

## SOLID WASTE LICENSING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES August 3, 2023

A regular meeting of the Solid Waste Licensing Committee was held on Thursday, August 3rd, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. in the Boston Mountains Conference room of the Arkansas Department of Environment and Energy Headquarters at 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The meeting was called to order by Randy Harper, Chairman. Members present in person: Jennifer Parslow, Randy Harper, Billy Sawyer, Tony Lee, Shane Ellis, Wendy Bland and Joe Hopper. Members absent were Jodi Reynolds-Coffelt (who assigned her proxy to a guest, Hank Williams Jr.) and Jeff Barfield (who assigned his proxy to member Billy Sawyer). Guests to the meeting were Carolyn Pollard, Susan Speake, Jarrod Zwiefel, and Heath Cobb, representing DEQ and Alan Spangler, representing the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy.

Joe Hopper made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Billy Sawyer seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Jennifer Parslow gave the DEQ report: Follow up item from the last meeting. Yes, a member can return to the committee after sitting out one term.

There are 767 active operators expiring on December 31st, 2024. 27 phone exams have been given to date. 20 provisional licenses are active. An update on ePortal exam applications and the various marketing efforts to get the word out about ePortal for credit card transactions only was given. The ability to select an update class has been eliminated from ePortal, since there is no exam for those classes, and AETA removed marketing message promoting ePortal when a student enrolls in an update class.

Disclosures are required for all applications. The license is for the individual, not the entity, as it travels with the licensee regardless of their employer. Rule 8.204 excludes Solid Waste License renewals but not new operator applications.

The superform on ePortal combines the application and disclosure on one form. Paper applications will require a paper disclosure.

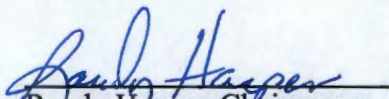
Reciprocity: Act 457 is in effect. Rule 27 is very comprehensive, so the only change is that if a state does not license operators and they come to work in Arkansas, Act 457 allows them to be licensed if they have three years of experience in solid waste and can pass the Arkansas exam, they can come in at any level, that they pass the exam for.

There was a discussion about class sizes compared to the previous four years and the shift in enrollment due to retention issues, renewable apprentice licenses and the transition from fiscal year to calendar year.

Alan Spangler gave the Academy report: 442 students in 2023 compared to 573 in 2022. Apprentice 85 years to date compared to 82 in 2022. Journeyman 22 so far this year compared to 47 in 2022. Master 7 year to date compared to 11 for the same time frame in 2022. Update classes have had 313 students compared to 416 in 2022.

The committee discussed the next meeting date of November 9th, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at DEQ. The 2024 meeting dates were set as February 15<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, and November 21<sup>st</sup>.

With no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting.

  
Randy Harper, Chairperson