



# OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATES

**Chad Hardy**

Division of Water Resource Management  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

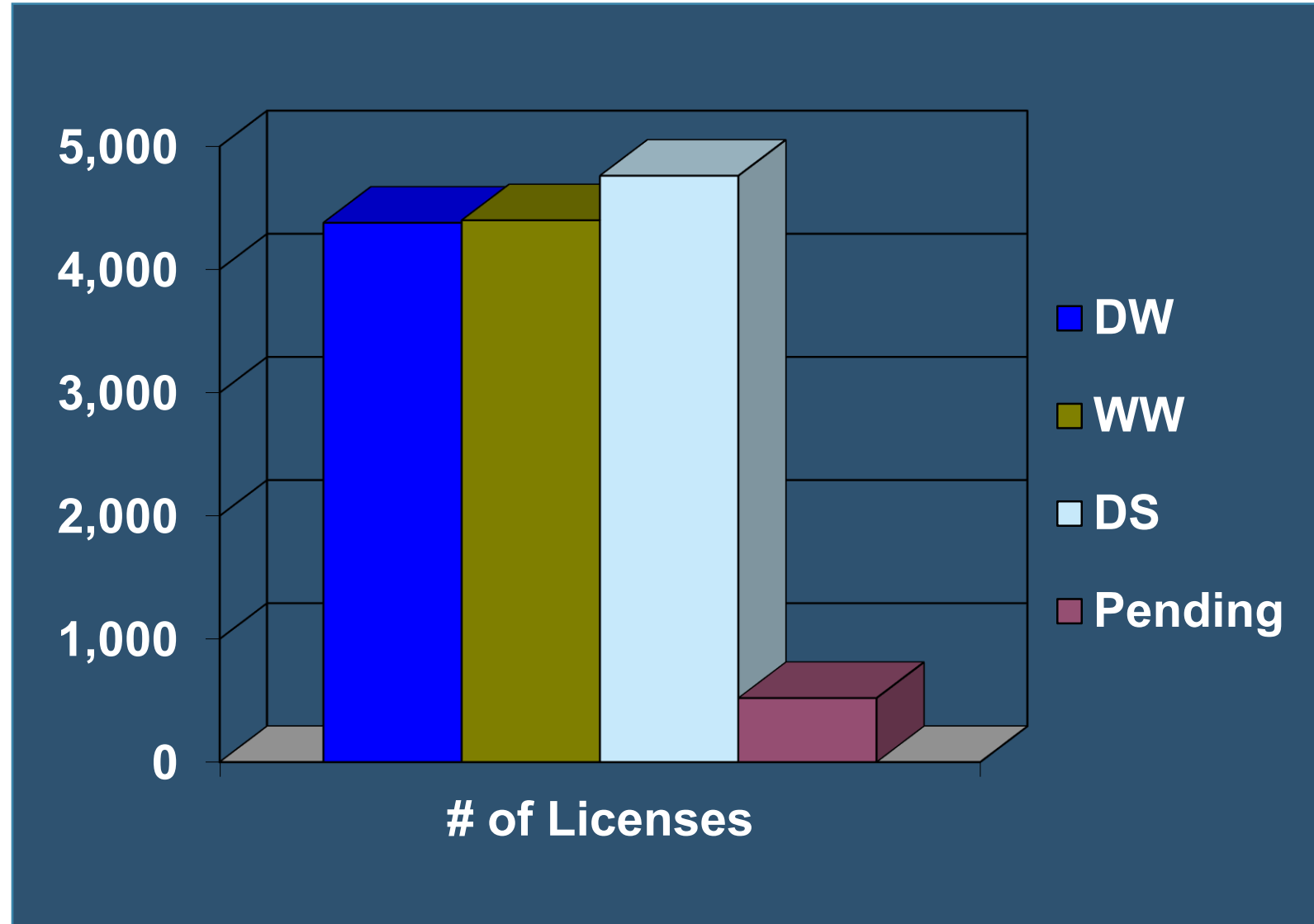
Focus on Change | 2026





# LICENSE NUMBERS (ACTIVE)

- 4,380 drinking water treatment plant operators.
- 4,400 wastewater treatment plant operators.
- 4,762 water distribution system operators.
- **Total: 13,542 operators.**
- 520 awaiting licensure.





