

**Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Water Resources**

Name of Fee: North Carolina Water Treatment Facility Operators Certification Board (NCWTFOCB) Operator Apprentice Certification Upgrade Fee

Purpose of Fee: To upgrade drinking water treatment facility operators' apprentice certification to Grade C, D or Cross Connection certification, this allows operators to accept additional responsibilities that require certified operators. Fees collected will be applied to costs incurred by the NCWTFOCB due to additional duties related to certification upgrade.

Revenue Currently Generated by Apprentice Certification Upgrade Fees: None since the apprentice level currently does not exist.

Current Operator Application Fees:

FEES	CATEGORIES
\$50	Operator Application Fee – All entry level or level upgrades

Revenue Currently Generated by Operator Exams: \$ 78,450 (July 2010 – June 2011)

Proposed Fee:

FEES	CATEGORIES
\$50	Apprentice Level Upgrade

Projected Total Annual Revenue: \$6,000- based on 120 apprentice operators

Rationale for Fee: Presently, there is a shortage of certified water treatment facility operators. Under the current rules (G.S. 90A-20 through 90A-34), to be certified, an individual must complete a school approved by the board, pass the certification examination and complete 3 to 6 months experience at a water facility. It is difficult for individuals to get hired without certification and they cannot become certified unless they have experience. Given the challenge of hiring qualified people, the low passing rate of examinees and high turnover rate, the water treatment industry has requested that the Board allow testing prior to experience. The apprentice certification is a method for the public to enter the water treatment industry without experience and to obtain full certification once on-the-job experience is obtained.

Who Pays: The hiring facility/system or the operator seeking full certification.

Number Affected by Fee: Approximately 120

Inception Date of Fee: December 1, 2011

Date of Last Fee Change: N/A