

Certification and Web Based Testing In the N. Mariana Islands

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CNMI – Div. of Env. Quality

Safe Drinking Water Program



Outline

- Certification Program...yes or no?
- Why does the CNMI have an Operator Certification program?
- What kind, how many PWS are in CNMI?
- How does CNMI conduct Op-Cert testing?
- Whats New!

Certification...yes or no?

■ Brief Description

- Early 2000, compliance of the Drinking Water Regulation was not good
- Prompted CNMI DEQ water certification for water operators, but NOT required by our CNMI Drinking Water Regulations
- Under another jurisdiction for certifying our CNMI water operators.
- 1st paper exam in the CNMI administered by GEPA on February 14, 2002

Why does CNMI have a Certification Program?

- 40 CFR 142.2 – definition of “State”
 - “*State* means one of the States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**, the Trust Territories of the Pacific, or an eligible Indian tribe.”
- Primacy over TCR since Nov 1982.

Operator Certification Program

- No certification requirements in 1982 regs.
- Guam EPA - paper exams: 2000 – 2006



New Regs in July 2005

	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Division of Environmental Quality		
<p>certifies that</p> <p>First M. Last</p> <p>meets the education, experience, and exam requirements cited in the Commonwealth Drinking Water Regulations to be certified as a</p> <p>Water Treatment Plant Operator—Class 1 Water Distribution Operator—Temporary Class 1</p> <p>temporary certification is valid only for the operation of the following facility: PWS MP0000XXX—XXXXXXXXXX</p>			
Jose Hajgat, Safe Drinking Water Program Manager	Date	Frank M. Rabaulinon, Director	Date
This certificate expires on December 31, 2007		CNMI Certified Water Operator Number 0000	

First Exam, Feb 2007

■ Mr. Cecilio Raiukiulipiy



PWS in the CNMI

















Certified Operators

	Treatment	Distribution
O-I-T	0	0
Class 1	28	25
Class 2	16	5
Class 3	1	0
Class 4	0	1
Total	45	31

