

## Operator Certification Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 · 2:05 – 3:00pm

Google Meet joining info

*ADEQ Operator Certification Committee Meeting*

*Wednesday, April 8, 2026 · 2:00 – 3:30pm*

*Time zone: America/Phoenix*

*Google Meet joining info*

*Video call link: [meet.google.com/zxv-pkao-wtm](https://meet.google.com/zxv-pkao-wtm)*

*Or dial: (US) +1 470-242-8414 PIN: 677 527 217#*

**Purpose of Meeting:** To catch the committee up to the current state of the ADEQ OpCert program and to create goals for the coming year.

### **Committee Members Present:**

- Jason Bobko – Chair
- Robert Shirey – Co-Chair
- Karthik Kumarasamy
- Jed Lant
- Jack Cook

### **ADEQ/Guest Members:**

- Bram Briskorn (Executive Secretary)
- Alissa Coes

### **Sent Regrets:**

- Jerome Yontz
- Betran Apong Usong

**Call to Order:** Bram Briskorn called to order the regular meeting of the Certification Committee at 2:05PM through the virtual platform, Google Meet.

**Roll Call:** 6 committee members attended the meeting. Chairperson, the Executive Secretary, and three other members of the committee were present. Per Arizona Administrative Code Title 18, Chapter 5, Article 1, Section 103(F), the quorum was met.

### **General Business:**

- Updates on the OpCert program from Bram
  - Eboni Rhone no longer with OpCert program
  - Description of the purpose of the OpCert program and expectations for committee members
  - Need for 3 more roles to be filled - outgoing members eligible to rejoin

- Jason suggests asking Chris Judd with West-MEC to fill the educational faculty member role. Chris does not teach at an Arizona university or community college, but may fill the role satisfactorily all the same
- Overview of the current number of certified operators, change in operator numbers over time, and exam pass/fail rates

### **Discussion:**

- Current status of OpCert from Bram
  - Exam updates – 2025 version implemented and Spanish exams coming soon for Grade 1 and 2 tests
    - Robert confirms that 2025 exams are very similar to 2017
    - Jed mentions that Paul Cornejo recently offered exam training in Spanish – perhaps ADEQ could do the same
    - Jason inquires if ADEQ has beta tested Spanish exam versions. Committee agrees that the exams should be tested if possible before launching on 6/1
  - Past and future operator training events
    - Discussion of ADEQ events in FY26
    - Should system owners/managers need certifications?
      - Jason – yes
      - Robert – Holds a Utility Management Certification through the National Rural Water Association. This certification is a good example of what could be required for system owners/managers
    - Trainings for FY27:
      - Jed and Karthik agree that training for membrane operators would be beneficial. Jed has hosted such trainings in the past
      - Septic training and more wastewater trainings in general are desired – Bram will reach out to the ADEQ groundwater program for a status update
  - Testing and study needs and solutions
    - Bram discussed the potential for remote proctoring through psi to offer exams in otherwise unreachable regions of the state
      - Jack previously took an exam at home that was proctored by psi and thought it was generally thorough and secure
      - Jason doesn't like the idea of at-home testing in general. However, if ADEQ could partner with more secure locations to set up remote proctoring sites with psi, it may be an option
    - Jason recommended training from ADEQ on how to use WPI's Need to Know Criteria Guides
  - High school exams and future goals
    - Bram discussed the pilot program for high school testing with West-MEC

- Robert hired a previous West-MEC student and spoke highly of the operator. Robert has also taught at the West-MEC program and offered system tours

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:00PM

**Next Meeting:** To be in October of 2026

**Minutes Approved By:** Alissa Coes, Manager, Safe Drinking Water Capacity Development Program

**Minutes Submitted By:** Bram Briskorn, Operator Certification Program Coordinator, Environmental Science Specialist II