

## Drinking Water Operator Licensing Information

The Delaware State of Emergency (SEO) will end on July 13, 2021. Operators were notified on April 1, 2020 that their license expiration could be extended until 60 days after the SEO was rescinded. The extension was contingent on the operator applying for license renewal as normal. All operator license extensions will end on September 11, 2021.

Following is the text published on April 1, 2020 in the ODW Blast:

*The Office of Drinking Water has been contacted by a number of licensed water operators who are concerned that the Governor's declared State of Emergency and direction to avoid public gatherings may make it difficult to meet the continuing education requirements for their license renewal.*

*We understand and want to assure you that the health and safety of our licensees, your families, and our community will always be the Office of Drinking Water's primary concern. We know your personal and professional lives have been impacted by this situation and we applaud the efforts you are making in drinking water for the good of all Delawareans. To address continuing education concerns, and allow our licensees to focus on the health and safety of themselves and their families, the Office of Drinking Water will be implementing the following policy regarding upcoming license renewals that have been impacted by the declared State of Emergency:*

*For operators whose license expires while the COVID-19 State of Emergency is in effect, and/or who are consequently limited in their ability to obtain the required number of Educational Contact Hours (ECHs) for license renewal, we encourage these operators to utilize online training to meet the ECH requirements. However, for operators who have difficulty obtaining the required number of ECHs for renewal due to the State of Emergency Declaration, active operator status will be extended for the remainder of the State of Emergency and for sixty days after it has been rescinded. License expiration dates and the subsequent one-year grace period will not change.*

*These operators should apply for renewal as normal for their expiration date, submitting any ECHs obtained by that point. Please indicate with your renewal application that you are unable to obtain the required number of ECHs due to the State of Emergency and we will acknowledge receipt of your application in writing, which can be used as a notice of extension of active operator status. The Office of Drinking Water will hold these applications until the sixty-day deadline, during which time these operators should obtain and submit the required remaining ECHs to the Office of Drinking Water. Operators who do not submit the required number of ECHs by the sixty-day deadline will lose their active operator status until the required number of ECHs is submitted during the remainder of their grace period.*

*The above scenario will also apply to operators whose license expired prior to the declared State of Emergency, but are still within their one-year grace period. That is, the one-year grace*

*period will be extended through the State of Emergency and sixty days after it is rescinded. However, active operator status is not extended for these individuals.*

*Any questions on the above should be directed to Keith Mensch, Program Administrator, Office of Drinking Water- 302-741-8630.*