

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Engineers
Operator Certification Program

THRU: Larry Robinson, Program Manager

FROM: Brian Mark, Program Principal

DATE April 13, 2005

SUBJECT: **POLICY 20.1.1** Clarification of the Chapter 5 operator certification requirements for public wastewater collection systems and wastewater treatment plants.

The Department of Environmental Quality/Water Quality Division (DEQ) is clarifying the requirements of Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations (WWQRR), Chapter 5, Sections 2, (k), (r) and (s).

Section 2(k) states that a "Municipality means any city, town, county, district, association, or other public body including state and federal government."

Section 2(r) states "Public wastewater collection system means any system of lines, pipes, manholes, lift stations, or other facilities operated by a municipality for the purpose of collecting and transporting wastewater."

Section 2(s) states, "Public wastewater treatment plant means any structure, pond, lagoon or combination thereof, but not including individual septic tanks, operated by a municipality for the purpose of treating wastewater."

Chapter 5 operator certification requirements are applicable to public wastewater collection systems and wastewater treatment plants. Therefore, if a wastewater collection system is operated by a municipality as defined above an appropriately certified operator and backup operator are required. If a wastewater treatment plant, but not including individual septic tank systems, is operated by a municipality appropriate level operators are required.

DEQ is clarifying that the term septic tanks systems means small wastewater systems as defined in the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act W.S.S. 35-11-103 (ix) "'Small wastewater system" means any sewerage system, disposal system, or treatment works having simple hydrologic and engineering needs which is intended for wastes originating from a single residential unit serving no more than four families or which distributes two thousand (2,000) gallons or less of domestic sewage per day".

This definition does not include those systems identified as "enhanced systems" in accordance with Chapter 23, Minimum Standards for Subdivision Applications. If an enhanced system is operated by an entity that meets the definition of a municipality a properly certified operator is required. If the developer of a subdivision is the operator or if the system is operated under a maintenance contract that is regularly monitored by DEQ or a delegated small wastewater program, certified operators would not be required.