

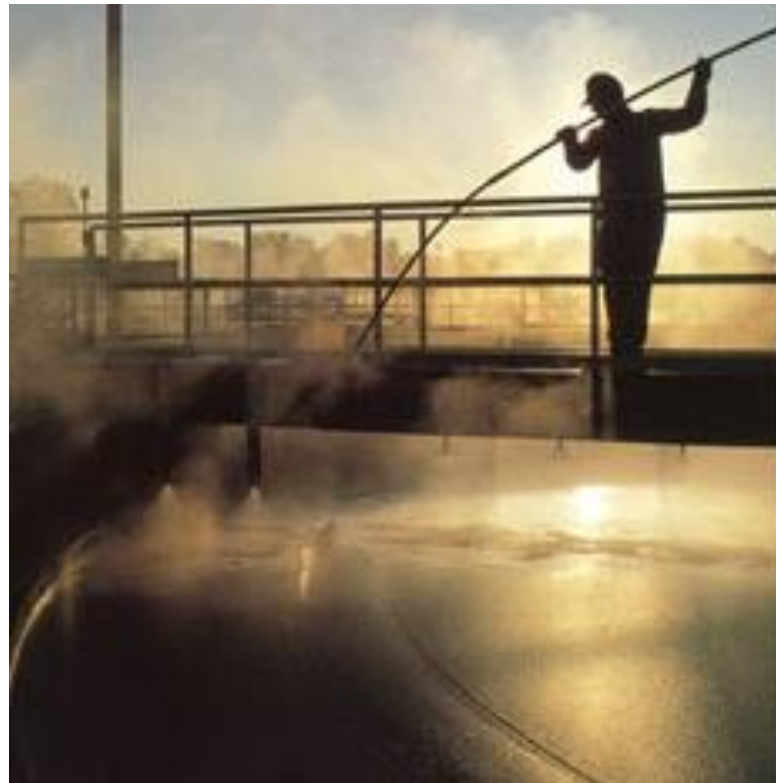


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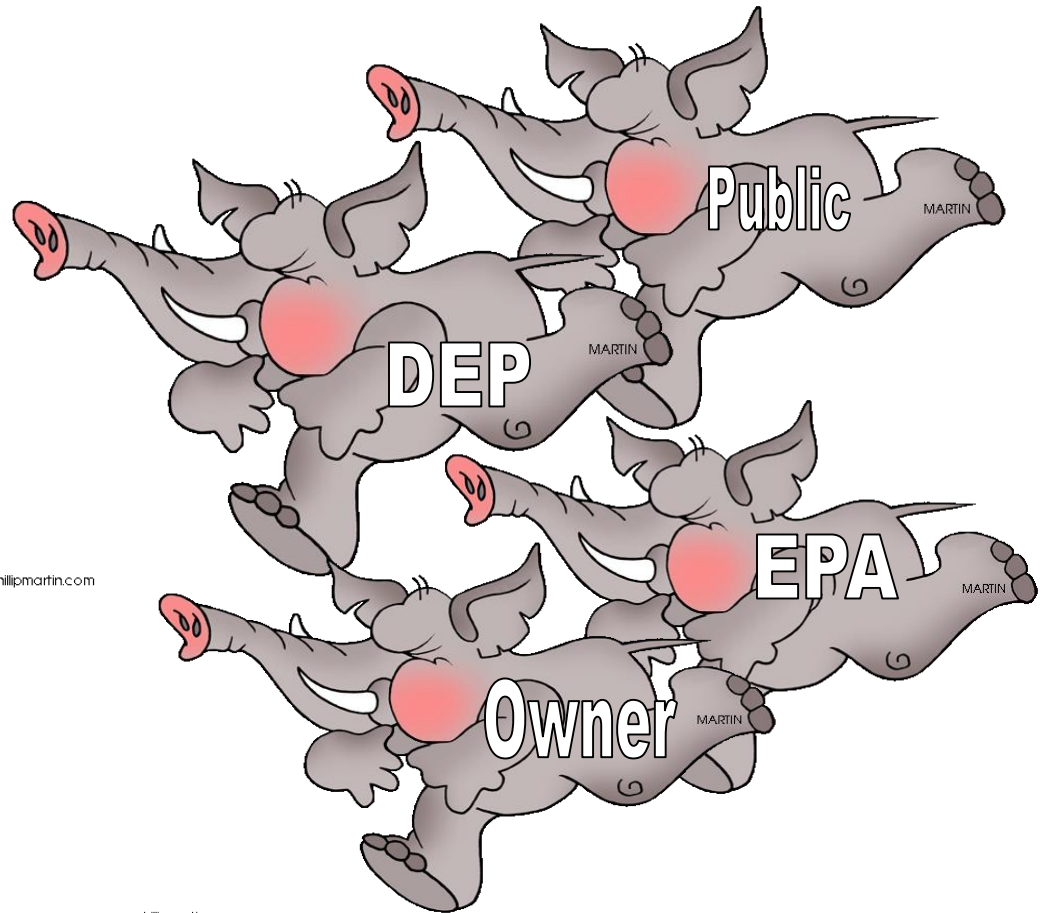


