



## Technical Specialist Training Requirement Report

January 7, 2024

Per rules governing the Approval of Water Quality Technical Specialist **02 NCAC 59G .0104**:  
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2017.

- (i) Technical Specialist shall complete six hours of training approved by the Commission during each three-year period following initial designation or each three-year period following the effective date of this Rule.
- (j) In addition, technical specialist designation shall be rescinded by the Commission for failure to complete the approved additional training by the end of each three-year period.

The SWCC adopted the following policies for implementation of the Technical Specialist training requirement at its November 14, 2018 meeting.

- While there are seven (7) Technical Specialist designation categories, approved training courses will not be categorized by designation. The Technical Specialist will determine the suitability of training for their respective designation(s).
- Technical Specialist may obtain all six (6) training hours in a single calendar year.
- Training hours in excess of six (6) hours may not be carried over to the subsequent three-year period.
- The three-year period for current Technical Specialist will begin January 1, 2019.
- The three-year period for newly designated Technical Specialist by the SWCC will begin the following January 1.
- **Technical Specialist failing to meet training requirements will be presented to the SWCC at their January meeting for notice of rescinding designation(s).**
- Division staff will conduct a random audit of 10% of all Technical Specialist submitting training credits each year. Technical Specialist subject to an audit will be requested to furnish proof of attendance for training courses claimed for credit.

- Authority to approve trainings will be delegated to a workgroup consisting of Technical Specialist comprised of the following:
  - Private Sector (2)
  - NCSU/Cooperative Extension Service (1)
  - Division of Soil and Water Conservation (1)
  - Soil and Water Conservation District (1)
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service (1)
  - Division of Water Resources (1)
  
- Utilize existing training Opportunities for other comparable certifications including but not limited to Animal Waste System Operator, Professional Engineer, Licensed Soil Scientist, Certified Crop Advisor, Licensed Pesticide Applicator, Certified Conservation Planner, and Professional Geologist.
  
- Issue an electronic certificate to Technical Specialist with name, registration number, designation(s), and three-year deadline date. Re-issue certificate at the end of the three- year period with successful completion of the training requirement.

Four Technical Specialist were subject to the three-year training requirement window expiring on December 31, 2023. Three of the four Technical Specialist have successfully completed their training requirement to maintain their Technical Specialist designations. A new Technical Specialist training ID card will be issued to each of these Technical Specialist with their new three-year window (January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2027) noted.

**Mr. Ronald Zurlinden, Platte River Consulting, did not fulfill his training requirement by December 31, 2023, and presented for rescission of his Technical Specialist designation.**

Technical Specialist Training Website

[https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/professional\\_development/TechnicalSpecialistTraining.html](https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/professional_development/TechnicalSpecialistTraining.html)