

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

APPLICATION FOR OPERATOR
CERTIFICATION THROUGH RECIPROCITY

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS:

Application must be received by the Secretary at least FOUR WEEKS BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF OPERATOR CERTIFICATION. One certificate per application. Fax application to 605-773-5286, email application, or mail application to:

Tammie Hill-Secretary
Board of Operator Certification
523 East Capitol-Foss Building
Pierre, SD 57501-3181
Email: tammie.hill@state.sd.us

Applications for certification through reciprocity are reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Board of Operator Certification. Requirements for the certificate presently held in your state are compared to the requirements for certificates in South Dakota. Please note that you may not be awarded any certificate if the requirements to obtain your current certificate are lower than the standards in South Dakota. A copy of the certificate presently held should be included with the application. **Each application must be accompanied by a fee of \$60.00.** Checks should be made out to "DANR". If you fax or email application, please submit fee through the mail.

Operator Certification Web Site-<https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/OperatorCert/default.aspx>

GENERAL INFORMATION (Print legibly and fill out completely):

1. Name O'Brien Jon Patrick
Last First Middle
2. Home Mailing Address 1810 Glen Ellen Rd. Sioux City Iowa 51106
3. Phone 712-317-7139 Fax _____
4. Email Address jono39breine@yahoo.com
5. Certificate Now Held Grade 2 wastewater treatment
6. Was an exam passed to acquire this certificate? Check one. Yes ☒ No ☐
7. Was this certificate obtained through reciprocity? Check one. Yes ☐ No ☒
8. Is this certificate valid with all fees up-to-date? Check one. Yes ☒ No ☐
9. Have you ever been certified in South Dakota before? Check one. Yes ☐ No ☒

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Are you a high school graduate? Check one. Yes ☐ No ☐ GED ☒ If no, year completed _____

College/Vo-tech Name	Dates Attended	Major	Date Graduated
Hawkeye community college			
Iowa State college			

List other educational courses completed such as correspondence school, operators' short courses, etc. Give date, name, and location of such courses.

40-hour short courses in water, wastewater and water treatment

WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATION EXPERIENCE

Present Position Title Senior Project Manager Date Employed July 2023

Supervisor Name and Title Travis Thom Rp Constructors

Describe in detail your daily duties. (Be Specific!) Starting a division in helping towns with the water and wastewater needs to help with workload and operations in helping others with licensing to be able to run or help run the plants. Ran Hudson IA lagoon treatment plant for about 6 years along with the ability to run our on test, PH CDODs, Suspended solids, ammonia TKN, OD. In Sioux city I assessed with issues that came up with collections and at the WWTP plant. I am also able to take my grade 3 and then 4 with IDNR.

List other job experience which you feel will pertain to your certification qualifications.

Dates	Employer Name/Location	Specific Job Duties
8 years	City of Sioux City	Utilities superintendent in charge of all underground water, sanitary, and storm pipe. Help with water treatment and wastewater help in operations.
7 years	City of Hudson Iowa	Public works Director, in charge of water treatment, water distribution and wastewater plant.
7	Watco con.	Installed underground utilities water, sanitary, storm.

I hereby certify that this application contains no willful misrepresentations or falsifications and that the information given is true and complete.

Signature Jon O'Brien

Digitally signed by Jon O'Brien
DN: C=US, E=jono@rpconstructors.com, O="RP
Constructors", CN=Jon O'Brien
Date: 2025.05.14 15:10:12-05'00'

Date 5-8-2025

Oper#

Cert Date

Reciprocity Approved		Yes ☐	No ☐
Certificate Awarded			
Cash		Check	
DANR Use Only			

3/2/2022

STATE OF IOWA WASTE WATER SYSTEM CERTIFICATE

Operator ID# 8678

JON OBRIEN

In accordance with State Laws of Iowa is certified as an operator in:

Treatment Grade 2

Given under the hands of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources on July 01, 2025

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

Laurie Sharp

Expiration Date: June 30, 2027



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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GENERAL INFORMATION (Print legibly and fill out completely):

