The Circuit Rider Training Program

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History

First discussed by a group of operators, the Department of Northern Saskatchewan and Northern Community Colleges Branch in 1978.
Funding was in place to build water and wastewater facilities throughout Northern Saskatchewan. These systems would be turned over to the community to operate, with no training in place.
Why a Circuit Rider Training Program?

- It was realized that the off-the-shelf training programs were not working.
It was determined that a hands-on training program should be developed, and that it should be provided on-site at the operator’s plant.
Why a Circuit Rider Training Program?

- A DACUM chart (competency-based) was developed with the operator being evaluated twice a year.
Why a Circuit Rider Training Program?

• DACUM Chart (Overview):
Why a Circuit Rider Training Program?

- The Circuit Rider would provide training on site approximately once every three months for a three- or four-day period.
Why a Circuit Rider Training Program?

In 1982, joint water and wastewater systems were built for Air Ronge - Lac La Ronge Band and Pelican Narrows - Pelican Narrows Band. At both these locations, the First Nations operated the facilities.
Why a Circuit Rider Training Program?

- Funding was put in place by the Province of Saskatchewan and DIAND for a two-year operator program.
Benefits of a Circuit Rider Training Program

The success of the training program was soon realized by:

- Lower maintenance costs
- No interruption of services
- Low operator turnover
- High operator self confidence and self esteem
Benefits of a Circuit Rider Training Program

In 1984, DIAND entered into an agreement with the Department of Northern Saskatchewan to provide training to First Nation operators throughout northern Saskatchewan.
Benefits of a Circuit Rider Training Program

- In 1990, DIAND entered into an agreement with the SaskWater Corporation to provide Circuit Rider Training to First Nations throughout the entire province of Saskatchewan.
In 1996, DIAND and Health Canada and Assembly of First Nations realized that the Circuit Rider Training Program had proved to be very beneficial and a pilot project was initiated in Ontario, with other provinces coming on board shortly after that.
Prerequisites of a Circuit Rider Trainer

- Have an understanding spouse

- Must be certified and possess years of experience in the operation of water treatment, water distribution, wastewater treatment and wastewater collection systems

- Must be a coverall and tool-box type of trainer
1. DUTIES

1. Overall Responsibility
   - water distribution system
   - water plant
   - sewage collection system
   - sewage pumping station
   - sewage lagoon

2. Perform daily inspections and carry out associated operational checks of all equipment, buildings, and site to ensure that the facilities are operated efficiently.

3. Ensure proper operation of water and sewage processes, pumps, and chemical feeders, prepare chemical feed solutions.
Water & Wastewater
Job Description

1. DUTIES

   4. Read meters and gauges, record readings including chemical consumption, water consumption and temperatures.

   5. Maintain buildings and grounds, remove screenings, unblock plugged lines and pumps, clean buildings and equipment, backwash filters and remove ice and snow from buildings;

   6. Perform preventative maintenance and repairs to equipment and buildings.

   7. Perform and record tests such as chlorine residual tests and iron readings and be able to interpret results.
1. **DUTIES**

8. Collect and submit chemical and bacteriological samples for outside analysis as a check on the treatment process performances and in compliance with requirements by Health Canada, Saskatchewan Environment or any other regulatory agency.

9. Arrange through the local band administrator or secretary-treasurer for the order of chemical supplies, electrical and mechanical repair services, rental of equipment, or any other services associated with the sewer and water system.

10. Carry out any other related duties as determined by the council such as: inspection of private service installation, water meter installation, and servicing, etc.
1. **DUTIES**

11. As required, supervise and provide on-the-job training to subordinate employees in the maintenance and operation of the water and sewer system.

12. Attend various training courses and upgrading seminars in water and sewer management that may be offered by outside agencies.

13. Be responsible for the safe keeping of all tools and equipment supplied by the band or community.
Water & Wastewater
Job Description

2. DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS
   1. A minimum of grade 12 education for Class I or higher, grade 10 education or GED equivalent for small systems. The operator should be a mature individual with demonstrated mechanical and electrical aptitude to carry out the system operations and maintenance duties.
   2. Should be a self-motivated individual and have an ability to work without continuous on-the-job supervision.
   3. Must be able to maintain liaison with the local band council and an administrator and maintain good relations with the public and co-workers.
2. DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

4. Should be capable of maintaining operation and maintenance records, and prepare written and oral reports to council on systems in operation and maintenance.

5. Should be capable of preparing or assisting in the preparation of operations budget and keep such accounts as are necessary to justify budget requests.

6. Should have a valid Saskatchewan driver’s license.
3. JOB INCENTIVES

1. Persons responsible for water supply and water pollution abatement facilities are recognized as community leaders.
2. There is a feeling of satisfaction and pride in the maintenance of a reliable and quality water supply and a waste disposal system which protects the environment.
3. Operation of the sewer and water facilities provides a continuous challenge to an individual who is resourceful and self-motivated. The job never becomes dull and monotonous.
4. There is no seasonal lay-off. Water supply and sewer disposal is a job which requires constant monitoring seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year.
In-Class Certification Training

- The Circuit Rider Training Program is still being provided at numerous First Nation, Towns and Villages with the ultimate goal of Operator Certification.
ATAP Infrastructure Management Ltd. and Operator Training

- ATAP provides Circuit Rider Training and in-classroom Operator Certification preparation courses and workshops.
Summary

Questions
Thank you

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