



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

410-537-3597 • 1-800-633-6101x3597

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SANITARIANS

January 21, 2009

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor
The Jeffrey Building
16 Francis Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1781

Dear Governor O'Malley:

Enclosed is the Board of Environmental Sanitarians 2008 Annual Report. A copy has been sent separately to John M. Colmers, Secretary DHMH, and Shari T. Wilson, Secretary of MDE.

If you desire additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Board Administrator E. Lee Haskins, R.S., at (410) 537-3597.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Scott, MPH, RS, REHS/RS
Board Chairperson

Enclosure



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BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SANITARIANS

January 21, 2009

John M. Colmers, Secretary
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 West Preston Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Secretary Colmers:

Enclosed is the State Board of Environmental Sanitarian's 2008 Annual Report. Unlike the professional licensure Boards managed under DHMH, the Board for Environmental Sanitarians is managed by MDE and is not required to file an annual performance report. This report is filed as a professional courtesy, and follows the general format of the DHMH professional licensure boards.

A copy of this report has been sent to the Governor's Office, and MDE Secretary Shari T. Wilson. If you desire additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Board Administrator E. Lee Haskins, R.S., at (410) 537-3597.

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BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SANITARIANS

January 21, 2009

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary
Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

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Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Scott, MPH, RS, REHS/RS
Board Chairperson

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Board for Environmental Sanitarians
Annual Report
January 2008 – December 2008

Background:

The Board of Environmental Sanitarians was created by State law in 1969 to ensure that individuals who practice as environmental sanitarians in Maryland meet professional standards and are duly licensed to perform these duties. The State Board of Environmental Sanitarians regulates professionals who routinely perform inspections and investigations related to enforcing Maryland's health and environmental laws under Environment Article, Title 11 and COMAR 26.07.01 through 26.07.04. Sanitarians are also known as Environmental Health Specialists, and work in the following areas:

- Air quality
- Disaster mitigation
- Vector control
- Solid waste disposal
- Recreational sanitation
- Manufacturing, preparation, handling, distribution or sale of food and milk control
- Wastewater management and disposal
- Institutional and residential sanitation
- Other professional applications as developed by technology and need
- Product safety
- Hazardous materials
- Noise control
- Insect & rodent control
- Water supply and treatment

The State Board of Environmental Sanitarians (the "Board") is the licensing authority of sanitarians and environmental health practitioners in the State of Maryland. The Board is mandated to regulate the practice in Maryland by:

- licensing qualified applicants
- issuing licenses
- establishing fees
- verifying credentials
- maintaining a current roster of all licensees
- approving local department training programs
- promulgating regulations for the practice of environmental public health
- establishing requirements for and verifying the completion of continuing education
- investigating complaints based on alleged violations of regulations and statutes
- formal and informal disciplining of licensees, and
- creating committees as deemed appropriate to advise the Board.

To qualify for a license, an applicant must pass the Board's comprehensive examination, or an equivalent examination given by a sanitarian licensing board in another state.

Qualification for examination includes

- 12 to 24 months of experience in a sanitarian-in-training program approved by the Board
- a baccalaureate degree that includes a minimum of 30 semester hours credit in the physical, biological, or environmental sciences,
- at least 1 laboratory course in each of 2 of the following fields: chemistry, physics, and biology; and
- a course in mathematics.

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Less training experience is required with a master's degree in public health, a baccalaureate degree in environmental health or environmental science, or with 60 or more science credits in the baccalaureate degree. For employment, an applicant first receives a certificate of eligibility (COE) from the Board. When hired, the employer returns the completed COE and the Board issues the applicant a Sanitarian-In-Training (SIT) certificate. Depending upon the applicant's qualifications, the SIT is valid for 12 or 24 months. During the SIT period, the employer cross-trains the applicant on the job in the principal areas of practice. When the training period is completed, the applicant is eligible to take the Board's examination for licensure to practice as a Registered Sanitarian (RS).

The exam is offered the first Monday of April, August, December, contains 250 questions, and requires a 70% or higher score to pass. SIT holders qualified to take the examination will be contacted by the Board Administrator in advance of the scheduled exam date. Re-takes are limited to a total of 3 times. Passage of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) examination at the 70% level is acceptable for state licensure pending a review and approval of the academic credentials. The applicant must complete the requisite training time before passage of the NEHA exam.

The Board and its functions are partly funded from revenues generated by licensing fees.

BOARD MEMBERS:

The Board consists of nine members who are appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the advice and consent of the State Senate. Members serve five-year terms, the end of which is noted with end of each member's entry.