Total number of people currently certified: 57

Certified Operators

57 certified operators

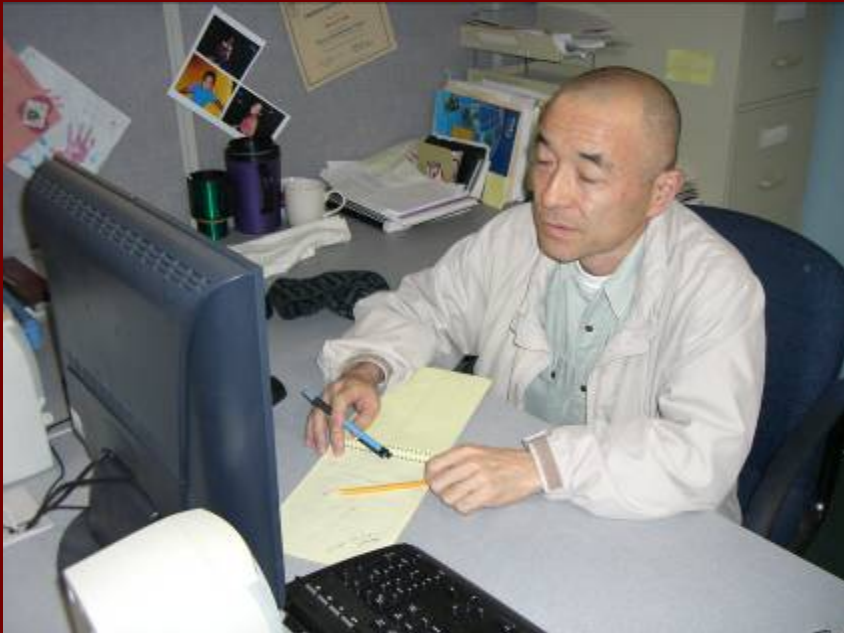
Total population ~ 65,000

Almost 1 operator for every 1,000 people
or

~0.1 % of the population is a certified water
operator

Web Based Testing

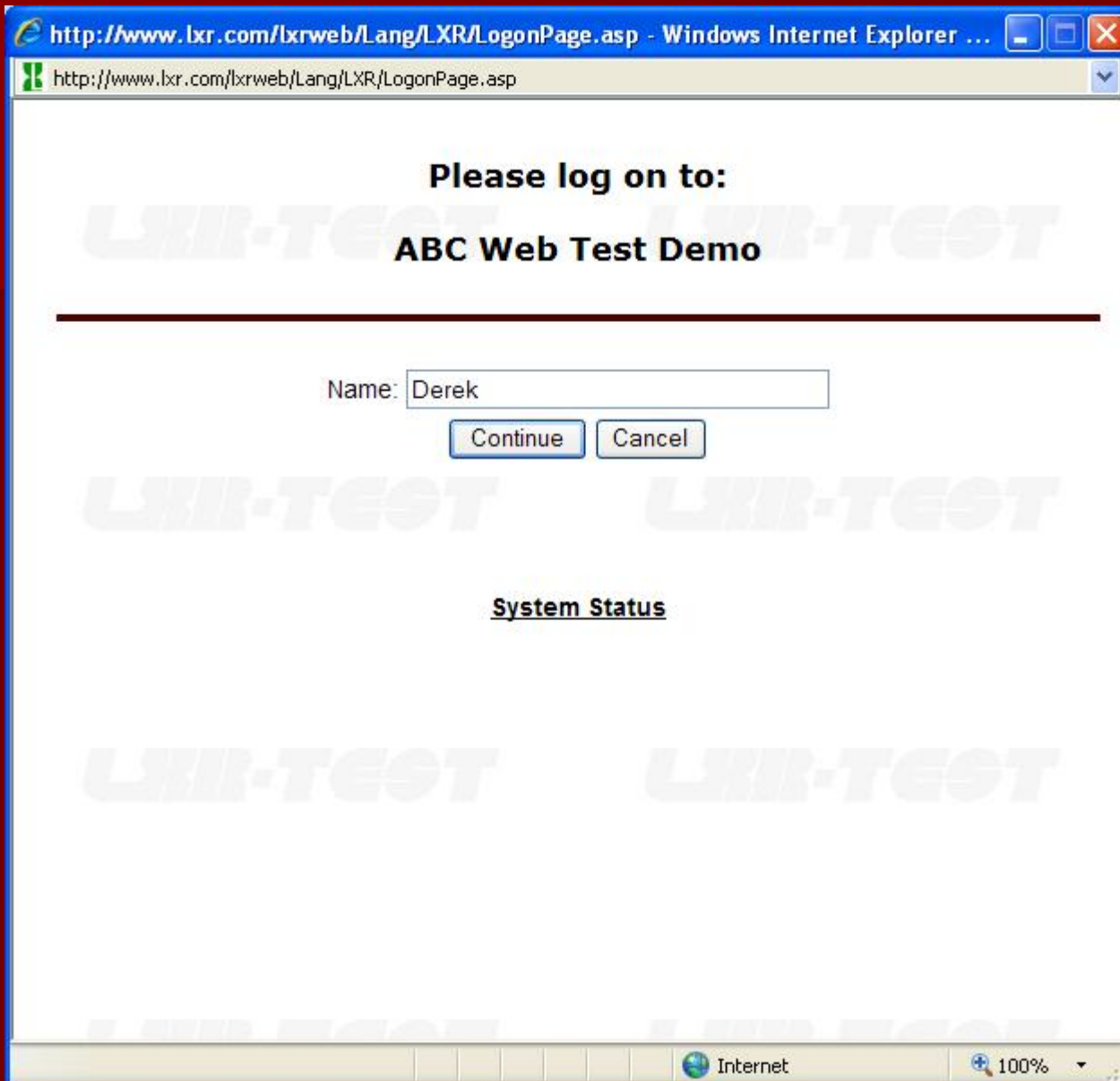
- Started Feb 2007
- 120 exams as of June 2009
- Average about 1 exam a week