# PASS PERCENTAGES

## Overall Exam Pass % January– December 2025

Drinking Water		Wastewater		Distribution
45%	A	35%	1	54%
60%	B	42%	2	55%
55%	C	53%	3	70%
50%	D	50%	4	N/A



# 2025 TOP EXAM PERFORMERS

## DRINKING WATER

<b>DWA</b>	Joseph Frankel – 92%
<b>DWB</b>	Joseph McDonald – 94%
<b>DWC</b>	Ryan Ashurst – 98%
<b>DWD</b>	James Schirard – 92%

## DISTRIBUTION

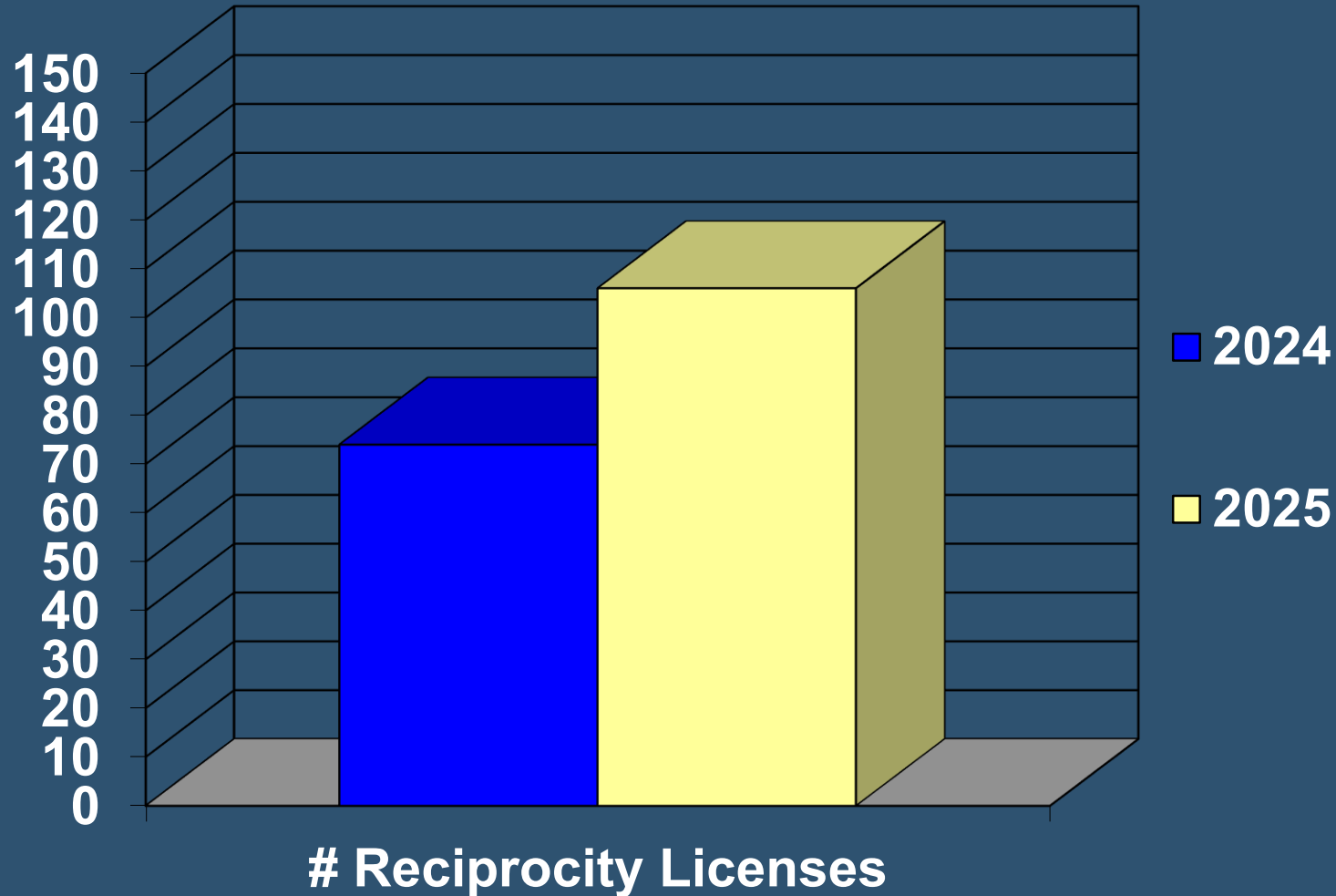
<b>DS1</b>	Theodor Sines – 98%
<b>DS2</b>	Anthony Cosme – 94%
<b>DS3</b>	Christoper Barrett – 100%
<b>DS4</b>	N/A

