



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Crumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

March 27, 2020

Dear Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Water Supply Program oversees the Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators for certification and training to operate all public water and wastewater systems for compliance and to protect public health. Upon completion of the requirements outlined in COMAR 26.06.01, individuals receive a certificate from MDE to operate a works with the appropriate treatment classification. As public health risks associated with COVID-19 have resulted in social distancing recommendations and the Governor's Executive Order 20-03-19-01, dated March 19, 2020, which prohibits gatherings of 10 or more people, the Water Supply Program has cancelled all of its training related classes until further notice.

However, water and wastewater operators and superintendents are an integral part of the water utility workforce, and their certifications are of paramount importance to compliance. Therefore, MDE, in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order To Extend Certain Licenses and Other Governmental Authorizations, dated March 12, 2020, is administratively extending operators' certificates by 30 days until after the state of emergency is terminated and the catastrophic health emergency is rescinded. This action will allow individuals with certificates due for renewal, who cannot take the required exam or training at this time, to continue performing their duties with a valid certificate pursuant to COMAR 26.06.01.08.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during these challenging times. Please contact the Water Supply Program if you have any questions at water.supply@maryland.gov.