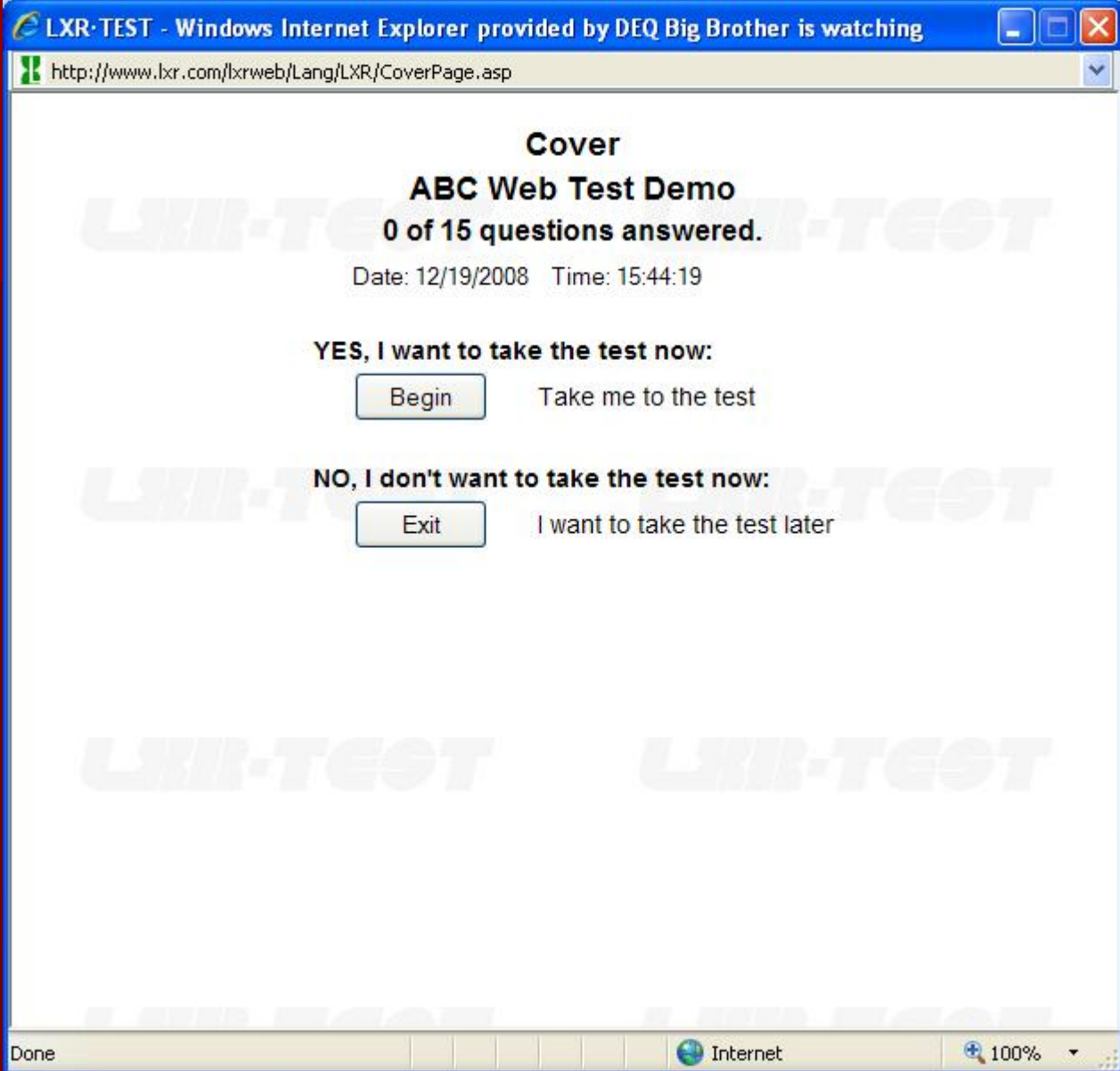


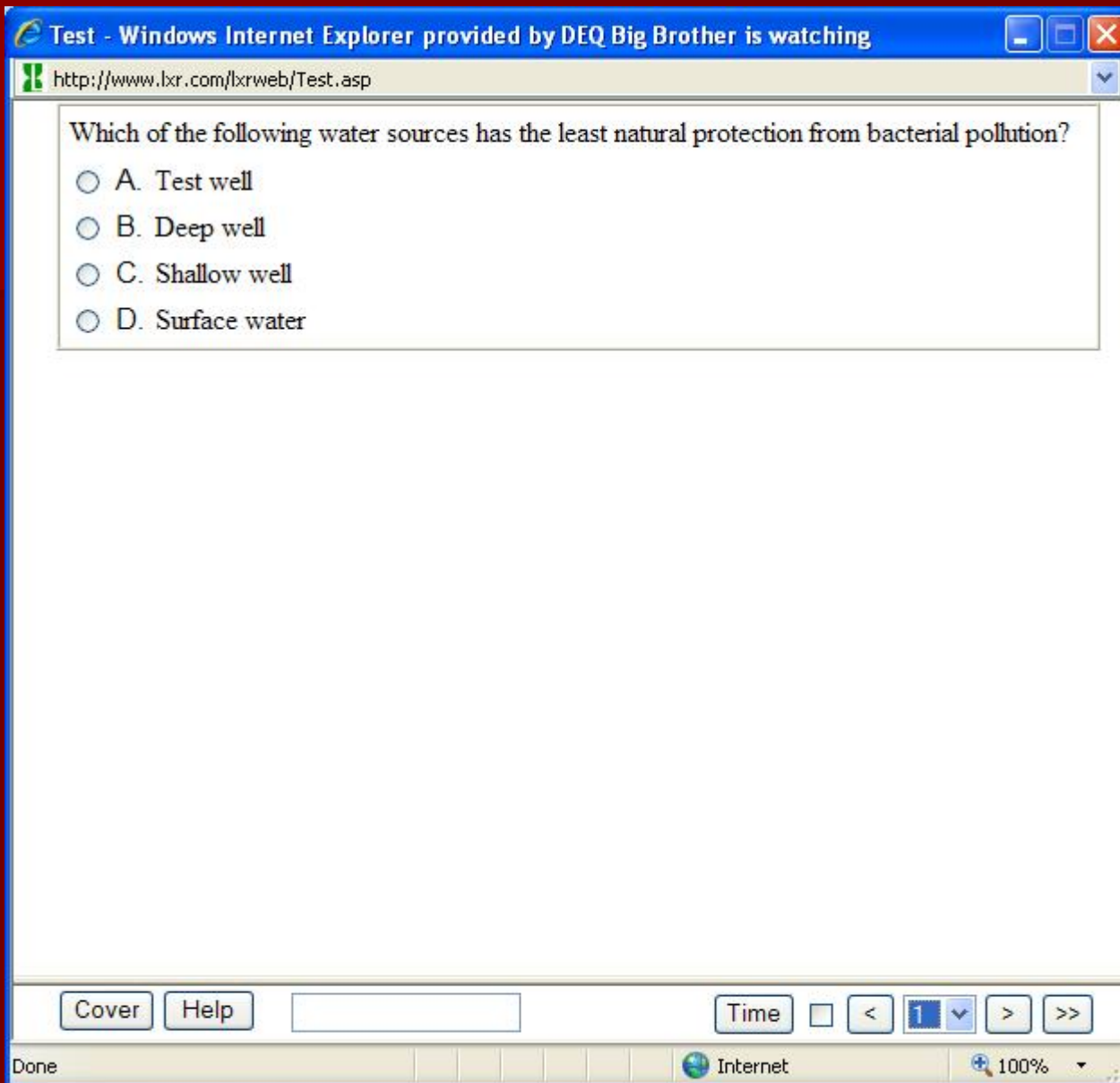
How does CNMI conduct Op-Cert Testing?

ID's & Passwords

ID	PW	Last Name	First Name	Test Date
234766321	KS22PMTY	Tanaka	Toshio	4/3/2009
885534563	KS22PMTY	Nabong	Promencio	4/7/2009
227457323	KS22PMTY	Sacramento	Abelardo	4/7/2009
113475684	KS22PMTY	Raiukiulipiy	Cecilio	4/22/2009
234888232	KS22PMTY	Cruz	Arnel	5/20/2009
845538392	KS22PMTY	Villanueva	Reynaldo	6/16/2009
238495823	KS22PMTY			
384593849	KS22PMTY			
388493829	KS22PMTY			
834952934	KS22PMTY			







Test - Windows Internet Explorer provided by DEQ Big Brother is watching

http://www.lxr.com/lxrweb/Test.asp

Which of the following water sources has the least natural protection from bacterial pollution?

