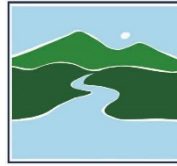


~ Frequently Asked Questions ~

Wastewater Treatment (Pollution Abatement) Facility Operator Certification transfer to the Office of Professional Regulation



VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

- 1. Why the change?** Pursuant to [2016, No. 156, §§ 13-14](#), wastewater treatment (pollution abatement) facility operators will be licensed by the Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation (OPR), allowing system operators to join other licensed professionals—from accountants to veterinarians—under a unified licensing system with a common interface and administrative processes. OPR professions are served by a state-of-the-art online licensing system built to make licensing fast, convenient, transparent, and accessible from almost any web-connected device.
- 2. What is the Office of Professional Regulation?** From Montpelier OPR manages 46 professional licenses for approximately 58,000 licensees. Visit OPR's webpage at: <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation/list-of-professions/pollution-abatement-facility-operators.aspx>.
- 3. When did the transfer from DEC to OPR officially occur?** It officially occurred on January 1, 2017. OPR has begun handling the administration of all wastewater operator licenses, including examinations. Online applications will be available on OPR's webpage: <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation/list-of-professions/pollution-abatement-facility-operators.aspx>.
- 4. Is my DEC-issued still be valid?** No. Your current DEC-issued license must be renewed with OPR immediately.
- 5. What do I need to do now?** If you are a current DEC licensee, register your license with OPR now! Read [OPR's outreach/instructional letter](#). Register your license by visiting the following webpage: <https://secure.vtprofessionals.org/Default.aspx>. You need to create an account with OPR. From this date forward, you will be responsible for maintaining your own license-related information.
- 6. What happens to all my current license information (e.g., prior examination scores, credit hours earned, education, etc.)?** All 'historic' licensee records will be moved from DEC to OPR. You should have received a summary affidavit of the courses and credit hours you have reported to DEC. Please retain this for your records. DEC will no longer collect or maintain records pertaining to your license.
- 7. For how long will an OPR-issued license be valid?** The duration of licenses issued by OPR will be 2 years, instead of the current 5-year duration of those currently issued by DEC.
- 8. Will I be able to take the exam?** After the transition, exams will be available for a fee, at any time, directly from the Association of Boards of Certification through (proctored at) H&R Block facilities across the region – at Burlington, VT, Albany, NY, and Manchester, NH. You'll need to prove your eligibility by registering with OPR. In the future, exams will be computer-based and available anytime at these and other locations throughout our region. Exam results will be available instantaneously. Be advised, the next time the exam will be available is this summer.
- 9. How will I be able to report my attendance at approved wastewater courses?** A list of approved courses will remain available. After the transition occurs, you will need to submit all completed coursework to OPR through its licensee webpage portal. In cooperation with OPR, course approval will be coordinated with the DEC Wastewater Management Program.
- 10. Will there be a fee for a license from OPR?** Yes, OPR's webpage for fee information.
- 11. Will there be a fee for exams?** Yes, exam fees are currently being determined.

- 12. Should I renew my license now?** Yes, if your DEC-issued license is current, register it via OPR's webpage: <https://secure.vtprofessionals.org/Default.aspx>.
- 13. How will my current license and credit hours be affected by this transition?**
Any operator's DEC-issued license will be valid for the current 5-year period and remain subject to the same requirements for training hours. OPR will honor DEC issued licenses and their expiration dates (5 years) if they are renewed immediately by OPR. Five years from now when, a licensed operator will transition to the OPR 2-year renewal cycle and adjusted, requisite training hour requirements. For example, a grade 5 domestic license issued before December 31, 2016 will expire July 1, 2021 and is required to have 40 hours to renew. When the operator applies for renewal in 2021 they will need to show OPR 40 hours was obtained. If OPR approves their renewal, the operator will then be issued a 2-year license and be required to obtain 16 hours to renew in 2023.
- 14. Can I register for the exam now?** No, you cannot. We anticipate exams to be available this summer. Once configured, you will be able to register online for the examination. A new exam registration portal will be available at: <http://online.goamp.com/CandidateHome/CandidateInformation.aspx>.
- 15. How will the Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator Certification Rule be affected by this transition?**
The Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator Certification Rule (Chapter 4) will remain in effect, but the sections that affect the licensees have been removed. OPR has adopted a new rule to administer this license program.
- 16. If you have question about registering your license with OPR who should I call?** Contact Kara Shangraw, OPR, at Kara.Shangraw@sec.state.vt.us or at 802-828-5434.