## WASTEWATER

<b>WWA</b>	Nathan Fist – 90% Andrew Hartley – 90%
<b>WWB</b>	Christopher Degale – 93%
<b>WWC</b>	Luis Alamilla – 95% Quest Carter – 95%
<b>WWD</b>	Kyle Matta – 82%



# RECIPROCITY



- Reciprocity licenses issued.
  - 2024 = 74.
  - 2025 = 116.
  - Total Issued = 190.
  - Total Military Issued = 19.



# RECENT UPDATES

- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) paperless initiative is moving forward.
  - Electronic issued licenses in effect since January 2025.
- A new look to PSI's candidate scheduling for exams on the website, but it's the same process.
- California State University at Sacramento (CSUS) created a Volume III of the Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants.
  - This volume is divided into two DEP approved enrollments (enrollments A and B).
  - Volume III has replaced the Advance Treatment enrollment. Applicants will only be required to complete Volume III to be eligible for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Class B state exam.
  - This applies **only** to CSUS, not to any current approved coursework through other providers.



# RECENT UPDATES

- As of Oct. 1, 2024, the Operator Certification Program (OCP) oversees some Onsite Sewage Program (OSP) functions.
- OCP will administer the exams for Registered Septic Tank Contractor and the Accelerated Certification Training (ACT) I, II and III.
- OCP will issue certifications to Registered Septic Tank Contractors.
- OCP will issue business authorizations to qualifying companies.





# **RULE CHANGES**

**Operator Certification Program Updates**





# RULE CHANGES

- On Nov. 6, 2025, OCP adopted changes to Chapter 62-602, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C).
- Why were changes made?
  - Senate Bill (SB) 162 was implemented July 1, 2023.
- OCP and associations worked together to write the rule for reciprocity to meet the SB 162 requirements.
- OCP opened multiple rules to make changes and update language.



# RULE CHANGES (2)

- Rule 62-602.200, F.A.C. – Definitions.
  - Added:
    - Advanced Treatment Water Facility.
    - Potable Reuse.
    - Reciprocity.
    - Ward of the State.
  - Edited:
    - Approved County Health Department.
    - Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant.
    - Experience.



# RULE CHANGES (3)

- Rule 62-602.230, F.A.C. – Approval of Residence or Correspondence Courses.
  - Incorporated Water, Wastewater and Distribution Operator Knowledge Base Manual, DEP Form 62-602.230.
- Rule 62-602.250, F.A.C. – Criteria for Determining Eligible Experience.
  - Added paragraph explaining experience for advanced treatment water facilities.
- Rule 62-602.300, F.A.C. – Qualifications for Operator Licensure.
  - Deleted out-of-date language pertaining to distribution systems operators from 2007.





# RULE CHANGES (4)

- Rule 62-602.360, F.A.C. – Licensing Requirements for Reciprocity.
  - Out-of-state, territory or tribal government reciprocity.
    - Incorporated the Application for Reciprocity, DEP Form 62-602.360(1).
    - Outlined requirements to be eligible for reciprocity.
  - Military reciprocity.
    - Outlines which military occupation specialty (MOS) qualifies for reciprocity and what documents are required to be submitted.
    - Gives guidance to military personnel whose MOS does not qualify for reciprocity but can receive operational experience towards a Florida operators license.