☐ A. Test well

☒ B. Deep well

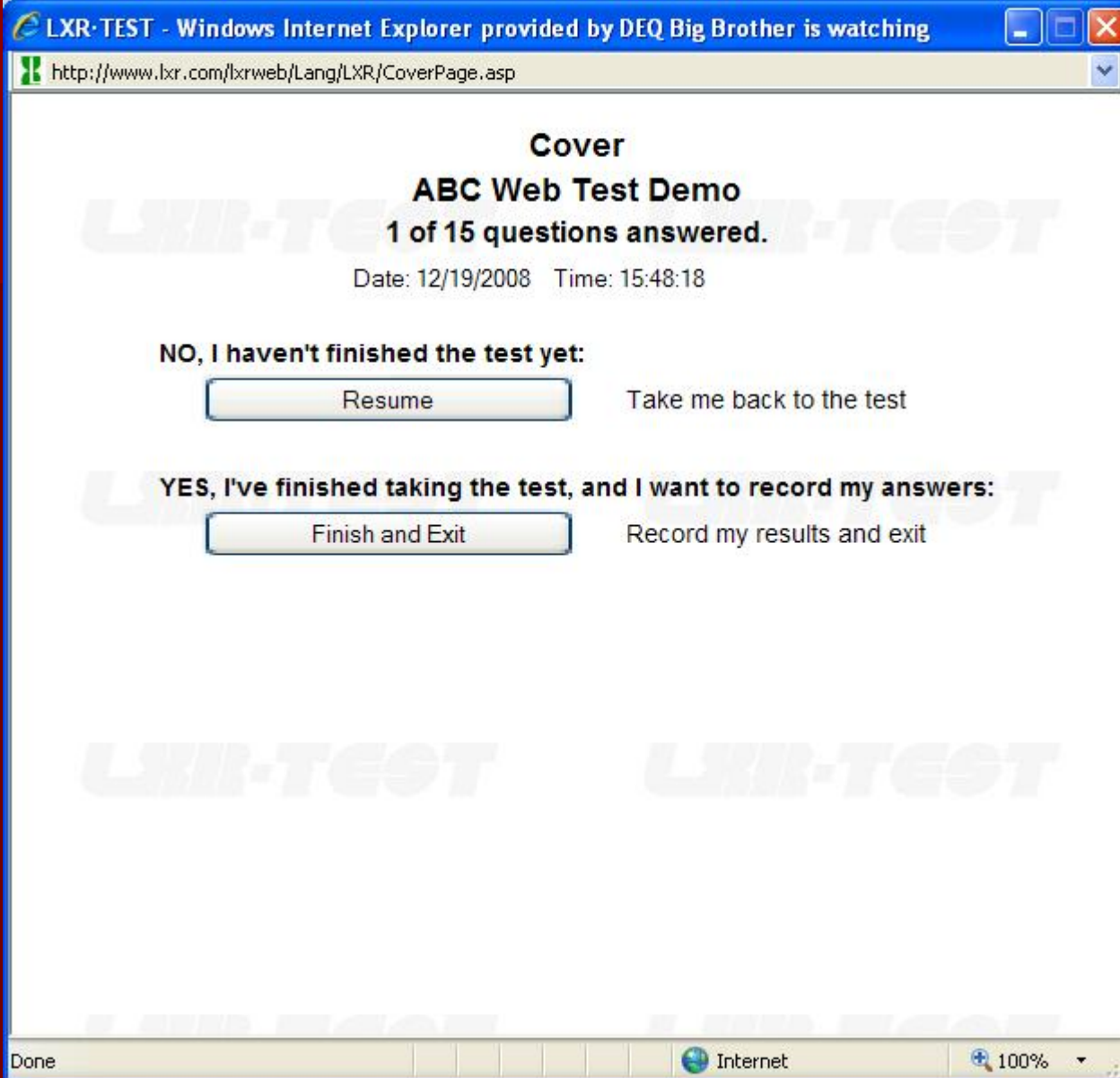
☐ C. Shallow well

☐ D. Surface water

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
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10
11
12
13
14
15

Cover Help B Grade Time < 1 > >>

Done Internet 100%



Individual Mastery:
ABC Water Treatment Class I Exam
Student ID 761307581
On 12/8/2008 at 8:32:54 PM

Objective	Score	%	0.....100
ADMINISTRATION	2 of 2	100.00	
COLLECT SAMPLES	8 of 14	57.14	
COMPLIANCE	13 of 20	65.00	
EVALUATE EQUIPMENT-MATH	0 of 2	0.00	
EVALUATE EQUIPMENT	3 of 3	100.00	
EVALUATE SOURCES	4 of 5	80.00	
LAB PROCESS CONTROL	5 of 6	83.33	
LAB PROCESS CONTROL-MATH	1 of 1	100.00	
MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT	6 of 9	66.67	
CHEMICAL TREATMENT-MATH	1 of 3	33.33	
CHEMICAL TREATMENT	10 of 12	83.33	
FILTRATION	1 of 1	100.00	
RESIDUAL DISPOSAL	1 of 2	50.00	
TREATMENT-MATH	3 of 3	100.00	
OPERATE EQUIPMENT-MATH	2 of 2	100.00	
OPERATE EQUIPMENT	4 of 6	66.67	
SAFETY	8 of 8	100.00	
SECURITY	1 of 1	100.00	

Summary:

Points Earned	73
Objectives Mastered	8
Objectives Partially Mastered	3
Objectives Not Mastered	7

Exam

- Proctor keeps track of time (not computer)
- May have to re-log-in if the internet connection is interrupted

HOT of the PRESS!

- In June 2009, CNMI DEQ has signed into agreement with the Association of Board of Certification to conduct and administer Wastewater Treatment and Wastewater Collection On-line testing.
- Testing soon to be offered in the next 2 weeks!

Web exam vs Paper exam

- Low volume
- Available any work day
- Available at many different locations (other islands)
- Results immediately
- Topic area breakdown
- Computer fear?
- High volume
- Only twice a year
- Usually one location
- Have to wait 2 months for results
- More user friendly?

Challenges

- Language barriers
 - Filipino (lots of English, but vocabulary a problem)
 - Chinese
 - Korean
- Computer literacy

Plans for the future

- Field staff on Tinian and Rota trained as proctors.

Questions?

Thank you!

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