

Submitter:	Jon Lee
On Behalf Of:	South Suburban Sanitary District
Committee:	House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3655

This question has been brought up, by myself, at a few DEQ classes I have been to since I have worked for SSSD. I have spoken with multiple lagoon system operators at classes and different conferences that have all expressed the feeling of separating the certification tests to benefit both sides. Personally, as a lagoon operator, the current tests are direct mostly towards mechanical system operations (i.e. Return activated Sludge, Waste activated Sludge, Digesters, etc.), which are not things that are dealt with at a lagoon plant and puts us at a disadvantage for certification testing. Same with the Mechanical plant operators I have spoken to over the years, say that they always struggle with the lagoon question that are on the tests. I believe that separating the test would not only benefit the lagoon operators and give us the ability to get the higher grade level certifications, that are currently held mostly by retirement age operators, but would also benefit mechanical system operators and show how each side shines at what they work with daily. It does need to be understood that separating the tests would cause an operator that is certified in one system to retest for the other system should they decide to transfer system types. This change, I also believe could benefit DEQ because of the fees associated with testing, which could bring more revenue to DEQ. Personally, I have attempted my grade 2 certification twice and failed on both attempts due to the lack of knowledge around process control with mechanical plants. Also, Alex has tried and failed his grade 1 attempt for the same reason. We currently have Justin studying and trying to get information to attempt his grade 1 and I would like to reattempt my grade 2. I believe this change would give us more of a chance at passing our certifications and would be very useful and beneficial for our future with SSSD and with the new upgrade going on currently. I strongly support this bill.