1. Name O'Brien Jon Patrick
Last First Middle
2. Home Mailing Address 1810 Glen Ellen Rd. Sioux City Iowa 51106
3. Phone 712-317-7139 Fax _____
4. Email Address jono39breine@yahoo.com
5. Certificate Now Held Grade 3 Water Treatment
6. Was an exam passed to acquire this certificate? Check one. Yes ☒ No ☐
7. Was this certificate obtained through reciprocity? Check one. Yes ☐ No ☒
8. Is this certificate valid with all fees up-to-date? Check one. Yes ☒ No ☐
9. Have you ever been certified in South Dakota before? Check one. Yes ☐ No ☒

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Are you a high school graduate? Check one. Yes ☐ No ☐ GED ☒ If no, year completed _____

College/Vo-tech Name	Dates Attended	Major	Date Graduated
Hawkeye community college			
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List other educational courses completed such as correspondence school, operators' short courses, etc. Give date, name, and location of such courses.

40-hour short courses in water, wastewater and water treatment

WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATION EXPERIENCE

Present Position Title Senior Project Manager Date Employed July 2023

Supervisor Name and Title Travis Thom Rp Constructors

Describe in detail your daily duties. (Be Specific!) Starting a division in helping towns with the water and wastewater needs to help with workload and operations in helping others with licensing to be able to run or help run the plants. When I was in Hudson I ran the treatment plant that was just chlorine. in Sioux City I was the water treatment plant back up as I am eligible for my grade 4 in Water treatment with DNR.

List other job experience which you feel will pertain to your certification qualifications.

Dates	Employer Name/Location	Specific Job Duties
8 years	City of Sioux City	Utilities superintendent in charge of all underground water, sanitary, and storm pipe. Help with water treatment and wastewater help in operations.
7 years	City of Hudson Iowa	Public works Director, in charge of water treatment, water distribution and wastewater plant.
7	Watco con.	Installed underground utilities water, sanitary, storm.

I hereby certify that this application contains no willful misrepresentations or falsifications and that the information given is true and complete.

Signature Jon O'Brien Digitally signed by Jon O'Brien
DN: C=US, E=jono@rpconstructors.com,
O="RP Constructors", CN=Jon O'Brien
Date: 2025.05.14 15:07:32-05'00' Date 5-8-2025

Oper#
Cert Date
Reciprocity Approved Yes ☐ No ☐
Certificate Awarded

Cash	Check
DANR Use Only	

3/2/2022

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Operator Certification Web Site-<https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/OperatorCert/default.aspx>

GENERAL INFORMATION (Print legibly and fill out completely):

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Last First Middle
2. Home Mailing Address 1810 Glen Ellen Rd. Sioux City Iowa 51106
3. Phone 712-317-7139 Fax _____
4. Email Address jono39breine@yahoo.com
5. Certificate Now Held Grade 4 Water distribution
6. Was an exam passed to acquire this certificate? Check one. Yes ☒ No ☐
7. Was this certificate obtained through reciprocity? Check one. Yes ☐ No ☒
8. Is this certificate valid with all fees up-to-date? Check one. Yes ☒ No ☐
9. Have you ever been certified in South Dakota before? Check one. Yes ☐ No ☒

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Are you a high school graduate? Check one. Yes ☐ No ☐ GED ☒ If no, year completed _____

College/Vo-tech Name	Dates Attended	Major	Date Graduated
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Iowa State college			

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40-hour short courses in water, wastewater and water treatment

WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATION EXPERIENCE

Present Position Title Senior Project Manager Date Employed July 2023

Supervisor Name and Title Travis Thom Rp Constructors

Describe in detail your daily duties. (Be Specific!) Starting a division in helping towns with the water and wastewater needs to help with workload and operations in helping others with licensing to be able to run or help run the plants. I have a lot of training and ran Hudson Iowa and Sioux City in dealing with water mains and repair and book keeping with DNR and CIPs.

List other job experience which you feel will pertain to your certification qualifications.

Dates	Employer Name/Location	Specific Job Duties
8 years	City of Sioux City	Utilities superintendent in charge of all underground water, sanitary, and storm pipe. Help with water treatment and wastewater help in operations.
7 years	City of Hudson Iowa	Public works Director, in charge of water treatment, water distribution and wastewater plant.
7	Watco con.	Installed underground utilities water, sanitary, storm.

I hereby certify that this application contains no willful misrepresentations or falsifications and that the information given is true and complete.

