



North Carolina State Board of Environmental Health Specialist Examiners

PO Box 1718, Mebane, NC 27302

rehs.board@ncdenr.gov www.rsboard.com

910-608-0196 • Fax 910-816-0190

Patricia Hawkins, Chair, Western Representative
Terry L. Pierce, Vice-Chair, Secretary of DENR Representative
Malcolm Blalock, Secretary-Treasurer, Public Spirited Citizen
L. Layton Long, Lexington, NC, Health Director Representative
Perry Solice, Jr., Clinton, NC, EH Specialist at Large
Burton R. Ogle, Ph.D., Cullowhee, NC, Educator

Jeff French, Reidsville, NC, DEH Representative
Seth Swift, Hendersonville, NC, Western Representative
Lynn Lathan, Charlotte, NC, Piedmont Representative
Greg Bright, Raleigh, NC, Piedmont Representative
Debra Yarbrough, New Bern, NC, Eastern Representative
Courtney Silverthorne, Greenville, NC, Eastern Representative

November 2010 NEWSLETTER

Board Update

Currently in North Carolina, there are 1,144 Registered Environmental Health Specialists, of which 36 are interns. The overall number of specialists did not change significantly from 2009 when there were 1,153 specialists and interns. Comparatively, in 2008, there were 1210 registered specialists and 154 interns.

The exam has been administered three times in 2010 to 18 interns. This is quite a decrease in numbers from 2009 when 65 interns took the exam, and in 2008 when 114 interns took the exam. In October, the Board passed a policy allowing unemployed interns to take any part of the exam while waiting for reemployment. To date in 2010, the Board has received 7 new intern registration applications, and 17 interns have completed the requirements to become fully registered. The Board will hold a total of 6 meetings in 2010, with the last meeting on December 14 in Lexington. Minutes of meetings are available on the Board's website at the "Meetings" link.

This year, the makeup of the Board changed significantly. The Board increased from 9 members to 12, adding one additional regional position from each section of the state. Board members Sheila Nichols, DENR DEH Representative, and Ann C. (Len) Gilstrap, Eastern Representative, retired from the Board. We thank them for their 8 years of service to the Board. New members on the Board this year include Jeff French (replacing Sheila Nichols), Debra Yarbrough (replacing Len Gilstrap), and 3 new members, Seth Swift, Courtney Silverthorne and Greg Bright. Board members Lynn Lathan, Dr. Burton Ogle and Terry L. Pierce were reappointed for an additional 4-year term. Board member L. Layton Long, Health Director representative will retire from the Board in December of 2010.

Board Administrative Assistant, Janice Jones, resigned her position in January 2010. Adele Newman began work with the Board as Administrative Assistant in late January 2010 and the Board's office was relocated to Mebane, NC. Contact information for all Board members and our administrative assistant may be found on the Board's website by choosing the "Board Members" link.

Current officers for the Board are Patricia Hawkins, Chair; Terry Pierce, Vice-Chair; and, Malcolm Blalock, Secretary-Treasurer. Greg Bright serves as Education Committee

Chair; additional members are Lynn Lathan, Courtney Silverthorne, and Burt Ogle. Perry Solice is the Audit Committee Chair; additional members are Seth Swift and Malcolm Blalock. The Board's Legislative Committee is chaired by Jeff French, with Malcolm Blalock and Terry Pierce serving on this committee.

Legislative Changes Finalized in 2010

Legislative changes to the REHS General Statutes and Administrative Code were finalized on August 1, 2010. The Board thanks Len Gilstrap, Layton Long and Malcolm Blalock for their hard work on these rules. Changes made include: 1) Require new interns to sign a Code of Ethics statement; 2) Change fees to make the Board financially solvent (first change in 28 years); 3) Allow up to 5 hours of Continuing Education to be carried forward to the next year; 4) Provide exemption from renewal fees and CE requirements for REHSs called to active military service; and 5) Provide variances for CE requirements due to medical condition impairment. The new fee schedule approved by the Board is: \$50 intern application, \$50 reciprocity registrations, \$50 annual renewal fee if received by December 31, \$75 annual renewal if received after January 1; \$115 NEHA exam fee and \$50 exam administration fee.

Renewal Reminders

Board members will again conduct an audit of annual renewals in January 2011. A few reminders:

- Only Board-approved continuing education may be applied to your renewal. (*Requests for approval of CE offerings must be made by CE application prior to November 30, 2010.*) Submitting non-approved courses to meet minimum required hours will delay your registration renewal and may result in loss of your registration.
- Improperly renewed REHSs and REHSIs may not practice after January 1, 2010.
 - ◊ Letters advising an REHS of invalid renewal are not sent until mid to late January. EH Supervisors and Health Directors are also notified.
 - ◊ Though it is the responsibility of the individual specialist to renew properly, we recommend that Environmental Health Supervisors and Health Directors monitor each specialist in their employ to ensure they obtain the required continuing education hours and submit an on-time, valid renewal application.

Renewing online is simple, quick, and makes carrying over any CE hours in excess of 15 automatic from one year to the next. Go to www.rsboard.com and click on "My-RS". Then log in with your REHS number and last four digits of your social security number. Don't forget to update your Personal Information!