

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

IN THE MATTER OF:

LIS: 20- 137

**Outbreak of Novel Coronavirus
(COVID-19) of 2020**

DATE: March 17, 2020

EMERGENCY ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

The Director of the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality¹ (DEQ) has determined that emergency conditions exist as a result of the outbreak of novel coronavirus COVID-19 and its impacts on the licensing programs administered by DEQ's regulatory programs: Office of Water Quality, Office of Air Quality, and Office of Land Resources.

Therefore, pursuant to authority provided by Ark. Code Ann. §§ 8-1-202(b)(2)(C) and 8-4-220, the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act as set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-101 *et seq.* and the rules promulgated thereunder; the Director makes the following Findings of Fact and orders the following remedial actions to be taken to remedy the emergency conditions.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. DEQ administers licensing programs in each of its regulatory programs: Office of Water Quality, Office of Air Quality, and Office of Land Resources. Licensing of environmental professionals is necessary to safeguard the public health and protect the environment.
2. Each DEQ licensing program requires the respective licensees to obtain professional development hours and pay the required licensing fee in order to renew their respective licenses. Many, if not all, training opportunities, including short courses, OSHA HAZWOPER refresher courses, and conferences, have been cancelled due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
3. It is in the interest of public health, safety and welfare, and the protection of the environment that licensees have an extended time to renew their respective licenses in

¹ Pursuant to Act 910 of 2019, the Arkansas Transformation and Efficiencies Act, the former Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality is not the Division of Environmental Quality in the newly created Department of Energy and Environment.

order to ensure that these qualified licensed individuals will be able to continue to provide services to their respective employers in the DEQ-regulated community.

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

The Director, on March 20, 2020, orders the following actions be taken:

1. Licensees shall submit their respective license renewal applications and the required license renewal fees within the time required by the respective DEQ-administered license program requirements.
2. For DEQ-administered licensing programs with licenses that expire on or before July 1, 2020, DEQ shall provide an additional six (6) months for Licensees to obtain the necessary professional development hours required to renew their respective licenses. Licensees shall submit documentation of completed professional development hours within ten (10) days of completion.
3. Licenses that fail to submit the proper renewal application, license renewal fee, and documentation of completed professional development hours within the time period set forth in Paragraphs 1 and 2 above, will not be renewed.

Questions or concerns may be directed to DEQ by calling (501) 682-0620.

This Order is effective immediately upon the signature of the Director and shall remain in effect for one (1) year.

DATED THIS 20th DAY of MARCH, 2020



Becky Keogh, DEQ Director