Signature Jon O'Brien Digitally signed by Jon O'Brien
DN: C=US, E=jon@rpconstructors.com, O="RP
Constructors", CN=Jon O'Brien
Date: 2025.05.14 15:08:33-05'00' Date 5-8-2025

Oper#
Cert Date
Reciprocity Approved Yes ☐ No ☐
Certificate Awarded

Cash	Check
DANR Use Only	

3/2/2022

STATE OF IOWA

PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM CERTIFICATE

Operator ID# 8678

JON OBRIEN

In accordance with State Laws of Iowa is certified as an operator in:

Distribution Grade 4

Treatment Grade 3

Given under the hands of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources on July 01, 2025

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

Laurie Sharp

Expiration Date: June 30, 2027



05/29/2025

Iowa Operator Certification Program
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines IA 50319-0034

Marissa Shriver – OpCert Customer Support
marissa.shriver@dnr.iowa.gov

RE: Operator Certification

The following water/wastewater operator has applied to South Dakota to receive an Operator Certificate through reciprocity. South Dakota will grant certificates by reciprocity to operators coming from states where their certification program is of a standard not lower than ours and will extend reciprocal privileges to our operators.

Please answer the following questions concerning your operator certification program so that the South Dakota Board of Operator Certification may make a decision at their next Board meeting as to whether certification should be granted.

Name Jon O'Brien – Operator # 8678

Address 1810 Glenn Ellen Rd

Sioux City IA 51106

License(s) Held:

Grade 3 Water Treatment
Grade 4 Water Distribution
Grade 2 Wastewater Treatment

What is the education requirement (HS graduation, years of post-secondary, etc.) for this license(s)?

See page 5 & 6 of our rules: 567—81.6(455B) Certified operator education and experience qualifications. Chapter 81

What is the work experience requirement for this license(s)?

See page 5 & 6 of our rules: 567—81.6(455B) Certified operator education and experience qualifications. Chapter 81

Was a written exam taken to gain this license(s)? Yes

What type of questions is on the exam? <https://www.gowpi.org/services/abc-testing/standardized-exams/>

What is the minimum score to pass the exam? 70%

Is your certification program mandatory? Yes, see Chapter 81 Rules for more information

Is this license(s) valid at this time? Yes

Will your program grant reciprocity to all South Dakota water and wastewater operators if minimum requirements are met? Note-South Dakota will grant reciprocity on a case-by-case basis. We compare the education/work experience requirements for your certificate with the requirements for our SD certificates. We do NOT review the education/experience of the operator himself. It is also required that your state will grant reciprocity to our operators coming to your state.

Yes, we also grant reciprocity on a case-by-case basis.

Comments _____

Name and title of person completing this form-

Marissa Shriver; Administrative Assistant

Please check which certificates your agency issues-

☒ Water Treatment ☒ Water Distribution

☒ Wastewater Treatment ☐ Wastewater Collection

South Dakota's Operator Certification Law can be found at https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/2058273

Our regulations are contained within- <https://sdlegislature.gov/Rules/Administrative/27258>

Feel free to write your answers on this sheet, and please include a copy of your regulations concerning Operator Certification. **Please email or fax your reply if possible.** If there are any questions on this matter, feel free to contact me in Pierre. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Tammie Hill - Secretary
Board of Operator Certification
523 E Capitol
Pierre SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-3577
Fax: 605-773-5286
E-mail: tammie.hill@state.sd.us
Web Site: <https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/OperatorCert/default.aspx>

[ARC 9212C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

567—81.5(455B) Water distribution system classifications and operator certification grades.

81.5(1) Water distribution classifications. The water distribution system classifications and grades are listed in the following table:

Water Distribution System Classifications and Grades*

Distribution System Type	Certification Grade**			
	Average Daily Pumpage in MGD			
	0-0.1	>0.1-1.5	>1.5-5	>5
All municipal water systems	I	II	III	IV
CWS not classified as a Grade A water system	I	II	III	IV
NTNC not classified as a Grade A water system	I	II	III	IV
TNC not classified as a Grade A water system	I	II	III	IV
Rural water districts	Miles of Pipe			
	0-100	>100-1,000	>1,000-2,500	>2,500
	II	II	III	IV

*Note: A PWS with a well, storage, and a distribution system shall be classified as a water distribution system if no treatment is provided.

