



## Operator Certification Committee Meeting

Operator Certification Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 22 · 2:00 – 3:00pm

*Google Meet joining info*

*Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/oqj-mqhm-mjs>*

*Or dial: (US) +1 646-600-9934 PIN: 313 669 794#*

*More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/oqj-mqhm-mjs?pin=5564311945495> Webinar ID: 647-313-011*

**Purpose of Meeting:** Discussion of current state of operator certification and preparation for DPR certification.

### **Committee Members Present:**

- Dawn Simpson – Sunstate Environmental, Small Public Water System & Committee Chair
- Mike Osborne - Town of Marana, Wastewater Collection Grade 4 & Committee Co-Chair
- Tina Pico, ADEQ Representative, Executive Security
- Art Nunez – EPCOR, Water Treatment Grade 4
- Eboni Rhone – Department Representative & Executive Secretary
- Roman Diaz - Gateway Community College, Faculty for Sanitary Sciences
- Rob McCandless – Stantec, Professional Engineer

### **Committee Members Who Sent Regrets:**

- Fred Kreiss - Cactus State Water, Investor-owned water/wastewater facility
- Rich Marsh – Town of Welton, Appointed Municipal Official
- Anupa Jain - City of Chandler, Water Distribution Grade 4
- Arti Jain, ADEQ Representative
- Jason Joynes –Wastewater Treatment Grade 4

### **Guest Attendees:**

- Jasmina Markovski, ADEQ Representative
- Naveen Savarirayan, ADEQ Representative
- Mannie Bowler, ADEQ Representative
- Laura Carusona, ADEQ Representative
- Rhona Mallea, ADEQ Representative

**Call to Order:** Jason Bobko called to order the regular meeting of the Certification Committee at 2:02PM through the virtual platform, Google Meet.

**Roll Call:** 7 of the 11 committee members were present. Per Arizona Administrative Code Title 18, Chapter 5, Article 1, Section 103(F), the quorum was met and the meeting continued as scheduled.

**General Business:** No general business was discussed.

**New Business:** DPR Certifications for Arizona:

- AWTO is proposing Arizona adopt their DPR Operator Certification. Customize examination for Arizona needs.
- ADEQ TAG Group is in the process of determining how to create a DPR certification exam in Arizona. Eboni Rhone and Tina Pico are assisting in the process. ABC/WPI has no intention of creating a DPR examination at the moment.
- Overall passing rate of Grade 3/4 water treatment and distribution exams has been lower this fiscal year than in years prior.
- Arizona DPR certifications will not include a Grade 5 certification similar to California.
- Challenges arise for Grade 3 and 4 operators in the math section. Op Cert to provide target math training. More filtration and pathogen control training (essential for DPR systems).
- Gearing more training towards Grade 3 and 4 operators to prepare them for a possible DPR certification. Wastewater targeted training in the works.
- A greater understanding of the DPR regulation may be needed before finalizing on an DPR operator certification.
- Some concerns the 2017 ABC exam content is not relevant to Arizona systems.
- Input: Reach out to Grade 4 systems and gauge competency of Grade 4 operators.

No objections were made towards subjects presented by the Program or committee members.

**Next Meeting:** The Certification Committee will reconvene Thursday, June 22, 2023. If there are no items to add to the Agenda by June 1, 2023, the meeting will be cancelled and the Certification committee will meet at a later date.

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:53PM**

**Minutes Approved By:** Jason Bobko, Manager, Drinking Water Engineering Review, Technical Assistance and Operator Certification Unit

**Minutes Submitted By:** Eboni Rhone, Operator Certification Program Coordinator