

Announcement regarding requests for a Certificate of Technical Excellence involving Vetiver System Bioengineering and Phytoremediation

- *New, more rigorous eligibility criteria and guidelines for bioengineering and phytoremediation certification. Criteria and guidelines for other categories remains as before.*
- *No longer “Certificate of Technical Excellence”, now “Professional Certification” for bioengineering and phytoremediation certification.*
- *Application fee of \$250 for certification in bioengineering and or phytoremediation applications*
- *Alternative “Technical Excellence” certification available to those who do not wish to apply under new guidelines (no fee).*

The use of Vetiver Grass Technology in bioengineering and phytoremediation has been expanding at a rapid pace around the globe in the last few years. Increasingly, TVNI is being asked to provide practitioners with a Certificate of Technical Excellence in these areas of application. In the past, we received relatively few such requests and the majority of them came from individuals whose work was known well, or whose expertise could be confirmed by known and trusted qualified TVNI members. Today, this is less commonly the case. Many individuals seeking certification are professionals. For these, TVNI certification is a way of enhancing their and/or their company’s professional profile and competitiveness. In addition, with many of these, we must rely completely upon the information they provide to us as a means of judging if they are worthy of certification or not.

As a result, TVNI has updated its eligibility criteria and guidelines relating to provision of proof/documentation for those seeking certification in Vetiver System **Bioengineering** and/or **Phytoremediation** applications. This is necessary as there are **serious considerations of human life and health, irreversible environmental damage and economic loss** associated with inadequate design, installation, and/or maintenance/monitoring.

In developing these new criteria and guidelines, we have in mind that applicants would be professional consultants and contractors. In addition, as the review of their applications will require the time and services of like professionals, TVNI will be instituting a charge of \$250 for certification.

TVNI also understands that there are Vetiver users and practitioners who will wish to obtain certification of their technical knowledge and capability; people who do excellent quality work without having the professional background and/or who may not be versed in the science of the technology and its applications. For these individuals, TVNI will offer the following:

- The current criteria and guidelines for application will continue to apply, as will TVNI’s “no charge” policy for a Certificate of Technical Excellence.
- Those “bioengineering” applications that fall under “land, gully, and/or watercourse stabilization” will be awarded a Certificate of Technical Excellence in Soil & Moisture Conservation.
- Those “environmental management” applications that do not involve phytoremediation will be awarded a Certificate of Technical Excellence in Environmental Management that specifies the specific area of competence (e.g., disturbed land reclamation).
- For those applications that do involve phytoremediation, only a Professional Certification will be available.

For further information or clarifications, please contact info@vetiver.org

NOTE: the \$250 professional certification fee should be paid via the donation button on the TVNI website (www.vetiver.org). When completing the payment information required please include “professional certification fee” under “special instructions to seller” box. Note TVNI will not start an application review until the fee has been paid.

Professional Certification
Vetiver System Bioengineering & Phytoremediation
Eligibility and Certification Criteria

Minimum Eligibility Criteria

- Hold a relevant professional license from an accredited licensing program or relevant University degree or have more than 5 years of relevant professional experience.
- Licensed professional with 3 years of experience with Vetiver applications or, without such license, 5 years of experience with Vetiver applications.
- Have been responsible for all aspects of Vetiver application (site/problem assessment, design, installation and establishment),
- Can demonstrate 3 successful Vetiver applications, all of which are at least 3 years old.

Required Proof/Documentation

- Copy of current professional license or degree,
- List of all Vetiver applications in which the applicant has been involved in any capacity. The list should include:
 - (i) date and purpose of the installation;
 - (ii) role and responsibility of the applicant in the installation;
 - (iii) an indication of the size of the application (meters of hedgerow and/or total area protected/stabilized and/or of wastewater treated: contaminants of interest, volumes, treatment type (wetland, irrigated dryland);
 - (iv) whether or not the installation is still intact and functioning or if “unknown”; and
 - (v) the geo-coordinates of the applications for which the applicant was responsible and upon which the request for certification is based.
- Reference letters from the contracting party of each of the applications upon which the request for certification is based.
- A structured presentation of each of the applications upon which the request for certification is based. Said presentations to include: (i) statement of the problem and the objectives of the Vetiver application; (ii) Project description: project name, geographic location, altitude, climate zone, area size, description and, any other relevant attributes; (iii) summary of principal findings from site assessment that influenced design; (iii) summary of design; (iv) timeline of photos/videos that demonstrate progression of project (before, site work, installation, at completion, maintenance, today); and (v) a short narrative describing the experience with the job, particularly any challenging aspects and how they were handled.
- For phytoremediation, the applicant must provide accredited documentation and backup in respect to specific applications and research conducted with vetiver grass. The presentation should also include all supporting laboratory, testing and monitoring data that demonstrate (i) the issues, pre-treatment and (ii) the efficacy of the installed vetiver treatment system over time (e.g., at 3, 6 and 12 months).

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