



North Carolina State Board of Environmental Health Specialist Examiners

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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 2011 NEWSLETTER

Please note the Board's new email and mailing addresses:
PO Box 238, Efland, NC 27243 & rehs.board@dhhs.nc.gov

Board Update

BOARD STATISTICS: Currently, there are 1,100 Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS), of which 19 are interns. The overall number of specialists dropped slightly due in large part to non-renewals of non-affiliated REHSs. Historically, for comparison, in 2010, there were 1,144 registrants, of which 36 were interns; in 2009, 1,153 REHSs and REHSIs; and in 2008, 1,210 registrants including 154 interns.

The exam was administered two times in 2011 to 6 interns. The Board will hold a total of 10 meetings in 2011, with the last meeting on December 1 in Raleigh. Minutes of meetings are available on the Board's website at the "Meetings" link. As the number of new positions in Environmental Health have dropped across the state, so have the number of new intern applications with only 9 applications received for 2011. Four interns have completed the requirements to become fully registered.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP: This year the Board will lose two members. Malcolm Blalock, Public Spirited Citizen, resigned from the board in April, and Perry Solice, EHS at large, will complete his 2nd term of service in December 2011. We thank both for their exemplary service with the Board. We are glad to welcome Ernie Nichols, REHS, as our new Public Spirited Citizen on the Board. Ernie, now retired, was employed as Environmental Health Supervisor with Pitt County.

New Administrative Assistant: The Board hired a new administrative assistant, Donna Coffey, in April of 2011. Please contact Donna with any questions or needs.

Board Committees: Current officers for the Board are listed at the top of the page. Greg Bright is serving as the *Education Committee* Chair. Additional committee members are Lynn Lathan, Burt Ogle, and Courtney Silverthorne. This committee reviews 350-400+ courses for approval each year. See the Board's webpage, http://www.rsboard.com/rsweb/coned/ce_policy.htm for policies on approval of continuing education courses. Perry Solice serves as the *Audit Committee* Chair; additional committee members are Seth Swift and Jeff French. The Board's *Legislative Committee* is chaired by Jeff French, with Terry Pierce serving on this committee as well.

SWEEPING LEGISLATIVE CHANGES: Legislative changes this past July have also affected the Board. GS 90A-51, Definitions, was changed to eliminate the following disciplines from board authority: milk and dairy sanitation, shellfish sanitation and recreational water quality. Due to the realignment of the Division at the state level, and subsequent law changes, two Board positions have also changed. Terry Pierce now serves as the DHHS representative, and Jeff French serves as the DPH representative. Please note our email address has moved to DHHS.

INTERNS: Please note that GS 90A-53(a)(3) requires that you complete two years (one if you graduated from an approved EH program) of experience *in the field of environmental health practice*. 90A-51(2a) defines the field of environmental health practice as the "areas of environmental health requiring the delegation of authority by the Division of Environmental Health (*now the Division of Public Health*)."
Your date for advancement to **full registration is the date you are REGISTERED**, not the date you were employed in your position.

Renewal Reminders

UNAFFILIATED AND RETIRED: The period for non-renewal without loss of registration is now **12 months**. If you did not renew in December last year, you only have until December 31, 2011, before your registration will expire. **Expired registrations CANNOT be renewed.** *If you do not have 15 hours of continuing education, visit the Board's website for free online courses to complete your required hours before year's end.* If your registration expires, to re-register, you must first become employed in the public sector in a position that requires registration. New applicants who apply due to expired registrations must now have a minimum of 30 hours of biological or physical sciences, and must have taken the PES exam between October 1, 1982, and February 1993, or the NEHA exam after February 1993.

RENEWING IS AS EASY AS 1-2-3: For the easiest way to renew, log in to your RSTAS account on line at <http://apps.bluelizard.com/rstas/>. (1) Use your REHS number and the last four digits of your social security number as your password. Don't forget to update your Personal Information! Your carry-forward hours will show on your continuing education screen. As you enter courses you took in 2011, the system will add the hours for you. (2) Once you have the required 15 hours, simply choose the "REHS Renewal Form" link on the left side of the page and print out your renewal form. (3) Mail it with your fee—\$50 if postmarked before December 31, \$75 if postmarked after December 31. SIMPLE!

Only Board-approved continuing education may be applied to your renewal. (*Requests for approval of CE offerings must be made by separate CE application prior to November 17, 2011 for consideration by year's end.*) Submitting non-approved courses to meet minimum required hours will delay your registration renewal and could result in loss of your registration.

FAILURE TO RENEW BY DECEMBER 31, 2011: Improperly renewed REHSs and REHSIs may not practice nor represent themselves as registered after January 1, 2011.

◇ Letters advising an REHS of invalid renewal are sent mid to late January. The EH Supervisor and Health Director are also notified.

◇ Though it is the responsibility of the individual specialist to renew properly, we recommend that Supervisors and Health Directors monitor each specialist in their employ to ensure they obtain required continuing education hours and submit an on-time, valid renewal application.

Renewal Rate Unchanged

- Renew by December 31st — \$50
- Renew after December 31st — \$75