**For Grade A water distribution system classification, see 81.5(3).

81.5(2) Average daily pumpage. When the average daily pumpage is unknown, the system grade will be determined using the most recent census population and an evaluation of commercial, industrial, or other users.

81.5(3) Grade A water distribution system classification.

a. Grade A classification. A PWS that provides either no treatment other than hypochlorination or treatment that does not require any chemical addition, process adjustment, backwashing, or media regeneration by an operator shall be classified as a Grade A water distribution system, based on the following service populations:

(1) Community water system. A CWS, other than a municipal or rural water system, serving a population of 250 persons or less.

(2) Nontransient noncommunity water system. An NTNC serving a population of 500 persons or less.

(3) Transient noncommunity water system. A TNC serving a population of 500 persons or less.

b. Grade A certification. Any grade of water treatment or distribution certification will satisfy the certification requirements for a Grade A water distribution system with or without hypochlorination.

[ARC 9212C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

567—81.6(455B) Certified operator education and experience qualifications.**81.6(1) Education and experience qualifications—general.**

a. All certified operator applicants shall meet the education and operating experience qualifications for the certificate grade shown in the table below prior to being allowed to take the certified operator examination.

b. Operating experience shall be in the same classification for which the applicant is applying unless partial credit is given in accordance with 81.6(2) and 81.6(3).

c. Directly related post-high school education shall be in the same subject matter as the classification for which the applicant is applying. The director will determine which courses qualify as “directly related” in cases that are not clearly defined.

d. A military applicant may apply for education or experience credit pursuant to 81.6(4).

e. Education and experience qualifications table.

Certified Operator Education and Experience Qualifications

Grade	Education	Substitution for Education	Operating Experience	Substitution for Operating Experience
A	High school diploma or GED	None	Completion of a department-approved training course	None

Grade	Education	Substitution for Education	Operating Experience	Substitution for Operating Experience
W	High school diploma or GED	None	Completion of a department-approved training course	None
I	High school diploma or GED	None	1 year	See 81.6(3) "b"
II	High school diploma or GED	None	1 year	See 81.6(3) "b"
II	High school diploma or GED	None	3 years	See 81.6(3) "b"
III	High school diploma or GED and 2 years of post-high school education (1 year must be directly related)	See 81.6(3) "a"	4 years of experience in a Grade I or higher	See 81.6(3) "b"
IV	High school diploma or GED and 4 years of post-high school education (2 years must be directly related)	See 81.6(3) "a"	4 years of experience, including 2 years of DRC in a Grade III or higher	See 81.6(3) "b" and "c"

81.6(2) Related work experience substitutions for operating experience. The following substitutions of related work experience for operating experience requirements may be accepted by the director.

a. Personnel. The following personnel may be allowed 50 percent credit for work experience toward meeting the operating experience requirements as noted:

(1) Laboratory personnel employed in water or wastewater treatment plants; Grades I and II certification only. Laboratory experience must be in the same classification for which the applicant is applying.

(2) Personnel with experience in on-site operation review and evaluation of plants and distribution systems; Grades I and II certification only. On-site experience must be in the same classification for which the applicant is applying.

(3) Maintenance personnel employed in water or wastewater treatment plants; Grades I and II certification only. Maintenance experience may be applied to either the water or wastewater experience requirements.

b. Certified operators. The following types of certified operators may be allowed 50 percent credit for work experience toward meeting the operating experience requirements as noted:

(1) Certified water treatment operators; Grades I and II wastewater treatment certification only, or Grades I and II water distribution certification only.

(2) Certified wastewater treatment operators; Grades I and II water treatment certification only.

(3) Certified water distribution operators; Grades I and II water treatment certification only.

c. Limitation. The portion of related work experience that is substituted for operating experience cannot also be used to substitute for education.

81.6(3) Operating experience and education substitutions. The following experience or education substitutions may be accepted by the director.

a. Substitution of operating experience for education.

(1) One year of operating experience may be substituted for one year of post-high school education, up to one-half of the post-high school education requirement, as follows:

1. Experience in a Grade II or higher position may substitute as education for a Grade III certification, or

2. Experience in a Grade III or higher position may substitute as education for Grade IV certification.

(2) Two years of DRC experience in a Grade III or higher position may be substituted for one year of directly related post-high school education for Grade IV certification up to three-fourths of the post-high school education requirement.

