

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED REGULATION

The Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission will hold a public hearing in Little Rock, May 10, 2006, to receive comments on a proposed Commission Regulation No. 32, Environmental Professional Certification. The hearing will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) Building D Training Room, 8101 Interstate Highway 30.

Commission authority to adopt Regulation No. 32 is found in Arkansas Code Annotated; Section 8-7-1310 (b) et seq.

Proposed Regulation No. 32 would be a new regulation designed to establish a certification program for environmental professionals who perform assessments, act as consultants, or engage in investigations and response actions under various environmental programs administered by the Commission and the ADEQ. The purpose of the regulation is to implement the provisions of Act 2141 of the 2005 Arkansas General Assembly.

Within six months after adoption of the proposed Regulation No. 32, all persons who are required to obtain certification under the provisions of Act 2141 must submit an application to the ADEQ for certification in order to provide the regulated services in Arkansas.

Some activities are exempt from the certification process, and there are provisions in the regulation dealing with associates, apprentices, assistants, or subcontractors working for a certified environmental professional. The specifics of the proposed new program are listed in the text of the proposed new Regulation No. 32.

Copies of the proposed Regulation No. 32 are available for public inspection at ADEQ's Little Rock office, or at ADEQ's information depositories located in public libraries at Arkadelphia, Batesville, Blytheville, Camden, Clinton, Crossett, El Dorado, Fayetteville, Forrest City, Fort Smith, Harrison, Helena, Hope, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, Little Rock, Magnolia, Mena, Monticello, Mountain Home, Pocahontas, Russellville, Searcy, Stuttgart, Texarkana, and West Memphis; in campus libraries at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and the University of Central Arkansas at Conway; and in the Arkansas State Library, located on the State Capitol grounds at Little Rock.

Oral and written comments will be accepted at the hearing, but for the accuracy of the record, written comments are preferred. In addition, written and e-mail comments will be accepted if submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. May 24, 2006. Written comments should be sent to: Kelly Robinson, Public Outreach and Assistance Division, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, P. O. Box 8913, Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-8913. E-mail comments should be sent to: reg-comment@adeq.state.ar.us

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