BUREAU OF CLEAN WATER

Wastewater & Water Operator Certification Program



The Operator's Struggle



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How ?

- Better System Management
- Principals of Sustainable Infrastructure
- Proactive Approach
- Know what is contained in your permit as well as applicable laws and regulations
- Effective Process Control
- Effective Communication with System Owners, Regulatory Agencies & Customers



List of Essentials

Details on Process Control and System Management

- Operators are not firemen. They are fire prevention experts.
- Routinely communicate operator and facility needs and follow-up.
- Can't operate efficiently unless adequate process control parameters are assessed.
- Job is not to produce compliant DMRs. (falsify data)
Violations at a properly operated plant may be the result of I/I, inadequate design, improper sewer use, etc. These should be addressed, not covered up.

Laws, Rules and Regulations

- Federal Laws (US EPA & others)
- State Laws (PA DEP & others)
- Regulations (both state and federal)

PERMITS issued to your facility

➤ Read and Understand your permits!

- Owners are required to provide a copy of permits to operators. Get a copy of permits impacting your system.
- Permits describe the terms and conditions you must meet to:
 - Properly operate your facility.
 - Ensure compliance with laws, rules and regulations impacting your facility

If there are any terms or conditions in your permit(s) that you do not understand, **ASK!**

Examples of Laws to follow....

- Operator Certification Act
- Federal Clean Water Act (NPDES)
- State Clean Streams Law
- Federal Safe Drinking Water Act
- State Safe Drinking Water Act
- Section 112(r) Clean Air Act
- SARA Title III (LEPC)
- Solid Waste
- Others.....

**These requirements are
nothing NEW...been around
for a long time**

Non Compliance

Civil vs. Criminal Action

- Most environmental laws provide for civil and/or criminal penalties for non-compliance (loss of license, jail time, fines)
- In most cases, regulatory agencies use *civil* proceedings to achieve compliance such as:
 - Inspection Reports
 - NOV's
 - Orders and Consent Orders of Agreement
 - Administrative Conferences
 - Assessment of Penalties
- *Criminal* prosecution is likely in cases of willful or intentional acts of non-compliance, especially those that involve fraud or endangerment of public health and the environment but also may result from acts of gross negligence.

Reviewing Non Compliance

- The Severity of the Violation?
- Duration of the Violation?
- Environmental Damage?
- Endangering Public Health?
- Historical Performance (frequency of violation)?

