



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 26, 2020

**Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Meeting  
Remote Participation and Public Involvement Opportunities**

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic facing our state and nation, a state of emergency has been declared for the State of Arkansas. During this critical time, the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (E&E) and the Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (Commission) are taking precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Commission meeting agenda, including links to various documents associated with agenda items, has been made available online at: <https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/commission/agenda.aspx> for the public to view in advance of the meeting. To facilitate remote participation, persons wishing to make a public comment are encouraged to send their comments prior to the meeting to [comment@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:comment@adeq.state.ar.us). Public comments received before 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2020, will be provided to the Commission prior to the meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2020.

The Commission meeting will be broadcasted for viewing by the public on Arkansas PBS at: <https://www.myarkansaspbs.org/arcan/home>, as well as the E&E YouTube channel. If you are unable to access the meeting via television or web, then please contact [EComms@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:EComms@adeq.state.ar.us) to obtain instructions for how to listen via telephone.

For participants who would like to attend the meeting in person, please contact [EComms@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:EComms@adeq.state.ar.us) to allow on-site staff to appropriately and safely plan for visitors. E&E and the Commission will ensure that all directives issued by the Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), in consultation with the Governor, will be followed to keep COVID-19 controlled and residents and visitors in Arkansas safe. For those attending in person, those directives are:

- Commissioners and approved staff will be screened and authorized prior to entry to the headquarters.
- Because of social distance directives and space limitations, public attendance in the Commission Room may be limited at any one time to fifteen members of the public or fewer for the purposes of public comment.
- In order to adhere to the space limitations, members of the public wishing to make comment during the public comment time in person will be admitted on a first-come basis. Individuals shall be required to register and be screened upon their arrival to E&E headquarters, provide a cell phone number and other contact information, and wait in their vehicles until called



upon to enter the building. Individuals providing comment will be asked to leave the Commission Room through a separate exit door once they have presented their comment to allow others waiting in person to present comments. They will be provided information on how to listen or view the Commission meeting in its entirety through remote technology.

- Entering and exiting E&E headquarters will be monitored by staff. Entry will be via the main entrance and exiting will be via a separate exit clearly marked.
- Seating in the Commission Room shall be arranged in order to maintain a six-foot distance between members of the public and the Commission.
- Face coverings will be required for all persons who enter E&E headquarters and the Commission Room, except for children under ten years of age who are exempt.
- Prior to entering E&E headquarters and the Commission Room individuals will be required to use the hand sanitizer stations.
- Signage will be posted at the entrance of E&E headquarters advising the public not to enter if they have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, or if they have had known exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past fourteen days. Screening will be required prior to authorization for entry.
- Signage will be posted at all entrances advising the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if they are 65 years of age or older, they have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma, or weakened immunity.

These provisions are subject to change and will be based on ADH's directives in force at the date of the scheduled meeting.

**CONTACT:** [EE-Press@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:EE-Press@adeq.state.ar.us)

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