

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATE

DECEMBER 2024

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

WE HEAR YOU!

Thank you so very much to every one of the **247 operators and 73 managers** who completed our **Recruiting and Retention surveys**. Preliminary review makes it clear that you would like the community to know your career exists and that you'd like better access to exam prep. **Look at page two for two new** examples of the partnerships we are harnessing to improve **exam preparation opportunities**.

WATER GRADE II – AVAILABLE VERY SOON!

The **FREE** Skills for Success course will be *for any new water operator or anyone who might want to become a water operator*. It's meant to represent *skills you'd learn in your first 30 days of employment*. (Launch date not available at time of publication.) For more information go to www.trainforalabama.com.

EXAM SCHEDULING

Once you are registered for an exam prep course, please use ADEM's Operator Certification Program Form 505 to schedule your exam. There is a \$325 fee which covers the cost of the exam. We encourage you to have your exam scheduled for a date very near the date of the end of the course.

For example, if you register for a course that starts on January 2 and ends on April 2, send your Form 505 and fee to ADEM's OpCert program the week of January 2, after you have attended the first class. Once you receive confirmation from our test provider, PSI, schedule your exam for some time in the week of April 2. We have heard from our operators and trainers that the longer you wait to take your exam after the end of the class, the less likely you are to perform your best.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Once you have passed your exam and completed the required hours, please use [ADEM's Operator Certification Program Form 506](#) to apply for your certification. There is a \$125 Certification fee. Allow at least 30 days from the time you mail the application.

Meet the Staff

Shane Brown

Shane has been with the State of Alabama for 27 years. He received a B.S. in Biology-Environmental Science degree from Auburn University. Shane has been married for 30 years, and has 4 adult children. His family has been members of Heritage Baptist Church in Prattville, Alabama for 32 years, where Shane has served as a Deacon, Usher, Sunday School teacher, and AWANA Youth leader.

He started his career with the State as a Game Warden with the Department of Conservation Game and Fish Division, after completing the Police Academy. At ADEM, he worked in the Water Division Municipal Section with permitting, compliance, and enforcement of WWTP's. He also worked in the Field Operations Division in the Non-Point Source Section and CAFO Programs, regulating farming operations and water quality certifications.

The majority of Shane's time at ADEM has been in the Operator Certification Program, where he has met and worked with many operators over the years.

Prior to ADEM, Shane served 8 years in the US ARMY, and is a Desert Storm Veteran.

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NEW!! EXAM PREP COURSES – WASTEWATER III & IV

You have asked for exam prep courses.

We've heard you.

Here are two brand new opportunities.

Please spread the word.

SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (TUSCALOOSA)

Starts February 2025, On-site and On-line, 60 hours

This course is designed using the Sacramento State Office of Water Programs (OWP) and Water Environment Federation (WEF) training manuals as reference materials.

Course fee and dates were not available at time of publication.

Instructor: Tim Adams, P.E.

Contact: Lisa McKnight (lmcknight@sheltonstate.edu)

<https://www.sheltonstate.edu/instruction-workforce-development/work-force-development/wastewater-plant-operator-certification/>

AWEA (ALABAMA'S WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION)

January 15 – April 16, 2025, 60 hours, in person only at Cahaba River WRF, Hoover, AL

Wednesdays, 9am – 3 pm, \$250 (includes study materials and 1 year state membership in AWEA)

Instructor: Jeremy Creel (creelj@jccal.org)

Contact: Jeremy Creel or Wes Cardwell (rwcadwell@garverusa.com)

[Link to Flyer](#)

CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS - 2025

ARWA (ALABAMA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION)

Start Date	Course Title	City	CEH Hrs Avail	CEH Type
12/17/2024	LCI's are submitted. Now What? Cybersecurity, PFAS, Operator Safety, Jar and TSS testing	Lineville	7	Water
12/18/2024	Cybersecurity and Emergency Response	Livingston	7	Water/Wastewater
12/18/2024	LCI's are submitted. Now What? Cybersecurity, PFAS, Operator Safety, Jar and TSS testing	Talladega	7	Water
12/19/2024	LCI's are submitted. Now What? Cybersecurity, PFAS, Operator Safety, Jar and TSS testing	Glencoe	7	Water
2/4/2025	How Activated Sludge Affects Settleability, Collection System Evaluation, SCADA Systems	Birmingham	7	Wastewater

AWEA (ALABAMA'S WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION)

January 17	Operator Workshop	Birmingham	
February 7-8	Utility Management & Technical Symposium	Orange Beach	Perdido Beach Resort
February 26	Operations and Maintenance Training*	Athens	Athens Utilities Leak City Training Center
March 13	Operator Workshop	Birmingham	
April 6-9	AL/MS Joint Conference	Mobile	The Battle House Renaissance Mobile

*Pre-registration required

PARTNER NEWS

Water Professionals International (WPI) is developing a Water/Wastewater Industry Trainer Certification. As part of their initiative, they are conducting a survey. Click this link ([WPI Industry Trainer Job Analysis](#)) to participate. The survey closes at the end of the year.