1. Elizabeth Scott, MPH, RS, REHS/RS - (Chairman) member at large, 7/1/10
2. Ann Caldwell, R.D., L.D.N. - (Secretary) representing consumers, 7/1/11
3. Paul Hetzer, M. S. - representing consumers, 7/1/10
4. Gail Lynn Kelley, R.S. - member at large, 7/1/09
5. Pamela Engle, R.S. - representing DHMH, 7/1/10
6. William Peterson, R.S. - (Vice Chair) representing MDE, 7/1/13
7. Charles Smyser, R.S. - representing Local Government, 7/1/12
8. D. Elayne Warren, R.S. - representing a local health department and employed under the State Personnel System, 7/1/11
9. Robert Sheesley, R.S. - representing private industry, 7/1/09

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STAFF:

E. Lee Haskins, R.S., Board Administrator (part-time)
Kathy Glass, Administrative Specialist (part-time)
Jacqueline Russell, J.D., AAG, Board Counsel (part-time)

The Board's staff is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the Board and the coordination of administrative activities with other government agencies. The Board shares a part-time Administrator and a part-time Administrative Specialist with the Board for Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators (over 6,000 licensees, 1 NOV 08), and often assists the Administrator for the Board of Well Drillers (619 licenses, 1 NOV 08). When necessary, the Board must request legal and investigative staff as available from the Department of the Environment.

BOARD MEETINGS:

The Board is scheduled to meet on the first Wednesday of each month. All meetings begin at 9:00 AM and usually last for two to three hours. Meetings are held at the Howard County Bureau of Utilities in Columbia. The dates, times, and place of meetings are generally published on the Board's web page at http://www.mde.state.md.us/WorkwithMDE/Public_Service/Sanitarians.asp.

THE MISSION:

The mission of the Maryland Board of Environmental Sanitarians is to ensure and maintain the high professional standards of Maryland's Environmental Sanitarians, who are in the forefront of protecting public health and the environment. Acting under the authority of Title 11 of the Environment Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Board sets standards for licensure, regulates the professionals who perform the inspections and investigations related to enforcing Maryland's health and environmental laws, adopts continuing educational requirements, and enforces a code of Ethics applicable to all Sanitarians.

Revenue Report: (July 2008 to December 15, 2008)

Budget:	\$ 73,316.00
Revenues:	\$ 4,220.00 (renewals due July 2009)
Expenditures:	\$ 29,576.19

Licensure Data:

Number of Licenses	651	(published October 30, 2008)
Sanitarian in Training	43	(published October 30, 2008)

2008 Exam data:

December 2007 -	9 out of 21 passed - 42.8%
April 2008 -	4 out of 19 passed - 21%
August 2008 -	5 out of 22 passed - 22.7%
December 2008 -	3 out of 23 passed - 13%

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REGULATIONS: The Board did not request regulation changes in 2007 or 2008.

LEGISLATION: There was no legislation that affected the Board during this period.

Disciplinary Actions, Penalties, and Hearings

The Board was not requested to, and did not take any disciplinary actions in 2008.

New Board Initiatives:

Under the leadership of the Chair, the Board created three working teams this year to maximize the member's talent and to divide the workload. Each member is assigned to at least one Team, with some members serving on two or more Teams:

Housekeeping Team

Environmental Health Liaison Committee (EHLC) Advisory Team

Policy Team

The Chair created a compilation of Board emails and minutes from the past year to devise an action plan with ranking of issues. As a result, 2008 has been a banner year for progress both within the Board functions, and our relations beyond the usual Board operations.

Housekeeping Team Activities:

The Board undertook a complete revision of the MDE web page to create a one-stop location for CEU's, professional organization links, posting of meeting minutes in an Executive Summary format, related professional news, applicant information, and relevant forms.

The Team is reviewing the Continuing Education requirements so they are more defined and correspond with the practice areas and exam domains. This will streamline the Administrator's review and approval process, and encourage practitioners to expand their professional development.

Policies were developed for: appearances by SIT holders, document creation and control, foreign credential application requirements, and the use of email for voting or pre- and post-meeting information delivery.

EHLC Advisory Team:

1. The EHLC is a combined group among MDE and DHMH formed to better identify and coordinate areas of significant discourse, overlap, and weakness in agency regulatory enforcement and operations.
2. Board participation requested the attendance by at least one Board representative at each EHLC or sub committee meeting (usually a total of two a month). With a part-time Administrator, this means more volunteer time by members in more formal proceedings.
3. The Board is assisting the EHLC to streamline the regulatory (MDE Environmental (Specialist) classification and DHMH Sanitarian) classification and excepted positions under Title 11 into functional areas by regulatory enforcement.
4. The Board's critical role is to devise a licensure scheme that will complement and enhance the functional area design of the job classification arrangement. It is the Board's intent to do this with as little disruption to existing qualifications, and to encourage the use of existing credentials for advanced, specialty practice.

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Policy Team:

1. The Team proposed and the Board approved a policy to accept the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Registered Sanitarian/ Registered Environmental Health Specialist (RS/REHS) examination at a 70% or higher pass rate after the completion of the required training time.
2. The Team assisted in the review and comment of a proposed survey of the Health Directors regarding training resources and needs.
3. The Team drafted a reciprocity policy where none previously existed.

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