

Water Quality Division, Safe Drinking Water Unit
Operator Certification Committee

Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/efn-cpvh-wqj>

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 - 2-3PM

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

Bram Briskorn opened the meeting at **2:03**

1. Roll Call

- a. Bram Briskorn - OpCert Coordinator - Present
- b. Jason Bobko - Chair - Present
- c. Robert Shirey - Co-Chair - Present, joined 2:20
- d. Jerome Yontz - Member - Absent
- e. Betran Apong Usong - Member - Present
- f. Karthik Kumarasamy - Member - Present
- g. Jed Lant - Member - Present
- h. Jack Cook - Member - Absent
- i. Melissa Durbin - Member - Present
- j. Guests - Alissa Coes - Present

2. General Business

- a. Review of the Certification Committee and the OpCert Program
 - i. Overview of what the OpCert program is as the committee's purpose
- b. Vacant seat suggestions
 - i. Requested feedback:
 - 1. Jason suggests: Chris Judd - WestMEC?
- c. Operator metrics in Arizona
 - i. Discussed annual 2026 report to the EPA, including the total # of active operators, increase in certifications, and exam pass/fail rates

ADEQ will take reasonable measures to provide access to department services to individuals with limited ability to speak, write or understand English and/or to those with disabilities. Requests for language translation, ASL interpretation, CART captioning services or disability accommodations must be made at least 48 hours in advance by contacting the Title VI Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Joaquin Marruffo Ruiz, at 520-628-6744 or Marruffo.Joaquin@azdeq.gov. For a TTY or other device, Telecommunications Relay Services are available by calling 711.

ADEQ tomará las medidas razonables para proveer acceso a los servicios del departamento a personas con capacidad limitada para hablar, escribir o entender inglés y/o para personas con discapacidades. Las solicitudes de servicios de traducción de idiomas, interpretación ASL (lengua de signos americano), subtítulo de CART, o adaptaciones por discapacidad deben realizarse con al menos 48 horas de anticipación comunicándose con el Coordinador de Anti-Discriminación del Título VI, Joaquin Marruffo Ruiz, al 520-628-6744 o Marruffo.Joaquin@azdeq.gov. Para un TTY u otro dispositivo, los servicios de retransmisión de telecomunicaciones están disponible llamando al 711.

3. Discussions

a. Current status of OpCert

i. Past and future operator training events

1. Training needs from OpCert

- a. Melissa would like to see more wastewater data and training
- b. Jason - training events need to be more exciting - what if ADEQ put on an “innovation fair” to talk about recent technology developments and perhaps. “System Innovations”
- c. Melissa: Board member training

ii. Workforce concerns and development

- 1. Overview of WPI Spanish exam rollout
- 2. Overview of West-MEC’s Water Systems program for high schoolers

a.

iii. Future OpCert developments

- 1. Discussion of exam security concerns from WPI
- 2. Overview of upcoming PSI contract, as well as Live Remote Proctoring options and security features
- 3. Jason Bobko - lots of operator poaching - keeping a healthy staff can still be difficult.

- a. Jed and Melissa agree - building up the workforce can be a challenge

b. Discussion of topics and goals for future committee meetings

- i. Robert - more training about certifications themselves and how to study for WPI exams would be ideal - “What helped you on your test?” feedback from other operators.

4. Adjournment

- a. Voting on next meeting (Spring, 2027)