(3) That portion of operating experience that is applied toward substitution for education cannot also be used for experience.

b. Substitutions of education for operating experience.

(1) Two semester hours, three quarter hours, or three CEUs of directly related post-high school education may be substituted for one-half the operating experience requirement for Grades I and II.

(2) Thirty semester hours, 45 quarter hours, or 45 CEUs of directly related post-high school education may be substituted for one year of experience up to a maximum of one-half the operating experience requirement for Grades II, III and IV.

(3) That portion of education that is applied toward substitution for operating experience cannot also be used for education.

(4) Class hours involving closely supervised on-the-job type training in a pilot or full-scale facility where there are clearly defined educational objectives may be applied to the on-the-job operating experience requirement. The substitution value of such training shall be applicable for Grade I and Grade II certification only and shall not exceed one-half year of on-the-job experience.

1. One hour of on-the-job training is equivalent to three hours of on-the-job operating experience.

2. One month of on-the-job training consists of 20 eight-hour days.

3. Credit for on-the-job training may be applied only to the examination for the type of plant or system in which the experience was obtained.

4. That portion of on-the-job training courses that is applied toward substitution for the on-the-job experience requirement cannot also be used for education.

c. *Substitution of education for DRC operating experience.* Thirty semester hours, 45 quarter hours, or 45 CEUs of directly related post-high school education may be substituted for one year of DRC operating experience up to one-half the requirement for Grade IV certification.

81.6(4) Military education, training, or service credit.

a. An applicant who is serving or has served in the military shall identify the education or experience certification qualification for which the credit is requested.

b. As part of an examination application pursuant to 81.8(1), an applicant shall provide documents, military transcripts, a certified affidavit, or forms that verify completion of the relevant military education, training, or service, which may include, as applicable, the applicant's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) or Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) (DD Form 2586).

[ARC 9212C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

567—81.7(455B) Certification and examination fees.

81.7(1) Examination fee. Fee for each examination: \$30.

81.7(2) Certification fees.

a. Certification fee for each one-half year of a two-year period from the date of issuance to June 30 of odd-numbered years: \$20.

b. Late certification penalty fee: \$18.

c. Certification renewal fee: \$60.

d. Late certification renewal penalty fee: \$18.

81.7(3) Fee adjustments. The department may adjust the fees annually by up to plus or minus 20 percent to cover costs of administering and enforcing these rules and reimbursement for other expenses relating to operator certification. The commission must approve any fee increases above those listed in this rule. All fees collected shall be retained by the department for administration of the operator certification program.

[ARC 9212C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

567—81.8(455B) Operator certification examinations.

81.8(1) Examination application.

a. All persons wishing to take the examination to become a certified operator of a wastewater or water treatment plant or a water distribution system shall complete an examination application on a form provided by the department.

b. All examination applications shall be accompanied by the examination fee.

81.8(2) Application evaluation. After evaluating an application, the department will notify the applicant of examination eligibility or noneligibility. The director will further review applications when it is indicated that the applicant has falsified information or when questions arise concerning an applicant's qualifications or eligibility for examination or certification.

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

APPLICATION FOR OPERATOR CERTIFICATION THROUGH RECIPROCITY

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GENERAL INFORMATION (Print legibly and fill out completely):

1. Name Wadsworth Ryan Perry
Last First Middle
2. Home Mailing Address 2911 GRANDVIEW Blvd
Sioux City, IA 51104
3. Phone 712-253-4299 Fax _____
4. Email Address fsurynan-77@hotmail.com
5. Certificate Now Held GAPEL Distribution From Which State IA
6. Was an exam passed to acquire this certificate? Check one. Yes ☒ No ☐
7. Was this certificate obtained through reciprocity? Check one. Yes ☐ No ☒
8. Is this certificate valid with all fees up-to-date? Check one. Yes ☒ No ☐
9. Have you ever been certified in South Dakota before? Check one. Yes ☐ No ☒

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Are you a high school graduate? Check one. Yes ☒ No ☐ GED ☐ If no, year completed _____

College/Vo-tech Name	Dates Attended	Major	Date Graduated
WITCC	1997 - 1998	Carpentry	
" "	2000 - 2001	Architectural Drafting	

List other educational courses completed such as correspondence school, operators' short courses, etc. Give date, name, and location of such courses.