# RULE CHANGES (5)

- Temporary licensing during a declared state of emergency.
  - Gives an overview of the temporary licensing.
    - What licenses will be issued.
    - What work can be performed.
    - When the license expires.
    - How utilities will report these operators to DEP.



# RULE CHANGES (6)

- Rule 62-602.410, F.A.C. – Applications for Examination.
  - Incorporates the applications for examination for water, wastewater and distribution systems applicants.
- Rule 62-602.420, F.A.C. – Applications for License.
  - Incorporates the applications for license for water, wastewater and distribution systems applicants.
- Rule 62-602.600, F.A.C. – Fees for Operator Examinations and Licensure.
  - Adds application and license fees for reciprocity applicants totaling \$100.
- Rule 62-602.650, F.A.C. – Duties of Operators.
  - Updated rule reference number.





# **BUSINESS PORTAL**

**Operator Certification Program Updates**



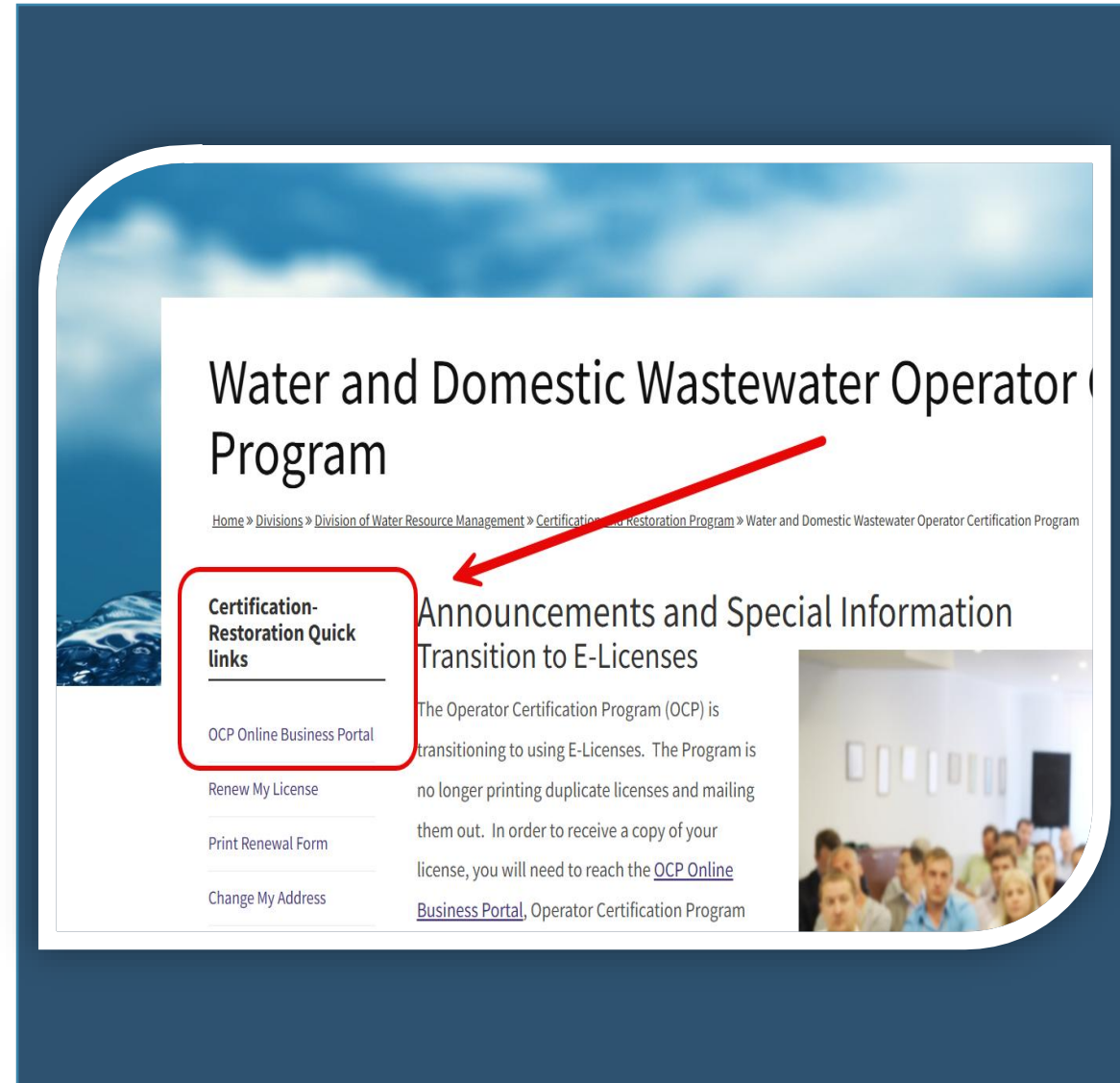


# DEP BUSINESS PORTAL

- What is the DEP Business Portal?
  - A tool for operators to submit requests directly to OCP.
- Where can I find it?
  - [www.FloridaDEP.gov/OCP](http://www.FloridaDEP.gov/OCP)
  - Quick links, first option.
- Logging in.
  - Username and password you created.

OR

  - Register for an account.





# DEP BUSINESS PORTAL (2)



About DEP How Do I ▾ Divisions ▾ Air Lands Parks & Rec Waste Water

ESSA

Enterprise Solutions

Welcome, Chad Hardy [ Sign Out ]

Your Session will time out in **057** minutes.

Introduction

Submission Type

Profile Information

Home

Process

Help

About

## Introduction

**Warning:** This process requires payment. Per FDEP policy: FDEP employees are not permitted to complete payments for this flow in ESSA. Employees will not be permitted to complete an application submission as payment must be received in order to process this application.

You are processing : Operator Certification Program Activity

Which is defined as : Locate/View Profile, Change Address, Name Change, Exam Request, License Request, Renewal Notices, License Renewal, Payment History

Florida Statute or Rule : [62-602 F.A.C.](#)

Application Friendly Name : \*

