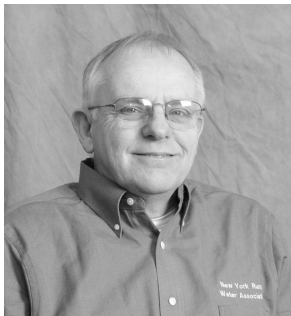


How Much is Too Much . . .

By Mike Dill
Wastewater Trainer



Should training be required, mandatory for continuing certification? I have heard “I am spending too much time in class and not enough on the job”. The answer may not be as simple as you think. Many times a lack of, or not properly educated on a particular subject, may have unintended consequences.

There is an obvious downside to the uneducated or not properly trained personnel determining and applying chemical dosages. Learning to drive from the backseat has not worked out very well. You first learned to crawl, then walk, and then run.

Years ago, having mechanical ability was mandatory, now computers are also part of the operators' toolbox. Changing times require changing aptitudes or adding additional skills. Using your budget wisely, versus developing a budget, require different skills. Using someone else's expertise sometimes is the smartest thing. Technological advances have brought circuit boards and other electronic wonders to our business. Do you have the capabilities or the equipment to troubleshoot a malfunctioning printed circuit? If not, leave it to those that have been educated or properly trained.

Several months ago I heard this question “Is there too much training in New York”? Simple answer is “I dun

kno”. Perhaps we are getting to the point of quality versus quantity. Training for the sake of training. A home study correspondence course is not recommended for an aspiring brain surgeon. I have a saying of right tool for the job. This applies to training. What are the actual needs versus the wants? What are the right tools we need to perform our jobs with competence and accuracy? Those that have attended NYRWA lab class know all about accuracy and its meaning. Learning styles vary with the individual. The so called experts say the adult learner is the hardest group to educate for many reasons. Most operators are: touch it, play with it, and I will figure it out.

Sitting in a classroom and listening to a lecture may not be your style. Whether it is the first time, or many times, you should always learn something. Perhaps it is a discussion with a fellow operator that is the real learning part of the training.

Those of you who attend our NYRWA trainings have heard this before “tell us what you want”. Be specific. This is what I call class participation. You can email, fax or carrier pigeon to us your needs to do your job with competence and accuracy. I will close with this:

show me and I will see
tell me and I will hear
INVOLVE me and I will LEARN

NUFF SAID

P.S. Hi to Uncle Paul, you know who you are. ♠