Water Distribution Course 1, 7-17-2023 Operator ID: 13137
Nassco: PACP, LACP, MACP 3-7-2025 " " : P0053062-032025

WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATION EXPERIENCE

Present Position Title Camera & Vac Truck Operator Date Employed 8-26-24

Supervisor Name and Title Chris De harty, R.P Constructors LLC (Foreman)

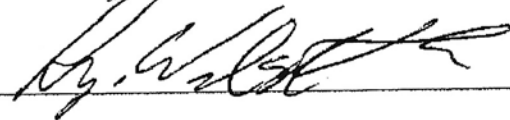
Describe in detail your daily duties. (Be Specific!) Camera & Jet/Vac Saver Lines
Hydro Excavate When Needed

List other job experience which you feel will pertain to your certification qualifications.

Dates	Employer Name/Location	Specific Job Duties
8-2024	R.P Constructors	Camera & Vac Truck Operator
10-2021	City of Sioux City	Utility Workers
5-2007	Ortner Construction	Welder/Iron Worker/Carpenter/FOREMAN

I hereby certify that this application contains no willful misrepresentations or falsifications and that the information given is true and complete

Signature



Date 7-8-2025

Oper#
Cert Date
Reciprocity Approved Yes ☐ No ☐
Certificate Awarded
Cash ☐ Check ☐
DANR Use Only

STATE OF IOWA
PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM CERTIFICATE

Operator ID# 13137

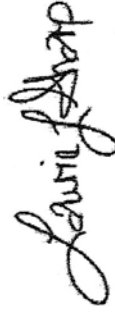
RYAN WADSWORTH

In accordance with State Laws of Iowa is certified as an operator in:

Distribution Grade 1

Given under the hands of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources on July 01, 2025

FOR THE DIRECTOR:



Expiration Date: June 30, 2027



07/25/2025

Iowa Operator Certification Program
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines IA 50319-0034

Marissa Shriver – OpCert Customer Support
marissa.shriver@dnr.iowa.gov

RE: Operator Certification

The following water/wastewater operator has applied to South Dakota to receive an Operator Certificate through reciprocity. South Dakota will grant certificates by reciprocity to operators coming from states where their certification program is of a standard not lower than ours and will extend reciprocal privileges to our operators.

Please answer the following questions concerning your operator certification program so that the South Dakota Board of Operator Certification may make a decision at their next Board meeting as to whether certification should be granted.

Name Ryan P. Wadsworth

Address 2911 Grandview Blvd.

Sioux City IA 51104

License(s) Held:

Operator ID: 13137 – Grade 1 Water Distribution

What is the education requirement (HS graduation, years of post-secondary, etc.) for this license(s)?

High school diploma **Chapter 81**

What is the work experience requirement for this license(s)?

1 year **Chapter 81**

Was a written exam taken to gain this license(s)? Yes

What type of questions is on the exam? <https://www.gowpi.org/services/abc-testing/standardized-exams/standardized-water-distribution-operator-exams/>

What is the minimum score to pass the exam? 70%

Is your certification program mandatory? Yes, see Chapter 81 Rules for more information

Is this license(s) valid at this time? Yes

Will your program grant reciprocity to all South Dakota water and wastewater operators if minimum requirements are met? Note-South Dakota will grant reciprocity on a case-by-case basis. We compare the education/work experience requirements for your certificate with the requirements for our SD certificates. We do NOT review the education/experience of the operator himself. It is also required that your state will grant reciprocity to our operators coming to your state.

Yes, we also grant reciprocity on a case-by-case basis.

Comments _____

Name and title of person completing this form-

Marissa Shriver; Administrative Assistant

Please check which certificates your agency issues-

☒ Water Treatment

☒ Water Distribution

☒ Wastewater Treatment

☐ Wastewater Collection

South Dakota's Operator Certification Law can be found at https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/2058273

Our regulations are contained within- <https://sdlegislature.gov/Rules/Administrative/27258>

Feel free to write your answers on this sheet, and please include a copy of your regulations concerning Operator Certification. **Please email or fax your reply if possible.** If there are any questions on this matter, feel free to contact me in Pierre. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Tammie Hill

Tammie Hill - Secretary
Board of Operator Certification
523 E Capitol
Pierre SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-3577
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E-mail: tammie.hill@state.sd.us
Web Site: <https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/OperatorCert/default.aspx>

[ARC 9212C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

567—81.5(455B) Water distribution system classifications and operator certification grades.

