

Reminder to Certified Wastewater Treatment Operators: Many Expired Licenses to Become “Non-renewable” After June 30, 2019

In July 2018, House Bill 1233 revised Indiana Code (IC) 13-18-11 concerning certified wastewater treatment operators. The significant changes to the certification program coming out of this bill include:

- All wastewater licenses will now expire and be renewed on a three-year cycle rather than the traditional two-year cycle.

What this means: As we renew your license, it will be for a three year term. We began doing this in 2018.

- Licenses now become non-renewable **one year** after their expiration date.

What this means: Previously, wastewater licenses became non-renewable three years after they expired. Now, once a license has been expired for **one** year, it becomes non-renewable. After that time, if you decide to become certified again, you will be required to sit for and pass the exam again.

Further, many licenses that have expired will become non-renewable at an accelerated schedule. Licenses that expired June 30, 2016, June 30, 2017 and June 30, 2018, will all become non-renewable after June 30, 2019 if they are not renewed prior to that date. Again, becoming non-renewable means that, in order to return to being a certified wastewater operator, you will have to sit for and pass the exam in addition to satisfying all of the other normal renewal requirements, including continuing education.

Currently we have 425 individuals with expired licenses who were notified in 2018, but have not responded and whose licenses will become non-renewable after June 30, 2019. We recognize that some of these individuals may have retired, but we would appreciate it if they would notify us by calling Tonja Fuller-White (317-233-0479) of their intent to not renew. For those who intend to renew, please get your complete application to us as soon as possible. The closer we get to June 30, 2019 the longer it will take us to process your renewal.

- What else does this change in law mean?

These changes to the statute will require that changes be made to the Operator Certification Rule in 327 IAC 5-22. IDEM is in the process of reopening the rule for changes. A rule change is a long-term effort, so at this time the statute and rule contain different requirements for the effective period of license renewals, but the statutory language takes precedence of the rule.

- One important thing to note is that the continuing education contact hours required for renewal will be increased to reflect a three-year cycle. For example, if your license has always required 10 contact hours during a two-year effective term, the revised requirement is 15 contact hours for a three-year renewal.

For more information on wastewater operator certification and continuing education, visit IDEM's website: www.idem.IN.gov/cleanwater/2393.htm

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