

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**  
**GOVERNOR**



**BILL McCAMLEY**  
**SECRETARY**

**HOWIE MORALES**  
**LT. GOVERNOR**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS**  
401 Broadway, NE  
PO Box 1928  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
(505) 841-8405/ FAX (505) 841-8491

**January 11, 2021**

Representative Phelps Anderson  
PO Box 1000  
Roswell, NM 88202

Representative,

The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions understands the intense need for new water and wastewater operators across the state. These are critical functions that provide excellent wages to technicians choosing the occupation, and that just as importantly assure New Mexicans the clean drinking water and safe sanitation functions they need to thrive.

We also believe strongly that government should be as effective and efficient as possible in using our facilities to the best possible gain.

Therefore, we have been partnering with the New Mexico Environment Department on their plan to allow for computer-based testing for Water and Wastewater operators at our office sites throughout the state when it is safe to resume face to face operations. This will allow us to use the already in place physical facilities effectively and give technicians a more efficient way to complete their testing.

We appreciate your support of this program, and look forward to working with you moving forward if you need any other assistance from our Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill McCamley".

Bill McCamley  
Secretary, NM Department of Workforce Solutions

January 20, 2021

Representative Anderson  
[phelps.anderson@nmlegis.gov](mailto:phelps.anderson@nmlegis.gov)  
P.O. Box 1000  
Roswell, NM 88202-1000

Dear Representative Anderson,

The New Mexico Utility Operator Certification Advisory Board (UOCAB) is an elected board of certified operators that is tasked with looking out for the best interests of certified operators in New Mexico. Additionally, the UOCAB is required by statute to:

- assist the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) with establishing qualifications for operators;
- classifying public water supply systems and public wastewater facilities;
- adopting rules and advising NMED on the administration of the Utility Operators Certification Act;
- UOCAB board members sit as Water Quality Control Commission members on matters regarding the Utility Operators Certification Act;

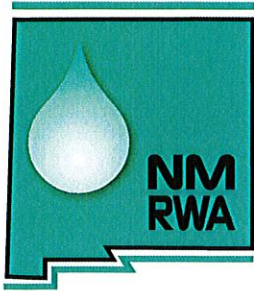
On January 7, 2020 the UOCAB met with NMED's Drinking Water Bureau regarding the proposed changes outlined in House Bill 103 (HB103). During that meeting the UOCAB voted unanimously to support NMED in its efforts to get this piece of legislation passed during the 2021 Legislative Session. The UOCAB works closely with the NMED Utility Operator Certification Program (UOCP) and the board appreciates their efforts over the past several months to move toward computer-based exams throughout New Mexico.

The UOCAB believes that the fees proposed in HB103 are necessary to support utility operators across New Mexico. The ability for utility operators in rural areas of New Mexico to access Workforce Solutions testing centers that are near their communities is essential for supporting our rural operators. Our hope is that these changes will encourage more people to consider a career in the utility operator field.

Thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any additional support from our Association.

Sincerely,

Cathie Eisen, Board Chair  
Utility Operator Certification Advisory Board



## New Mexico Rural Water Association

8336 Washington Pl. NE • ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87113

505.884.1031 • 800.819.9893 • FAX 505.884.1032  
[www.nmrwa.org](http://www.nmrwa.org)

January 20, 2021

Representative Phelps Anderson  
PO Box 1000  
Roswell, New Mexico 88202

Dear Representative Anderson,

Thank you for your hard work you do for us and the state of New Mexico. I am writing to you regarding HB 103, Utility Operator Certification Act Changes.

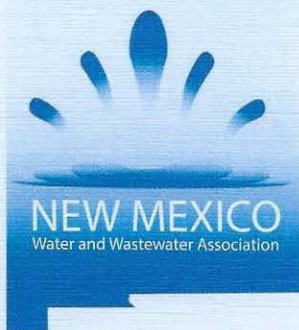
The New Mexico Rural Water Association has been working with the New Mexico Environment Department to discuss some of our concerns with this proposed bill. The major change proposed by this bill is the fee increase for water and wastewater operators to be able to test for their certifications. This increase is a direct result of contracting for computer-based examinations. While a rate increase is never optimal, it will be offset by the convenience of being able to test at any time, and the savings of testing locally rather than having to travel long distances to take a test.

The New Mexico Rural Water Association supports this bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me any time. Thank you for your support of water issues in New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Jose Terrones,  
President of NMRWA





# NEW MEXICO WATER & WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION

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Española, NM 87532  
January 22, 2021

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Representative Anderson  
[phelps.anderson@nmlegis.gov](mailto:phelps.anderson@nmlegis.gov)

P.O. Box 1000  
Roswell, NM 88202-1000

Dear Representative Anderson,

The New Mexico Water and Wastewater Association (NMWWWA) is an Association that represents water and wastewater utility operators throughout New Mexico. We endeavor to assist in protecting the public health and the environment and preserving the investment of public funds in New Mexico by promoting proper design, construction, operation, performance evaluation, and management of water and wastewater utilities.

The Association believes that by providing professional training of utility operations and management personnel, our purpose of assisting in the protection of public health and the environment and preserving the investment of public funds can be achieved.

The Association is proud of its history of helping communities and the taxpayers of New Mexico by equipping personnel in the water and wastewater industry to perform their duties in a qualified and professional manner.

After a thorough review of House Bill 103 (HB103) that you are sponsoring, the NMWWWA would like to offer its full support in getting this critical piece of legislation passed during the 2021 Legislative Session. The NMWWWA works closely with the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Utility Operator Certification Program (UOCP) and we appreciate their efforts to innovate utility operator certification exams in New Mexico by offering computer-based exams at convenient testing locations throughout New Mexico.

The NMWWWA believes that the increase in fees proposed in HB103 are necessary for NMED to continue to support the utility operator community in New Mexico. The fees proposed will help NMED to provide much more convenient ways for utility operators to access exams and allow our utility operators to save time and the additional

expenses of having to travel to the limited testing locations that were offered under the previous paper exam process. Our Association also believes that the ability for utility operators in rural areas of New Mexico to access testing centers that are near their communities is critical for supporting our rural utility operators and the communities that they serve. Additionally, the proposed fees will also make it more convenient for individuals that are considering a career in the utility operations field to access exams in order to obtain their first-time certifications.

Thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any additional support from our Association.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Armando Cordero". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Armando Cordero, President  
New Mexico Water & Wastewater Association