81.5(1) *Water distribution classifications.* The water distribution system classifications and grades are listed in the following table:

Water Distribution System Classifications and Grades*

Distribution System Type	Certification Grade**			
	Average Daily Pumpage in MGD			
	0-0.1	>0.1-1.5	>1.5-5	>5
All municipal water systems	I	II	III	IV
CWS not classified as a Grade A water system	I	II	III	IV
NTNC not classified as a Grade A water system	I	II	III	IV
TNC not classified as a Grade A water system	I	II	III	IV
Rural water districts	Miles of Pipe			
	0-100	>100-1,000	>1,000-2,500	>2,500
	II	II	III	IV

*Note: A PWS with a well, storage, and a distribution system shall be classified as a water distribution system if no treatment is provided.

**For Grade A water distribution system classification, see 81.5(3).

81.5(2) *Average daily pumpage.* When the average daily pumpage is unknown, the system grade will be determined using the most recent census population and an evaluation of commercial, industrial, or other users.

81.5(3) Grade A water distribution system classification.

a. Grade A classification. A PWS that provides either no treatment other than hypochlorination or treatment that does not require any chemical addition, process adjustment, backwashing, or media regeneration by an operator shall be classified as a Grade A water distribution system, based on the following service populations:

(1) Community water system. A CWS, other than a municipal or rural water system, serving a population of 250 persons or less.

(2) Nontransient noncommunity water system. An NTNC serving a population of 500 persons or less.

(3) Transient noncommunity water system. A TNC serving a population of 500 persons or less.

b. Grade A certification. Any grade of water treatment or distribution certification will satisfy the certification requirements for a Grade A water distribution system with or without hypochlorination.

[ARC 9212C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

567—81.6(455B) Certified operator education and experience qualifications.**81.6(1) Education and experience qualifications—general.**

a. All certified operator applicants shall meet the education and operating experience qualifications for the certificate grade shown in the table below prior to being allowed to take the certified operator examination.

b. Operating experience shall be in the same classification for which the applicant is applying unless partial credit is given in accordance with 81.6(2) and 81.6(3).

c. Directly related post-high school education shall be in the same subject matter as the classification for which the applicant is applying. The director will determine which courses qualify as “directly related” in cases that are not clearly defined.

d. A military applicant may apply for education or experience credit pursuant to 81.6(4).

e. Education and experience qualifications table.

Certified Operator Education and Experience Qualifications

Grade	Education	Substitution for Education	Operating Experience	Substitution for Operating Experience
A	High school diploma or GED	None	Completion of a department-approved training course	None

Grade	Education	Substitution for Education	Operating Experience	Substitution for Operating Experience
W	High school diploma or GED	None	Completion of a department-approved training course	None
I	High school diploma or GED	None	1 year	See 81.6(3) "b"
II	High school diploma or GED	None	1 year	See 81.6(3) "b"
II	High school diploma or GED	None	3 years	See 81.6(3) "b"
III	High school diploma or GED and 2 years of post-high school education (1 year must be directly related)	See 81.6(3) "a"	4 years of experience in a Grade I or higher	See 81.6(3) "b"
IV	High school diploma or GED and 4 years of post-high school education (2 years must be directly related)	See 81.6(3) "a"	4 years of experience, including 2 years of DRC in a Grade III or higher	See 81.6(3) "b" and "c"

81.6(2) *Related work experience substitutions for operating experience.* The following substitutions of related work experience for operating experience requirements may be accepted by the director.

a. Personnel. The following personnel may be allowed 50 percent credit for work experience toward meeting the operating experience requirements as noted:

(1) Laboratory personnel employed in water or wastewater treatment plants; Grades I and II certification only. Laboratory experience must be in the same classification for which the applicant is applying.

(2) Personnel with experience in on-site operation review and evaluation of plants and distribution systems; Grades I and II certification only. On-site experience must be in the same classification for which the applicant is applying.