This system allows you to start a submission, exit at any time, and return to complete it later. Please enter a "Friendly Name" for your submission so your saved information can be recalled. When you return to the portal, choose "Continue", then "An Incomplete Self Service Authorization" and the name you selected will be displayed along with any other submissions you have in process.

An example would be "My OCP License Request."

You can't use this system if you don't have an existing profile.


If you have already started an application, and would like to continue, [CLICK HERE](#).

Save and Go to Next Step





# DEP BUSINESS PORTAL (3)



About DEPHow Do I ▾Divisions ▾AirLandsParks & RecWasteWater

ESSA  
Enterprise Solutions

Welcome, Chad Hardy [ Sign Out ]

Introduction ✓

**Submission Type**

Profile Information ?

Home

Process

**Submission Type**

Please choose the type of submission that best describes your need. To reprint a receipt, please select the "View Payment History or Print Receipt" option below. You can't use this system if you don't have an existing profile.

Request Type : \*

**Profile**

☐ Find my Profile Number

☐ View Profile

☐ Change My Address/Name

**Exam**

☐ Submit New Exam Application

☐ Submit Retake Exam Application

**License**

☐ Submit License Application

☐ Request a copy of my License

**Renewal**

☐ Receive copy of Renewal Notice

☐ Renew License

**To view payment history, please select the option below**

☐ View Payment History or Print Receipt

Save and Go to Next Step



# DEP BUSINESS PORTAL (4)

The screenshot shows the ESSA (Enterprise Solutions) interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the DEP logo, "About DEP", "How Do I", "Divisions", and links for "Air", "Lands", "Parks & Rec", "Waste", and "Water". On the right, it says "ESSA Enterprise Solutions" and "Welcome, Chad Hardy [ Sign Out ]". A session timeout notice "Your Session will time out in 060 minutes." is in the top right. Below the navigation bar, there's a "Home" link and a "Process" tab. The "Process" tab is active, showing a "Profile Information" section. The instructions state: "Please locate your profile by entering your DEP-issued Profile Number (do NOT enter the FL at the beginning of your Profile Number) and the last four digits of your Social Security Number. Searches must be exact." There are two input fields: "Profile Number (e.g. 0012345) : \*" and "Last 4 digits of your SSN : \*". At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Go Back to Previous Step" and "Search and Continue".

