



NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality (Commission) is considering the amendment of its "Regulations for the Certification of Municipal and Domestic Wastewater Facility Operators," 11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, Ch. 3. The Commission now seeks public comment on the proposed regulation amendments and announces a public hearing regarding the proposed amendments.

I. Notice of Public Hearing.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed amendments on Tuesday, November 3, at 10:00 a.m. in MDEQ's Commission Hearing Room at 515 East Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. The public is invited to attend and present verbal or written comments on the proposed regulations.

II. Substance of the Proposed Regulations.

The proposed regulation amendments clarify and condense the existing text of the regulations, strike text no longer pertinent to the certification program, and correct minor formatting, grammatical, and terminological consistency issues.

The proposed amendments add a definition for "Operator of Record" and include language clarifying the classification of wastewater facilities, required operator experience for certification, options for substitution of education for experience, facility visitation requirements, certification renewal requirements, and approval of continuing education hours.

The proposed amendments further alter the required years of experience and education to qualify for operator licensure; provide an additional pathway for operators to achieve certification at one level higher than the level of the facility at which they have experience; add a "senior status" option for collections licensure; reduce from both references to only one the requirement that the professional references for Class III or IV licensure be licensed at the level being sought by the applicant; add a clause providing an option for operators to request a temporary suspension of their license under extraordinary circumstances; and add a clause providing a pathway for operators whose facility classification increases to continue operating the facility until they are able to achieve the appropriate classification.

III. Manner by which the Public May Comment.

The public may comment on these proposed amendments to the regulation by submitting such comments in writing to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Attention Payden Donahoe, North Regional Office, 8 County Road 413, Oxford, MS 38655. To be considered by the Commission, written comments must be delivered to MDEQ by 5:00 p.m. on November 2, 2026. Members of the public may also present verbal or written comments at the public hearing. A copy of the proposed amendments to the regulations may be reviewed on MDEQ's website at <https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Proposed-Wastewater-Regulations.pdf> or may be requested from Payden Donahoe, by telephone at (662) 816-7809, or by e-mail at pdonahoe@mdeq.ms.gov.

IV. Additional Information.

For additional information, please contact Payden Donahoe, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, at (662) 816-7809, or by e-mail at pdonahoe@mdeq.ms.gov.