



ANDY BESHEAR  
GOVERNOR

REBECCA W. GOODMAN  
SECRETARY

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET  
DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: DEP Staff, for dissemination

FROM: Rebecca Goodman, Secretary, Energy and Environment Cabinet *RWG*

DATE: March 26, 2020

Re: COVID-19, State of Emergency  
Waste Water Operators Certification

As a result of the current COVID19 emergency and pursuant to the authority delegated to me pursuant to KRS Chapter 39A and the Governor's Executive Orders, having been duly advised by the staff of DEP, I am implementing the following provisions in order to accommodate life sustaining services during the emergency.

- The DEP shall temporarily waive the normal approval process as described in 401 KAR 5:010 for wastewater treatment plants and in 401 KAR 8:030 for drinking water plants for emergency staffing situations that are the result of COVID-19 illness, quarantine or social distancing. In lieu of that, the Department shall require a notice to implement and a request for technical assistance be sent to the Kentucky Division of Water (DOW) when an emergent situation arises. Following the notification and request for technical assistance to DOW, the facility may temporarily implement an alternate staffing plan. The DOW will follow-up with the facility to help identify needed resources and staffing to ensure safety of human health and the environment. This provision shall remain in place until the State of Emergency is lifted. Alternate staffing needs that are not related to the State of Emergency should go through the normal approval process.
- The DEP shall waive late fees on drinking water renewals that are due on June 30, 2020. Late fees will be waived through Aug, 31, 2020 to allow operators to get the needed continuing education credits needed to renew licenses. DEP will extend this provision through the end of the calendar year if necessary. While those licenses will technically expire, DOW is aware of the wavier and will take that into consideration for all inspections and alternate staffing plans.

Sincerely,

Rebecca W. Goodman  
Secretary