

**ARKANSAS POLLUTION CONTROL & ECOLOGY COMMISSION
ECONOMIC IMPACT/ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT ANALYSIS**

Rule Number & Title:

Petitioner: Division of Environmental Quality

Contact Person: Stacie Wassell

Contact Phone: 501-682-0886

Contact Email: stacie.wassell@arkansas.gov

Analysis Prepared by: Stacie Wassell and Basil Hicks

Date Analysis Prepared: February 2026

2A. ECONOMIC IMPACT

1. Who will be affected economically by this proposed rule?

State: a) the specific public and/or private entities affected by this rulemaking, indicating for each category if it is a positive or negative economic effect; and b) provide the estimated number of entities affected by this proposed rule.

- a) Operators of wastewater treatment plants are subject to the rule and are required to pay a \$40 license fee. If an operator elects to test for a higher classification of license, that operator would incur a \$40 examination fee. There are no changes to the existing amount of wastewater license training requirements and that training can be obtained for free.

Entities that own wastewater treatment plants may pay the license fees for the operators they employ and reimburse operators for the examination fee incurred. These entities may also provide training apart from available free training. Entities are not required to cover those fees for their operators.

- b) There are over 3300 licensed operators of wastewater treatment plants. There are approximately 2600 wastewater treatment plants that are required to have a licensed operator.

2. What are the economic effects of the proposed rule?

State: a) the estimated increased or decreased cost for an average facility to implement the proposed rule; and b) the estimated total cost to implement the rule.

- a) An average wastewater treatment plant or operator would incur \$40 examination fee if electing to test for a higher classification with the implementation of this proposed rule.

- b) There is no expected increase or decrease in cost to implement the rule.

3. List any fee changes imposed by this proposal and justification for each.

If an operator elects to test for a higher classification of license, that operator would incur a \$40 examination fee. This fee covers some of the cost for DEQ to administer that test.

4. What is the probable cost to DEQ in manpower and associated resources to implement and enforce this proposed change, and what is the source of revenue supporting this proposed rule?

- a) There is no expected increase or decrease in manpower and associated resources to implement the rule. The implementation of this rule is funded by license and testing fees.

5. Is there a known beneficial or adverse impact to any other relevant state agency to implement or enforce this proposed rule? Is there any other relevant state agency's rule that could adequately address this issue, or is this proposed rulemaking in conflict with or have any nexus to any other relevant state agency's rule? Identify state agency and/or rule.

No. Not applicable.

6. Are there any less costly, non-regulatory, or less intrusive methods that would achieve the same purpose of this proposed rule?

No.

2B. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT

1. What issues affecting the environment are addressed by this proposal?

Wastewater treatment plants are required to have a licensed operator who has the appropriate classification, which is determined based on the treatment components of that wastewater treatment plant.

The licensing program for operators of wastewater treatment plants ensures that the individuals operating wastewater treatment plants have the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure proper operation of those plants for protection of the environment and human health.

2. How does this proposed rule protect, enhance, or restore the natural environment for the well-being of all Arkansans?

Ensuring proper operation of wastewater treatment plants ensures permit compliance that will protect water quality in Arkansas.

3. What detrimental effect will there be to the environment or to the public health and safety if this proposed rule is not implemented?

If wastewater treatment plants are not operated properly, then that could endanger the protection water quality and public health to the streams and rivers receiving the discharge from the wastewater treatment plant.

4. What risks are addressed by the proposal and to what extent are the risks anticipated to be reduced?

This proposed rule provides updates to the licensing program that will ensure that it continues to ensure proper operation of those plants for protection of human health and the environment.