- **The Compliance Scale**

- **Accidental**
- **Negligent**
- **Willful**
- **Intentional**

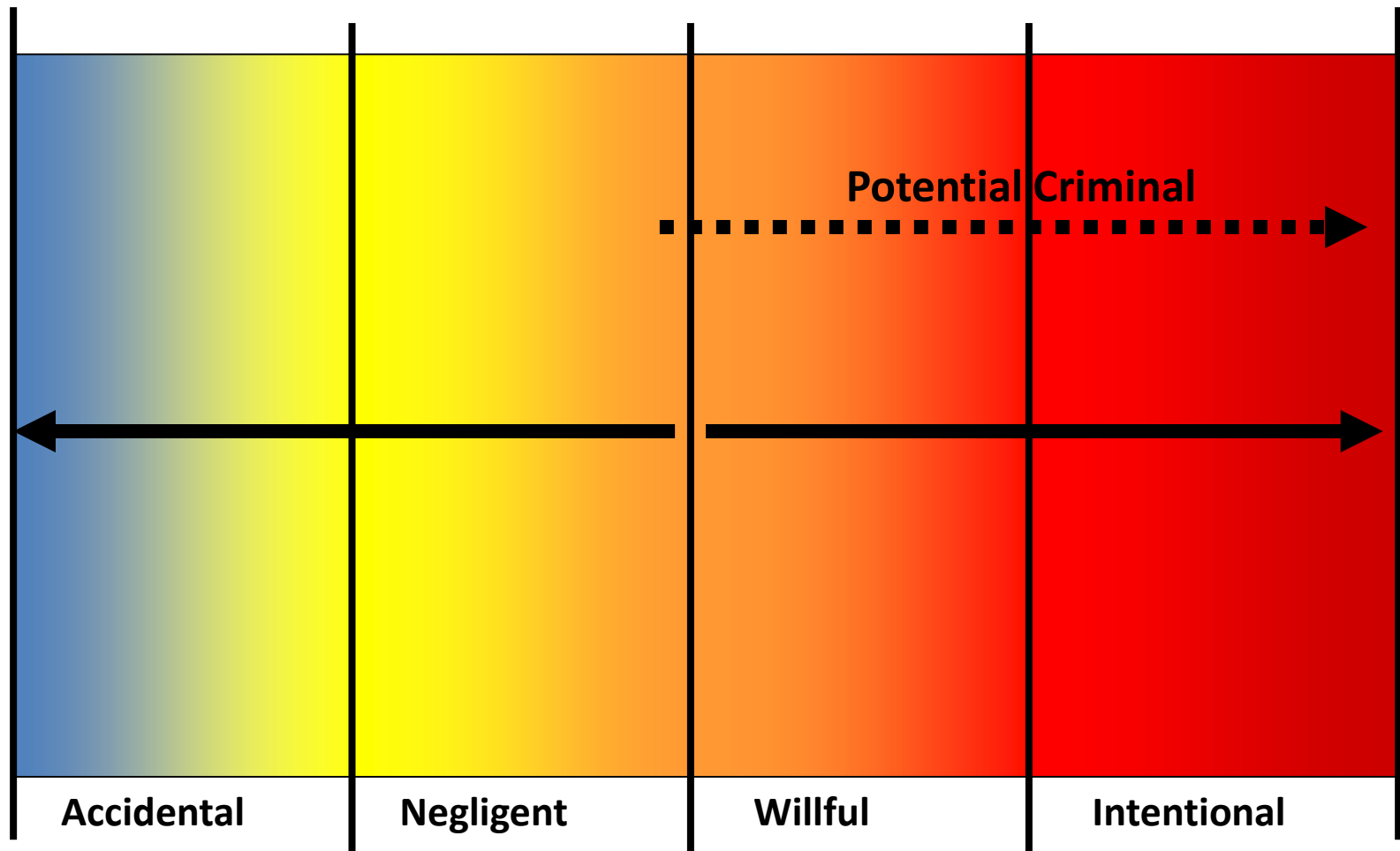


Enforcement Actions

- Inspection Report
 - NOV = Cop Pulling You Over
 - Written warning
 - Issues a ticket with a fine
 - Wake up call
-
- Order (Consent or Not)
 - To individual or permittee
 - Time frames for compliance
 - Possible Penalties
 - Clean Streams Law, Safe Drinking Water Act or Clean Water Act
 - Petition Board
 - Op Cert Act
 - For such things as:
 - Falsification of Records
 - Illegal Dumping
 - Deliberate Violation of Regulations

The Compliance Scale

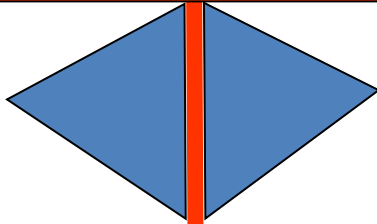
Grading Violations....



Responsibility Line

Operator

Owner

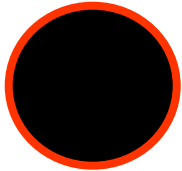


Issue Resolved

No Actual or Possible Violations

Owner Properly Notified

Problem!





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