

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY ORDER

Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated sections 8-4-101 et seq., 8-1-202 (b)(2)(c), and 8-4-220, the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has issued Emergency Order, LIS# 20-162, in connection with the outbreak of novel coronavirus COVID-19 in Arkansas 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. Licensing of environmental professionals is necessary to safeguard the public health and protect the environment.

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.

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 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.

The emergency order directs the following actions be taken: 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. For DEQ-administered licensing programs with licenses that expire on July 2, 2020, through December 31, 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. Licensees that fail to submit the proper renewal application, license renewal fee, and documentation of completed professional development hours within the time period set forth above, may not be renewed.

Emergency Order LIS# 20-162 expires in one (1) year.

A copy of the full text of the order is available at DEQ's website:

<https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/> or by contacting Jake Harper at the DEQ, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118; telephone, 501-683-6977; E-mail, Harper@adeq.state.ar.us.

Dated this 24th day of July, 2020,
Becky W. Keogh, Director,
Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment
Division of Environmental Quality