

On-Site Wastewater Treatment Certification Workshops

During the 2001 State of Utah Legislative session, a bill was passed that established a requirement that persons who design, inspect, or maintain underground wastewater disposal systems (also referred to as septic or on-site wastewater treatment systems), and/or conduct percolation tests or soil evaluations for these systems, must be certified by the State of Utah. Information on this certification program, prepared by the Utah Division of Water Quality of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), can be found at:

[<http://www.deq.utah.gov/ProgramsServices/programs/water/wastewater/index.htm>]

The regulations governing the certification program (date of last amendment: September 1, 2013) can be found at:

[www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r317/r317-011.htm]

On-site professionals may become certified in the following categories:

Level 1: Soil Evaluation and Percolation Testing

Level 2: Design, Inspection, and Maintenance of Conventional Underground Wastewater Disposal Systems

Level 3: Design, Inspection, and Maintenance of Alternative Underground Wastewater Disposal Systems

You must achieve Level 1 certification before you can become certified for Level 2; you must be certified for Levels 1 and 2 before you can become certified for Level 3.

Certification is obtained by completion of training and examination by the Utah On-Site Wastewater Treatment Training Program of Utah State University, followed by submission of an application form and required fee to the Utah Division of Water Quality. A single application may be submitted to the Division of Water Quality for all Levels, or they may be done separately. A single certificate will be issued to all qualified applicants. The certificate will bear the highest level of certification that the applicant has achieved. Each certificate issued will require a separate fee.

Please note: Successful completion of workshop requirements is not certification as an On-site Professional by the Utah Division of Water Quality. An application with additional fees must be made to the Division of Water Quality.

Provision is also made for qualification for certification by testing only. Persons who can participate in the testing option include (1) Utah-licensed environmental health scientists with at least two years of experience appropriate to the class of certification requested (Levels 1, 2, and 3); (2) Utah-licensed contractors, with evidence of at least five years of experience in installing onsite systems. (Levels 1 and 2); and (3) Utah-licensed professional engineers (Levels 1,2, and 3).

Certification renewal is required every 3 years for all levels of certification. Renewal of certification is obtained by attending a one-day workshop presented by the Utah On-Site Wastewater Treatment Training Program for each Level **before the expiration date of certification** and then applying for certification renewal from the Utah Division of Water Quality.

Expired certifications may be reinstated **within six months after the expiration date** by completing the required refresher course or courses and submitting a renewal application and reinstatement fee to the division. After the reinstatement period, initial certification requirements must be met in order to become certified again.

To register for workshops, please fill in the registration form and return to the Utah On-Site Wastewater Treatment Training Program at Utah State University with the required registration fees. Workshop registration and fees are separate from the application and fees required for certification by the Utah Division of Water Quality.

Enrollment in each workshop is limited, so register early to reserve a space. Workshops may be added as required to meet enrollment demands. A \$20 fee is required for late registrations, as indicated on the registration form.

To prepare for the workshops, please become familiar with the regulations that govern the use of on-site wastewater treatment systems in Utah. These regulations can be found on the Internet at:

[www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r317/r317-004.htm]

Information on the Utah On-Site Wastewater Treatment Training Program can be found on Training Program's web site:

[<http://uwrl.usu.edu/partnerships/training/>]