

## **DRAFT - Advisory Board Member Code of Professional Conduct**

- I. Purpose of the Utility Operator Certification Advisory Board
  - a. Pursuant to Section 61-33-4 (C) Utility Operators Certification Advisory Board (Board) functions with the Water Quality Control Commission to establish qualifications of operators, classify public water supply systems and public wastewater facilities, adopt rules and advise the New Mexico Environment Department on the administration of the Utility Operators Certification Act.
- II. Professional Competence/conduct
  - a. Board members shall protect the health, safety and welfare of the public in the performance of their professional duties.
- III. Confidentiality
  - a. Board members shall maintain confidentiality only for topics discussed in accordance with Section 10-15-1(H) of the New Mexico Open Meetings act. All other discussions must be open to the public.
- IV. Fiduciary
  - a. Board members shall act in the best interest of the fiduciary needs of the Utility Operator Certification program.
- V. Compliance with Laws
  - a. Board members shall adhere to all relevant laws and regulations.
- VI. Objectivity/unbiased
  - a. Board members shall submit objective and truthful information in all reports, statements and testimony as required by state and federal law.
- VII. Act in Best Interest of Utility Operators Certification Program
  - a. Board members shall act honestly, responsibly, ethically and lawfully in a manner that enhances the reputation of the profession.
- VIII. Ethical Standards
  - a. Board members shall not falsify any academic or professional qualifications nor misrepresent qualifications to the WQCC, NMED or any member of the public.
- IX. Communication and Transparency
  - a. Openness and willingness to share information both positive and negative with all relevant parties.
- X. Conflict of Interest
  - a. Board members shall avoid any conflict of interest that could influence their professional judgement and promptly report any such conflict of interest to the Board President, Water Quality Control Commission or the New Mexico Environment Department as appropriate
- XI. Discrimination
  - a. Shall not treat people differently based on race, gender, religion or disability.
- XII. Discussion for Future Employment
  - a. Shall not use their position to influence decisions regarding employment with NMED.
- XIII. Penalties for Non-Compliance
  - a. All board members are charged with understanding this code of professional conduct and are expected to be familiar with the provisions of these rules and the Utility Operator Certification Regulations.
  - b. All board members are charged with reporting to the WQCC or the NMED any conduct that violates this code of conduct.
  - c. Failure to follow the code shall be considered gross incompetence by the WQCC.
  - d. WQCC shall seek the advisement of the Utility Operator Certification Advisory Board prior to removing the board member.