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, municipal officials and treatment plant operators find themselves taking a new look at how they respond to the potential for both natural and man-made disruptions at their operations.

To ease the search for assistance, staff in the Springfield regional office of

the IEPA's Bureau of Water has compiled a brochure that outlines the chain of notification if a disaster occurs, steps that operators should be taking on a regular basis to increase plant security, and list a variety of sources for vulnerability assessment tools, training and even software.

Now being readied for the printer,

the brochure will be mailed to all POTWs of record in our agency database when available. Current plans also call for posting the information on the Agency's web site, making it available in regional Agency offices and distributing it at operator meetings, training sessions and conferences.

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## Operator News

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### Southern Illinois Wastewater Operators Meeting

The Southern Illinois Wastewater Operators held a meeting at the Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center located in Wayne Fitzgerald State Park on March 27, 2003, with 85 people in attendance. Ron Smith, president, welcomed everyone to the event and introduced the technical program.

Guest speakers were Gary Penrod of Insituform, Inc. who spoke on trenchless technology for repairing water and sewer lines, and Brad Gould of Heartland Pump Company who gave a presentation on pump applications for both water and sewer projects.

The current officers for 2003 are Ron Smith, president; Steve Richardson, vice president; and Phil Brandenburg, secretary-treasurer. Coffee, Danish rolls and numerous door prizes were donated by the vendors. The meeting was adjourned after a buffet lunch. The next meeting of the Southern Illinois Wastewater Operators will be a picnic to be held at the Rend Lake Recreation Area in August of 2003. It will be catered by Great Boars of Fire from Jonesboro.

### Kish-Rock Operators' Association

The Kish-Rock Operators' Association met May 15 in Sycamore with Vice President John Bidinger in charge and

29 members and guests in attendance. It was announced the group currently has 35 members.

Dennis Connor, of the Rockford regional office of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, discussed the Phase II stormwater rule that became effective on March 10, and informed those attending that permit information for the rule is available on the Agency's website at [www.epa.state.il.us](http://www.epa.state.il.us)

The annual picnic will be held July 18 at Walcamp Preserve in Kingston. It was decided to return to the previous format for the picnic, with members self-catering the event. Fred Busse and his crew from Sycamore will prepare a pork chop barbeque that will be followed by the horse-shoe tourney for custody of a traveling trophy. Association members will be asked to contribute toward the cost of the picnic, and additional information can be obtained from U.C. Roach at the Sycamore wastewater treatment plant.

The annual golf outing is scheduled for June 20 at the Genoa Golf Club.

The date of the September meeting was moved to Aug. 21. The meeting will be held at Kishwaukee College, with Metropolitan Pump providing a catered lunch.

The May meeting concluded after a demonstration of new technology for mapping infrastructure systems using Geographic Information Systems, and a door prize drawing.

# Digester Training Catalogue Issue Going Electronic

## On-line availability should make course registration more efficient

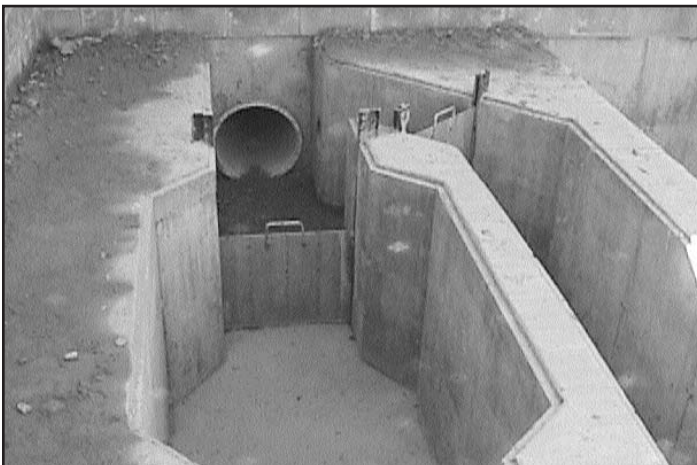
With the upcoming 2003-2004 version, the annual Digester/Over the Spillway training catalogue will be available on-line rather than in a hard copy version.

With the assistance of the Environmental Resources Training Center at Southern Illinois University/Edwardsville, the Illinois EPA annually publishes the volume that identifies

community colleges around the state that offer courses in drinking water and waste water treatment. Because fall classes sometimes start as early as late July or the first days of August, getting the necessary information from participating schools and incorporating it into an available printed document in time to allow timely enrollment has posed some interesting timeframe challenges.

Around the first of July, the Bureau of Water hopes to have this year's Operator Training Catalogue available on line. We hope this will make it easier for operators to identify educational resources in their areas where they can keep abreast of developments in the important work they do.

### *IAWPCO Conference (Continued from page 3)*



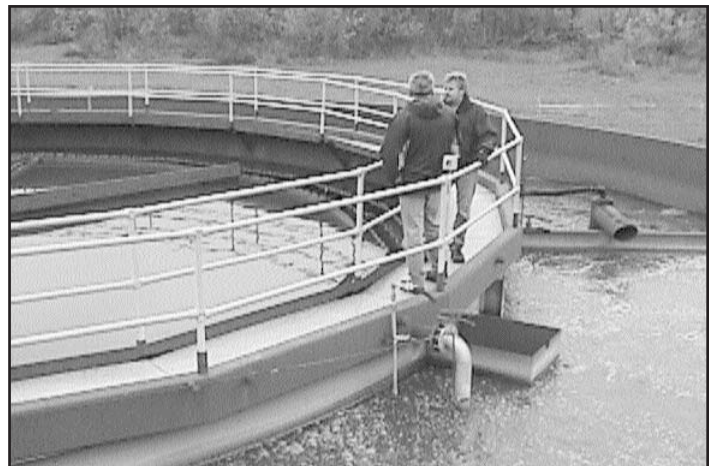
*Red Bud new influent structure.*



*Fulton clarifier and receiving stream.*



*Rend Lake conservancy District, final lagoon cell transfer structure.*



*Robinson package plant, aeration basin and secondary clarifier.*

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# New, Increased Fees For Environmental Operations Effective July 1

Governor signed bill on June 20

In his budget message on April 9, Governor Rod R. Blagojevich announced his goal of replacing General Revenue funding for most Illinois EPA environmental programs with new or increased fees on Agency operations.

The proposal was adopted by the General Assembly during the spring ses-

sion and signed by the governor on June 20.

The bill will result in increases in some fees already collected by various Agency Bureaus. In addition, there will now be fees established for the first time for several Bureau of Water programs. Affected will be industry, municipalities, mines and others.

The fee bill becomes effective July 1. Details of who is affected, important timelines, and the amounts that will be billed for various drinking water and waste water operations are available on the Illinois EPA's website at [www.epa.state.il.us](http://www.epa.state.il.us)

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