

# OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2024

## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

### OPERATOR RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT SURVEY

We are **preparing to launch a statewide outreach campaign** to advertise the Operator Career field. In order to get the campaign right, we need to ask you a few questions. *There will be a survey for Operators and another for Utility Managers.* **The survey invitations will be emailed by the end of September to the addresses we have on file.**

### CHECK YOUR JUNK EMAIL FOLDERS

Please **allow emails from [ademopcert@adem.alabama.gov](mailto:ademopcert@adem.alabama.gov)** so they don't go to your junk mail folder. We had 212 "undeliverable" emails for the first newsletter. It was down to 128 "undeliverable" for the second newsletter. Let's keep that number trending lower!

### YOU MAY GET A PHONE CALL

A very important step in moving to OpCert Online is to make sure we have correct contact information. **You** (operators, admin staff, utility managers, etc.) **may get a phone call from our office asking for confirmation of contact information.** (For example, phone numbers, home address, email addresses, utility name, etc.)

### WATER OPERATOR GRADE II COURSE OVER 50% COMPLETE

**Thank you** to Operator **Brian Cheatwood** with the City of Tuscaloosa. With his expertise, the ACCS team were able to complete a second day of filming for the Water II Course. We have heard from the development team that **the video footage looks great (!!)** and the project is moving to the design team to create the interactive online component. **For more information on Skills for Success**, go to [www.trainforalabama.com](http://www.trainforalabama.com).

### FAREWELL TO LAURA!

Join us as we say farewell to Laura Taylor who retired from ADEM on September 1, 2024.

## Meet the Staff

### Danielle Manscill

Hello, I'm Danielle Manscill, and I've worked for ADEM for a little over two years.

Before coming to ADEM I worked as a Vet Tech for four years.

I graduated from AUM where I studied Microbiology. (Spirochetes are my favorite bacteria to watch in a microscope.)

I cover the northern part of Alabama (Jefferson County and up). I have been able to meet many operators during my time with ADEM and I look forward to meeting more.

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## ASSOCIATION UPDATES

### ARWA (ALABAMA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION)

09/24- Fort Payne	Cyber Security / PFAS Regulations / Emergency Response
09/25- Florence	Lead & Copper, PFAS, Cybersecurity, Basic Laboratory Test Equipment, SDWA
09/26- Fayette	Cyber Security / PFAS Regulations / Emergency Response
10/21- Online	Grade II-IV Wastewater Operator Certification Training
10/23- Ozark	Cyber Security / PFAS Regulations / Emergency Response
10/24- Andalusia	Lead & Copper, PFAS, Cybersecurity, Basic Laboratory Test Equipment, SDWA
11/05- Online	Grade I/II Water Operator Certification Training

More information at <https://training.alruralwater.com>

### AWEA (ALABAMA'S WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION)

Exciting news from AWEA. Do you need continuing education hours?

AWEA will be hosting an operator workshop in Bessemer on November 19th and operators will have the chance to receive 6+ CEH's.

Also, beginning in January 2025, AWEA will begin teaching classes for trainees who are wanting to take one of the Wastewater Certification Exams.

For more information, please contact Jeremy Creel @ [creelj@jccal.org](mailto:creelj@jccal.org)

### AWPCA (ALABAMA WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ASSOCIATION)

Bobby Rowland will be the new primary ADEM representative to the AWPCA Board.

October 14-17, 8a-4p, Water & Wastewater Certification Training at Hartselle Utilities. Free to AWPCA members (\$40 non-members)

Additional training information is available at [www.awpca.net/training](http://www.awpca.net/training)

Free EPA Training – October 3, 2024

Training on how to use the Equitable Resilience Builder (ERB) Tool

[ToolsTrainingWebinar\\_Flyer\\_ERB.pdf](https://www.govdelivery.com/ToolsTrainingWebinar_Flyer_ERB.pdf)

