

## **OPERATOR CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

May 13, 2017

The Operator Certification Committee's roles include the evaluation of the current state of operators and their certifications, bringing forth current and predicted issues that are or could become troublesome, and recommendations for improvements by CT Section, CT DPH/Drinking Water Section and trainers. The members bring innovative ideas to the group in an attempt to keep operator certification fresh and modern. The members also act as a sounding board for CT DPH/Drinking Water Section's Operator Certification staff regarding the certification process of operators, certification of training providers and courses, proposed changes to regulations and policies, communications with certified operators (email and website), development of new programs and evaluation of operator exams.

The highlights of the past year include:

- Evaluation of the possible future use of the new Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) standardized operator exams in place of the CT prescriptive exams currently in use
- Recommendations for input to ABC Strategic Planning meeting, regarding goals, strategies, services and obstacles to their implementations
- Evaluation of the CT DPH Operator Certification web pages and web-fillable PDF forms
- Discussions of use of the eLicense and its possible replacement
- Review of training course provider applications, standards for operators and disciplinary actions
- Demonstration and critique of a training class using GoToMeeting technology
- Co-Chair Judy Simpanen was named 2016 Educator of the Year by CTDPH for her 18 years of service on the Operator Certification Committee
- Review of needs of yet to be employed Operators-In-Training (OITs)
- Promotion of internship opportunities at water utilities for students and OITs
- Critique of new format for Operator Certificates
- Evaluations of training needs