

My Friends,

This past New Year's Eve was my last day as an employee of the EPA after 40+ years with the Agency. I will miss the day to day dealings with operators of water and wastewater facilities who I have met and worked with through the years. I consider you all essential environmentalists protecting an American way of life and our standard of living and health that many take for granted.

But I will not disappear as I remain committed to helping operators fulfill their responsibilities so our environment remains protected. (I also love fishing.) I continue to be involved in various areas within the Water Environment Federation and I have also joined CEN Plan designing courses that can help operators based on my experiences at providing compliance assistance to facilities for 27 years. A two hour Wastewater Treatment Clarifier Performance course has been developed and a one hour Reasonable Security Measures to protect your Plant is under development. Suggestions from operators on other training needs would be appreciated.

Thank you, operators of water and wastewater facilities, trainers who have assisted operators & I and the dedicated State environmental folk who are trying to do their best under the current difficult times, I have always appreciated your efforts.

Bye from the old Russ & hello from the new Russ.