

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS
(AOWB CLOSED; ADPH
CLOSED) 11/28-29/2024

DECEMBER HOLIDAYS
(AOWB CLOSED; ADPH
CLOSED) 12/25/2024

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Volume I

Issue III – OCTOBER 2024

The **SCOOP** FROM AOWB
NEWS YOU CAN USE!



Located at:

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Montgomery, AL 36104

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**REMINDER – AOWB NO LONGER HAS A FAX MACHINE;
CALL THE OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE WITH EMAIL**

A WORD FROM MELISSA:

Greetings to all Licensees! It's hard to believe that October is here. In less than 3 months, 2025 will be here! Renewal season is right around the corner. Please be on the lookout for EMAILS every Friday – regarding bonds, renewal status...etc. If you aren't on the website roster, you should call the office as soon as possible.

NEW DATABASE SYSTEM! PROD IS LIVE! Prod is the new licensing database that we have been with OIT to develop for the last year. The system is working great, with a lot of automated and security features. With the system being live, anything that is changed on your file is changed immediately. The website roster is also updated as soon as your license is issued, or phone numbers are changed etc. Be sure to check your email! Renewal reminders and bond reminders are emailed out each Friday. Birthday emails are sent the day of your birthday. We are still working out a few bugs, but the system is a huge improvement to what we had before!

CALLING ALL PUMPERS!!! (FOR THOSE THAT MISSED THIS)

NEWS JUST IN FROM ADPH!!!

Licensees,

The Alabama Department of Public Health is in the process of revising the Rules for Septage Management, Chapter 420-3-6; specifically, 420-3-6.23 Sewage Tank Pumping Permit. The current rules do not require a county health department to honor a pumping permit that has been issued by another county health department. This means that many of you may be issued a pumping permit in every county you operate in.

The proposed rules will require that a pumper obtain a permit in the county in which their sewage tank pumper facility (base) is located. Consequently, that permit will be honored in each county that you operate in. The only instance where multiple permits may be issued is if your company operates pumper facilities in multiple counties.

THE NEW PUMPER REVISED RULE FROM ADPH WENT INTO EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2024.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES FOR 2024! REMEMBER TO GET CEU'S BY 12/31!

AOWA CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES FOR 2024 – CALL 334-396-3434 TO REGISTER

December 5, 2024 - Homebuilders Association of Alabama; Montgomery, AL

UWA CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES FOR 2024 – CALL 205-652-3803 TO REGISTER

December 5, 2024 – UWA; Livingston AL

I look forward to seeing you all at an upcoming class near you! **(WITH MAGNETS AND PUMPER BIBLES WRITTEN BY NONE OTHER THAN DOUG McATEE of PUMPER NATION!**

In Closing, as always, if there is any way me or my staff can assist you with anything, please feel free to call anytime. You can always email me as well.

melissa.hines@aowb.alabama.gov enjoy the rest of the articles!

HANNAH'S HINTS!!

BOND CONTINUATIONS

Every year at some point, everyone's bond will expire. Here are a few tips to make sure you can avoid any hassle.

1. Check the expiration date on your bond frequently or make a note of when it will expire. Be aware, as soon as your bond expires, your license is no longer active until we received a bond continuation.
2. With the new database PROD, it has been programmed to send out weekly email reminders every Friday to let you know your bond is about to expire in the next 30 days. It will continue to send you this email until your continuation certificate is received by the Board. This could be very beneficial to most of you so please, **check your emails!**
3. When sending in a bond continuation, the AOWB will not accept any proof of payment such as a receipt. We must have a "continuation certificate" from the insurance company. This continuation certificate will include: Your bond number, bond amount, effective date and expiration.
4. Your insurance company might tell you they will send a copy of your continuation to us, err on the side of caution, this is not always the case, so please ensure your agent or you send the continuation certificate to us. You can mail it to us or email it to me! My email address is at the bottom.
5. Please be aware, the AOWB will not accept any bond that is in your company's name. It must be in yours, the individuals name who holds the license with the AOWB.
6. Finally, your bond **MUST** be signed. If your continuation has a "principal" line at the bottom, please be sure to sign it! Some continuations have a signature line, others may not. Without a signed bond, it will not be effective.

