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Director



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

North Carolina Drinking, Wastewater, and Animal Waste Operators: Important Information Regarding Renewal Fees and Continuing Education Hours Due to Hurricane Helene

Raleigh, NC — 11/05/24 — The North Carolina Operator Certification Program recognizes the unprecedented challenges faced by drinking, wastewater, and animal waste operators in the wake of **Hurricane Helene**. To support these dedicated professionals as they work to recover and continue providing essential services to communities, the Operator Certification Program has made the following important announcements regarding **annual renewal fees** and **continuing education** requirements:

1. Annual Renewal Fees: Extended Deadline

Operators who have been impacted by Hurricane Helene will not be penalized for late submission of their **annual renewal fees**. Renewal fees submitted on or before **June 1, 2025**, will be considered on time and no late fees will be imposed, allowing operators to focus on recovery without the added pressure of missing renewal deadlines.

2. Continuing Education Hours: Recovery Time Counts

For those affected by the hurricane, the Operator Certification Program is offering flexibility regarding **continuing education** hours required for the 2024 reporting period. Operators can count the **time spent recovering from the disaster** as part of their Continuing Education hours for the 2024 cycle. This means that the hours spent assisting with recovery efforts, addressing operational challenges, and ensuring public safety during this critical time can be applied to the required educational hours.

These measures are part of the Program's ongoing efforts to ease the burdens on operators who are essential to the resilience and safety of North Carolina's water systems and environment. Operator Certification remains committed to supporting operators during this recovery phase and ensuring that communities continue to receive safe, clean water services.

For additional information or to submit renewal fees and Continuing Education documentation, operators should visit the **North Carolina Operator Certification program renewal website**, located at www.deq.nc.gov/renew.



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Water Resources
512 North Salisbury Street | 1617 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1617
919.707.9000