

Utility Management Certification

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician

Today water and wastewater operators are required to be better trained and more knowledgeable than ever before. No one is more aware of that than you as operators. As the industry changes it will only become more demanding.

There is now available online a nationally recognized utility management course through the National Rural Water Association and Water University. The mission of the program is: to provide recognition for experience and educational achievements in the field of utility management. This compliments state certifications for utility managers. As graduates you are entered into a national online Utility Management Certification registry.

This course takes into consideration your past experience and course work. The Utility Management Certification is a significant achievement. Applicants must show high qualifications before taking the test. There is a study guide available that you are not required to purchase but I would highly recommend that you do. It is very helpful. You do not have to be currently employed by a system to take the exam. It is a 3 year certification and is renewable with 40 hours of continuing education during the 3 years. You will be informed immediately following the exam whether you passed. Upon successfully passing the exam you will receive notification from Water University and a really nice plaque.

The certification is recognized nationally and within each state. You will be recognized for your knowledge in areas including financial accounting, rate setting, asset management, management of resources/operations and public relations. There are fees involved for the course.

For more information contact me at 402-443-6157, or go to the Nebraska Rural Water Association website at <http://www.nerwa.org>. Click on the National Rural Water link, and you will find the Water University on-line class information.