

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATE

DECEMBER 2025

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

OPCERT ONLINE **TENTATIVE** 2026 ROLL OUT

January 13 and/or 15: Online (virtual) Training for beta-test **Trainers** (by invitation)

February: Training for **Operators whose certificates will expire between February and May 2026 and their Managers and Admin** (by invitation)

March 6-7: Go Live! (tentative)

March 15-18: *ARWA Conference, Montgomery* – ADEM's Beth Bielen will be there to help folks set up their ADEM Web Portal accounts; GannettPeak will be there to train on the OpCert Online software.

April 12-15: *Joint Water Conference, Mobile* - same as above

April: Virtual training begins (3 hour sessions); dates to be determined (TBD).

THE WATER TOWER: FREE WASTEWATER EXAM PREP

The Water Tower in Gwinett County, GA is preparing for their next cohort of EPA Grant Funded Exam Prep training. ADEM would like this opportunity to benefit new wastewater operators at small, rural locations. The course is free, but requires access to a computer with microphone and camera on Tuesdays from 8a-10:30a (central time) starting January 14, 2026. WEF manuals (digital or printed) will be provided and the Alabama exam application fee will be paid after successful completion of the course.

Click [here](#) to register. Maximum class size is 15. Application will close on December 29, 2025, at noon or when we reach 15 applicants, whichever comes first.

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

Water Operator Course: Has been revised and updated. Lab Pilot scheduled for January 2026. Thanks to Virgil White and operators in Mobile for your efforts.

Wastewater Operator Course: Filming is complete. Shout out to Jeremy Creel for hosting the ACCS film crew as they captured Wastewater Treatment operations.

For more information on Skills for Success, go to www.trainforalabama.com.

Almost Time!

To set up your ADEM Web Portal Account

Option 1: You already have a Web Portal account to submit to AEPACS, eDWRS or eMORS.

You're all set!

Option 2: You have your own email, don't have a Web Portal account, and want hands-on assistance.

Attend an in-person training session at the ARWA conference in Montgomery in March, the Joint Water conference in Mobile in April, or a virtual session in the spring (TBD).

Option 3: You have your own email, don't have a Web Portal account, and want to set up an account right away.

Full instructions on how to create an account are here: [AWPUsersGuide.pdf](#)

Passwords expire after 90 days, so I'd recommend waiting until at least February 2026. It's easy to reset the password from the ADEM Web Portal, so if you want to start now, just plan to reset the password before the new OpCert Online system goes live.

For help, email the Web Portal Help Desk: ademwebportal@adem.alabama.gov

Option 4: You do not have your own email.

Get your own email address by March 2026 (!!)

ASSOCIATION UPDATES (CLICK HEADERS BELOW TO GO DIRECTLY TO THEIR WEBSITES)

[ARWA \(ALABAMA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION\)](#)

[AWEA \(ALABAMA'S WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION\)](#)

[AWPCA \(ALABAMA WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ASSOCIATION\)](#)

Find previous updates here: <https://adem.alabama.gov/water/opcert/newsletters>

