

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR AMENDMENTS TO 20.7.4 NMAC
UTILITY OPERATOR CERTIFICATION**

The Water Quality Control Commission (“WQCC”) will hold a public hearing beginning **on August 10, 2021**, following the regularly scheduled WQCC public meeting and continuing thereafter as necessary via the WebEx online meeting platform. The videoconference's Meeting ID and Password, videoconference link, and telephone numbers are as follows:

Beginning Tuesday, August 10, 2021:

To connect via video conference, go to:

Meeting link: <https://nmed-oit.webex.com/nmed-oit/j.php?MTID=m915e8e39fddf48a5a6f4538c8ff81011>

Meeting number: 177 786 5919

Password: 2pqDb2PQ2TZ

Join by video system

Dial: 1777865919@nmed-oit.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll

Access code: 177 786 5919

Global call-in numbers

Please visit the WQCC website prior to the hearing for any updates: <https://www.env.nm.gov/water-quality-control-commission/wqcc/>. The purpose of the hearing is to consider proposed amendments to 20.7.4 NMAC, Utility Operator Certification. The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau (“Bureau”) proposed these amendments to clarify the experience that operators must possess to achieve certain levels of certifications, add an operator in training certification, explain the general service area of water and wastewater systems, update fee schedules for operators obtaining certifications, and make minor edits to assist both the Bureau and certified operators in using the regulations, in accordance with the state Water Quality Act and Utility Operator Certification Act. .

The proposed amendments to 20.7.4 NMAC may be reviewed online at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/water-quality-control-commission/wqcc-21-26-in-the-matter-of-proposed-amendments-to-utility-operator-certification/>. Due to restrictions currently in place by the Governor’s Executive Orders and various emergency public health orders designed to protect the public and prevent the spread of the Novel Coronavirus Disease – 2019 (COVID-19), the WQCC Administrator’s office is closed to the public. Therefore in-person review of the proposed amendments is not possible at this time. Persons who wish to review a physical copy of the proposed amendments should contact the WQCC Administrator at the address provided below.

All interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity at the hearing to submit relevant evidence, data, views, and arguments, orally or in writing; to introduce exhibits; and to examine witnesses.

Pursuant to 20.1.6.202 NMAC, those wishing to present technical testimony must file a written notice of intent to present technical testimony with the WQCC Administrator **on or before 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time on July 21, 2021**, 20 days prior to the hearing. Notices of intent to present technical testimony should reference the name of the regulation, the date of the hearing, and the docket number, **WQCC 21-26**.

The form and content of the notice of intent to present technical testimony shall:

- Identify the person for whom the witness(es) will testify;
- Identify each technical witness the person intends to present and state the qualifications of that witness, including a description of their education and work background;
- Include a copy of the full written direct testimony of each technical witness in narrative form;
- Include the text of any recommended modifications to the proposed regulatory change; and
- List and attach all exhibits anticipated to be offered by that person at the hearing, including any proposed statement of reasons for adoption of rules.

Notices of intent to present technical testimony shall be filed with:
Pamela Jones, WQCC Administrator
New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Building

P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502
telephone: (505) 660-4305
email: pamela.jones@state.nm.us

Those wishing to do so may offer non-technical public comment at the hearing or submit a non-technical written statement in lieu of oral testimony at or before the hearing. Written comments regarding the proposed amended rule may be addressed to Pamela Jones, WQCC Administrator, at the above address, and should reference docket number **WQCC 21-26**. Pursuant to 20.1.6.203 NMAC, any person may file an entry of appearance as a party. The entry of appearance shall be filed with the WQCC Administrator, at the above address, no later than July 21, 2021, 20 days before the date of the hearing.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the WQCC Rulemaking Procedures (20.1.6 NMAC); the Water Quality Act, Sections 74-6-1 to -17 NMSA 1978 (1967 as amended through 2019); the State Rules Act, Section 14-4-5.3 NMSA 1978; and other applicable procedures.

If any person requires assistance, an interpreter or auxiliary aid to participate in this process, please contact Pamela Jones, WQCC Administrator, at the above address, by June 29, 2021. (TDD or TTY users please access the number via the New Mexico Relay Network, 1-800-659-1779 (voice); TTY users: 1-800-659-8331).

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact: Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator, New Mexico Environment Department, 1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502, (505) 827-2855, nd.coordinator@state.nm.us. If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above.