(3) Maintenance personnel employed in water or wastewater treatment plants; Grades I and II certification only. Maintenance experience may be applied to either the water or wastewater experience requirements.

b. Certified operators. The following types of certified operators may be allowed 50 percent credit for work experience toward meeting the operating experience requirements as noted:

(1) Certified water treatment operators; Grades I and II wastewater treatment certification only, or Grades I and II water distribution certification only.

(2) Certified wastewater treatment operators; Grades I and II water treatment certification only.

(3) Certified water distribution operators; Grades I and II water treatment certification only.

c. Limitation. The portion of related work experience that is substituted for operating experience cannot also be used to substitute for education.

81.6(3) *Operating experience and education substitutions.* The following experience or education substitutions may be accepted by the director.

a. Substitution of operating experience for education.

(1) One year of operating experience may be substituted for one year of post-high school education, up to one-half of the post-high school education requirement, as follows:

1. Experience in a Grade II or higher position may substitute as education for a Grade III certification, or

2. Experience in a Grade III or higher position may substitute as education for Grade IV certification.

(2) Two years of DRC experience in a Grade III or higher position may be substituted for one year of directly related post-high school education for Grade IV certification up to three-fourths of the post-high school education requirement.

(3) That portion of operating experience that is applied toward substitution for education cannot also be used for experience.

b. Substitutions of education for operating experience.

(1) Two semester hours, three quarter hours, or three CEUs of directly related post-high school education may be substituted for one-half the operating experience requirement for Grades I and II.

(2) Thirty semester hours, 45 quarter hours, or 45 CEUs of directly related post-high school education may be substituted for one year of experience up to a maximum of one-half the operating experience requirement for Grades II, III and IV.

(3) That portion of education that is applied toward substitution for operating experience cannot also be used for education.

(4) Class hours involving closely supervised on-the-job type training in a pilot or full-scale facility where there are clearly defined educational objectives may be applied to the on-the-job operating experience requirement. The substitution value of such training shall be applicable for Grade I and Grade II certification only and shall not exceed one-half year of on-the-job experience.

1. One hour of on-the-job training is equivalent to three hours of on-the-job operating experience.

2. One month of on-the-job training consists of 20 eight-hour days.

3. Credit for on-the-job training may be applied only to the examination for the type of plant or system in which the experience was obtained.

4. That portion of on-the-job training courses that is applied toward substitution for the on-the-job experience requirement cannot also be used for education.

c. *Substitution of education for DRC operating experience.* Thirty semester hours, 45 quarter hours, or 45 CEUs of directly related post-high school education may be substituted for one year of DRC operating experience up to one-half the requirement for Grade IV certification.

81.6(4) Military education, training, or service credit.

a. An applicant who is serving or has served in the military shall identify the education or experience certification qualification for which the credit is requested.

b. As part of an examination application pursuant to 81.8(1), an applicant shall provide documents, military transcripts, a certified affidavit, or forms that verify completion of the relevant military education, training, or service, which may include, as applicable, the applicant's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) or Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) (DD Form 2586).

[ARC 9212C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

567—81.7(455B) Certification and examination fees.

81.7(1) Examination fee. Fee for each examination: \$30.

81.7(2) Certification fees.

a. Certification fee for each one-half year of a two-year period from the date of issuance to June 30 of odd-numbered years: \$20.

b. Late certification penalty fee: \$18.

c. Certification renewal fee: \$60.

d. Late certification renewal penalty fee: \$18.

81.7(3) Fee adjustments. The department may adjust the fees annually by up to plus or minus 20 percent to cover costs of administering and enforcing these rules and reimbursement for other expenses relating to operator certification. The commission must approve any fee increases above those listed in this rule. All fees collected shall be retained by the department for administration of the operator certification program.

[ARC 9212C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

567—81.8(455B) Operator certification examinations.

81.8(1) Examination application.

a. All persons wishing to take the examination to become a certified operator of a wastewater or water treatment plant or a water distribution system shall complete an examination application on a form provided by the department.

b. All examination applications shall be accompanied by the examination fee.

81.8(2) Application evaluation. After evaluating an application, the department will notify the applicant of examination eligibility or noneligibility. The director will further review applications when it is indicated that the applicant has falsified information or when questions arise concerning an applicant's qualifications or eligibility for examination or certification.