

SOLID WASTE LICENSING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES May 14, 2026

A regular meeting of the Solid Waste Licensing Committee was held on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. in the Boston Mountains conference room of the Arkansas Department of Environment and Energy Headquarters at 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The meeting was called to order by Randy Harper, Chair. Followed by roll call:

Members present (in person): Jennifer Parslow, Randy Harper, Jeff Barfield, John Dyson, Christal Baker, and Joe Hopper

Members absent: Shane Ellis

Visitors present: Alan Spangler and Mason Goheen

Old Business

The minutes for February 12, 2026, were emailed to each member for review. Jeff Barfield made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Joe Hopper seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Departmental Report

Jennifer Parslow presented the DEQ report:

- 855 active operators
- Tests given year to date 2026: 84
- (With 93% pass rate)
- 19 active Provisional licenses
- **SEEK Update:**

Changes to the solid waste program were discussed.

- All solid waste licensing exam applications must be submitted through the SEEK system.
- The license holder's or applicant's signature is required for every application. If you select a hard copy signature, you may not sit for the exam until the hard copy signature is received.

- All exams will be conducted in person, and photo identification will be requested before exams are conducted.
- Exam applications and payments must be received five days prior to the scheduled exam or re-test date. Operators will not be allowed to sit for the exam if a complete application has not been received five days prior to the scheduled exam or re-test date.
- If an exam is failed, the applicant may re-test in a minimum of two weeks with the resubmission of their completed application and a new exam fee.
- Operators cannot sit for the exam unless they are eligible to receive the license at the time of the exam. Operators are required to be licensed at each level of licensure for one year and have completed one year of experience in solid waste operations before moving to the next level of licensure.
- Operators will print their own cards and certificates from the SEEK system; the license effective date will now show on cards and certificates.
- Operators will now upload their own continuing education credits in the SEEK system.
- The opportunity for license renewal opens on August 1 of every even-numbered year.
- New questions were added to the application form relating to employment history and veteran status to comply with Arkansas law.

The committee members expressed strong concern about requiring landfill license holders to maintain their own licenses through SEEK. Committee members specifically noted that some of these workers have limited literacy and technology skills. They were concerned about how rural facilities will be able to access SEEK. They expressed clear dissatisfaction with proceeding in a way that effectively transferred this responsibility without meaningful input from the committee. Committee members also noted that not allowing people to test prior to their anniversary date puts a burden on the facility, and they predicted an increase in provisional license requests.

Academy Report

Randy Harper announced the Academy will be getting a new website with increased functionality, hopefully up and running by July. The AETA Advisory Board meeting will be held in July in Little Rock.

Alan Spangler presented the AETA report for the first quarter of 2026, comparing the data to the same time frame in 2025.

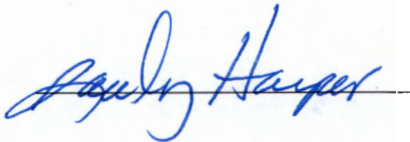
- SW Apprentice – 36 in 2026, a decrease from 45 in 2025
- SW Journeyman – 8 in 2026, a decrease from 17 in 2025
- SW Master – 3 in 2026, a decrease from 8 in 2025
- Update classes – 134 in 2026, a decrease from 141 in 2025.
- Total for first quarter: 26 classes:199 operators for 2026 vs 212 operators for 2025

Alan announced a new curriculum for the Apprentice level, and each course level is provided with a course completion certificate. Alan has created a 42-slide presentation that walks users through completing a SEEK application; it has been added to all course curricula.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

August 13, 2026, and November 12, 2026

With no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting.



Randy Harper, Chairperson