Home

Process

Help About

**Profile Information**

Please locate your profile by entering your DEP-issued Profile Number (do NOT enter the FL at the beginning of your Profile Number) and the last four digits of your Social Security Number. Searches must be exact.

Profile Number (e.g. 0012345) : \*

Last 4 digits of your SSN : \*

Go Back to Previous Step Search and Continue

- Profile number is not your license number.
- If you need your profile number, go back to the menu option to find your profile number.



# DEP BUSINESS PORTAL (5)

- After your request has been completed and submitted:
  - A confirmation email will be sent to the submitter who was logged in at the time of submission.
  - A notification of request will be sent to OCP.
- Allow OCP staff 5-10 business days to process your request.
- Depending on the request, you may receive material through the mail.
  - Make sure your mailing address is up-to-date.



# DEP BUSINESS PORTAL (6)

State of Florida  
Department of Environmental Protection

**ISSUED:** 02/12/2025

**LICENSE NO.:** 0028219

**BENJAMIN ROSS PORTNEY**

IS LICENSED UNDER PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 403, FLORIDA STATUTES  
AS A CLASS B WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR.

**VALID UNTIL:** 04/30/2027



Ron DeSantis  
GOVERNOR

Alexis A. Lambert  
SECRETARY

**DISPLAY IS REQUIRED BY LAW**





# DEP BUSINESS PORTAL (7)

[About DEP](#)[How Do I ▾](#)[Divisions ▾](#)[Air](#)[Lands](#)[Parks & Rec](#)[Waste](#)[Water](#)[OCP](#)

*Division of Water Resource Management*

[Help ↗](#)[Individual License Search](#)[Current List of Licenses](#)

## Individual License Search

To View CEU's CLICK on LICENSE NUMBER.

Name	License Type/Class	License Number	Status	Original Issue Date	Effective Date	Expiration Date
PORTNEY, BENJAMIN ROSS	WWB	<a href="#">0028219</a>	ACTIVE	04-MAR-22	12-FEB-25	30-APR-27



# DEP BUSINESS PORTAL (8)

[About DEP](#)[How Do I](#) ▾[Divisions](#) ▾[Air](#)[Lands](#)[Parks & Rec](#)[Waste](#)[Water](#)**OCP***Division of Water Resource Management*[Help](#) ↗

## CEU Information

\*Disclaimer: CEUs are electronically uploaded to the DEP directly from each CEU Provider on a monthly basis. If you do not see where credit for a course has been awarded to you, you will need to contact your CEU provider directly for resolution.

NOTE: If you completed a correspondence course through one of the following, you are responsible for providing the DEP with a copy of your certificate of completion. The below entities do not upload CEUs directly to DEP.

- 1) California State University, Sacramento (CSUS)
- 2) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- 3) Michigan State University
- 4) Indiana State University
- 5) Various DEP localized training

CEU Info for License Number **0028219** for License Cycle **2027**.

Click [here](#) for historical data.

No CEU's for current license cycle.

Course Number	Course Title	Course Date	Number of CEU's	License Cycle
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# RECAP

Operator Certification Program Updates





# RECAP

- DEP's paperless initiative is moving forward.
  - Electronic licensing, processing applications, quicker turnarounds.
- Applicants mailing in paper applications should be using the up-to-date application.
  - Provide proper mailing address and email address.
  - PSI requires an active email address.
- OCP providing more services to OSP.
- CSUS Volume III has replaced Advanced Waste Treatment.
- Chapter 62-602, F.A.C., rule changes effective Nov. 6, 2025.





# QUESTIONS?

Operator Certification Program Updates





# THANK YOU

**Chad Hardy, Environmental Administrator**  
Operator Certification Program  
Division of Water Resource Management  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Contact Information:  
850-245-7500  
[Operator.Certification@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Operator.Certification@FloridaDEP.gov)