On January 10, 2008, The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality ("Department") filed a Petition to Amend Regulation No. 32 (Environmental Professional Certification) (hereafter "Petition"). The Petition has been designated as Docket No. 08-001-R.

The Commission's Regulations Committee met on January 25, 2008 to review the Petition. Having considered the Petition, the Regulations Committee recommends the Commission institute a rulemaking proceeding to consider amending Regulation No. 23.

1. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality ("Department") shall file an original and two (2) copies and a computer disk in Microsoft Word of all materials required under this Minute Order.

2. Persons submitting written public comments shall submit their written comments to the Department. Within ten (10) business days following the adoption or denial of the proposed rule, the Department shall deliver the originals of all comments to the Commission Secretary.

3. A public hearing shall be conducted on March 3, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Room at the Department’s offices at 5301 Northshore Drive North Little Rock.

4. The period for receiving all written comments shall conclude ten (10) business days after the date of the public hearing pursuant to Regulation No. 8, Part 3, Section 3.2.3, unless an extension of time is granted.

5. The Department has filed a Statement of Basis and Purpose as required by Regulation No. 8, Part 3, Section 3.6.2(1), (2) and (3) as a component of this proposed rulemaking.
6. The Department shall file, not later than April 11, 2008, a proposed Minute Order deciding this matter.

7. The Department shall seek review of the proposed rule from the Joint Interim Committee on Public Health and Welfare and/or from the Joint Interim Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations.

8. The Regulations Committee will consider this matter at its April 2008 meeting. Members of the Regulations Committee may ask questions of the Department and any person that made oral or written comments. The Regulations Committee will make a recommendation to the Commission.

9. At its regularly scheduled April 2008 meeting, the presentation of oral statements and legal arguments shall be regulated as follows:

   a. The Chair of the Commission will permit members of the public to make a statement to the Commission. No more than three (3) minutes will be allowed for each statement. The period for statements will close at the end of one (1) hour, or sooner if all interested persons have completed their statements. The Chair in his discretion, may extend the one (1) hour public comment period.
b. At the discretion of the Chair, an attorney representing one or more individuals, a corporation or other legal entity may be permitted five (5) minutes in which to address the Commission.

c. Department legal counsel or other designated Department employee will be permitted ten (10) minutes in which to address the Commission.

d. At the conclusion of all comments, the Chairman will call on each Commissioner for the purpose of asking the attorneys or persons sponsoring comments who are present, any questions they may have. Attorneys will not be permitted to respond or ask follow-up questions of any person questioned by a Commissioner.

After each Commissioner has had an opportunity to ask questions, the Chair will entertain a motion on the matter, allow discussion, and call for a vote of the Commission members.

10. The Commission finds the proposed regulation is exempt from Act 143 of 2007 (formerly Executive Order 05-04) because the proposed rule is federally mandated or it codifies existing state or federal law.
The Commission accepts the recommendation of the Regulations Committee and initiates the rulemaking proceeding in Docket No. 08-001-R effective January 25, 2008. The Commission adopts, without modification, the procedural schedule set forth above.

COMMISSIONERS:

_______ L. Bengal
_______ S. Henderson
_______ D. Hendrix
_______ C. McGrew
_______ D. Samples
_______ T. Schueck
_______ L. Sickel
_______ J. Simpson
_______ W. Thompson
_______ E. Valdez
_______ B. White
_______ R. Young

_______ SUBMITTED BY:  J.R. Benefield  DATE PASSED:  1/25/2008

T. Schueck,
Chairman