



Wastewater Operator Certification Program Application for Operator Exempt Status for Non-discharging Lagoon Systems

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|---------------------------|-------------|
| <i>for NDEQ use only:</i> | |
| NDEQ ID: | Program ID: |

Nebraska Administrative Code Title 197, *Rules and Regulations for the Certification of Wastewater Treatment Operators in Nebraska*, provides that an owner of a lagoon wastewater treatment facility that land applies effluent or is non-discharging may be exempted from wastewater operator certification requirements for a four year period by the Director. The current four year period begins January 1, 2013 and ends December 31, 2016.

Owners seeking exemption from wastewater treatment system operator certification requirements must complete this application and submit it along with the **\$100 Application Fee** to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Operator exemption is not guaranteed or automatic. Even if exempted, owners are still responsible for proper operation and maintenance of their wastewater treatment facility and must report any discharges.

This application requires the following information and actions:

1. Community and wastewater caretaker information
2. Wastewater collection and lagoon system information
3. Review of duties and requirements for non-discharging lagoon systems
4. Signatory acknowledgment of information contained herein

Once received, NDEQ will review your application. More information may be requested.

Community or Facility Name _____

Mailing Address _____
City
State
Zip

Location of Lagoon _____
legal description
OR
Geographical coordinates to 4 decimal points

_____/_____
1/4
1/4
Section
Township
Range
County
Latitude
Longitude

Person Responsible for Operation and Maintenance of Lagoon System

| | | | |
|------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| First Name | Initial | Last Name | Phone Number |
|------------|---------|-----------|--------------|

| | | | |
|-----------------|------|-------|-----|
| Mailing Address | City | State | Zip |
|-----------------|------|-------|-----|

Email _____

Facility and Wastewater Process Information

Does your facility have a discharge structure or outfall, other than an emergency overflow (for example - a discharge pipe or similar conveyance system with or without at control valve)?

- Yes No

(If you checked the “Yes” box, then your wastewater facility may not be exempt eligible, please do not complete the form at this time and do contact NDEQ for more information. However, if you checked the “No” box, please proceed with the form.)

Number of lagoons or lagoon cells _____

Number of lift stations _____

Pretreatment processes at your facility (check all that apply)

- Screening
- Comminutor
- Other (describe)_____

Is treated wastewater from your lagoon system applied to land by an irrigation system?

- Yes No

On average how many hours per week are needed to operate and maintain your lagoon system?

_____ hours per week (Include mowing and maintaining grass around the lagoon, and the removal of woody plants, cattails, reeds and rodents or burrowing animals in your estimate in addition to (if applicable) any time needed for land application and maintaining any manholes, lift stations or the collection system.)

Additional information and/or comments

Lagoon Operation and Maintenance Requirements and Conditions for Operator Exempted Lagoons

- The wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) will be operated and maintained by a competent, designated person.
- The wastewater collection system will be kept open and free flowing at all times.
- Arrangements will be made so that access to sewer cleaning equipment will be available within four hours response time.
- Only qualified individuals will be used for confined space entry, such as for lift station work.
- An all weather access road will be maintained to all lagoons, lift stations, and any other wastewater structures that may require emergency maintenance.
- Lagoon dikes will be maintained with grass to minimize soil erosion, except for areas protected by rip rap or other stabilization methods.
- Dikes will be mowed or otherwise maintained to prevent growth of trees or woody plants.
- Cattails, reeds and other non-desirable emergent vegetation will be removed from the lagoons promptly as this vegetation appears.
- Trees or shrubs will not be allowed to grow in any wastewater lagoon or within 50 feet of the outer toe of the lagoon dike.
- At least two feet of water will be maintained in wastewater lagoons at all times.
- A fence will be maintained around the lagoon to keep unauthorized persons, pets and domestic livestock from entering the lagoon. The fence will be at least 42 inches high and will include at least one lockable gate, a minimum of 10 feet wide. All gates will be locked when left unattended. Gates and locks will be maintained and operable.
- Warning signs will be at least 12 inches by 24 inches in size and legible.
- Wastewater lagoons will be operated so that the water level is maintained below the freeboard (or maximum operating) level.
- Damage to lagoon dikes caused by muskrats or other rodents, erosion, tree roots, animal hooves, or any other source will be promptly repaired.
- The NDEQ will be notified when the person responsible for operation and maintenance of the WWTF and maintenance of their lagoon system leaves or a new person is hired.
- NDEQ will be notified immediately if there is a discharge of wastewater from the WWTF except as provided for approved land application.

References: Nebraska Administrative Code Title 123 – Rules and Regulations for the Design, Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Works, Chapters 5 and 11 and Title 119 – Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Issuance of Permits Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Chapter 3.

I swear or affirm that the information in this application is true, complete and accurate and that this facility will be operated and maintained as described if an operator exemption is granted.

(Print or Type) First Name Initial Last Name

Signature of Owner or Authorized Representative Date Signed

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