HANNAH.HOLLON@AOWB.ALABAMA.GOV



FROM THE DESK OF JOEL BARNES

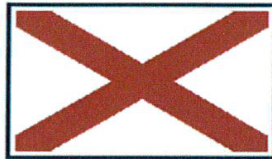
Hello licensees, from the AOWB Compliance Division. We have a lot of new licensees, and we are getting more with each testing class, so I thought I would explain what I do if a complaint is filed against you. Complaints come mainly from three different groups: health department environmentalists, consumers, and other licensees. At times, it may be that an environmentalist learned of an install but did not get a phone call beforehand, or a system went in, but the CEP-5 forms did not get turned in. You must be sure to make your phone calls and turn in your CEP-5's. Other times, I get a complaint from a consumer, and the first thing I do is talk to the person filing the complaint to get all the details. Who is the complaint against? What is the problem? When did it occur? Where did it occur? What needs to be done to make things right? Next, I usually call the health department to check permits, CEP-5 forms, CEP-6 forms (for engineered systems), any other documents that they have on file that may help us come to a resolution to the problem, and to see if they need to be part of a site visit with myself, the consumer, and the licensee. Of course, I also get in touch with the licensee to hear his/her side of the story. The licensee is not always at fault. Sometimes, the issue may be homeowner abuse of the system or negligence of maintenance. Other times, a licensee may have observed an unlicensed individual installing or pumping. In that case, first, we want the unlicensed individual to shut down operation, next, we want to bring them into compliance by getting them licensed if possible. If it is determined that the licensee is at fault, we want to try to resolve the problem as quickly as possible. We will generally give the licensee the opportunity to fix the problem. It could be something as simple as, a load of dirt is needed for the leach field, or some settling has occurred around a new tank after a heavy rainfall and the homeowner would like some dirt and some dressing up there. It may be something more serious and sometimes, discipline may be handed down by the Board. The bottom line is that we want to get any issues resolved so that the LHD officials and the consumers are satisfied, and you keep a good reputation in the community. Doing that will make all our lives a little easier and our industry looks better as a whole. As always, be safe out there.

TIDBITS ROM TRACY!

TIDBITS FROM TRACY:

I have lived in Alabama my entire life, and I will have to admit that I did not know about some of these facts!
HOW MANY DO YOU KNOW?

Alabama: Facts & Stats



Facts

Also Known As	Yellowhammer State
Capital	Montgomery
Population	(2022 est.) 5,074,296
Date Of Admission	December 14, 1819
State Nickname	Cotton State • Yellowhammer State
State Motto	"We Dare Defend Our Rights"
State Bird	Yellowhammer • wild turkey ¹
State Flower	Camellia • oak-leaf hydrangea ²
State Soil	Bama Soil [<i>Adopted as State Soil in 1997</i>]
State Horse	Racking Horse [<i>Adopted as State Horse in 1975</i>]
State Nut	Pecan
State Vegetable	Sweet Potato
State Dessert	Lane Cake
State Fruit	Blackberry
State Fruit Tree	Peach Tree
State Mineral	Hematite
State Insect	Monarch Butterfly
State Mammal	Black Bear
State Song	"Alabama"
Total Area (Sq Km)	135,767
Total Area (Sq Mi)	52,420

¹The wild turkey is the state gamebird.

²The oak-leaf hydrangea is the state wildflower.

Written and fact checked by The Information Architects of Encyclopedia Britannica

As always, if you have any questions regarding your license, to include updating email addresses, changing phone numbers, etc. Please feel free to email me at tracy.welch@aowb.alabama.gov Stay Safe and Hydrated out there!!!

FAMILY SUCCESSION PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2025

Upon the death of a licensee of the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board, the Board shall allow one family member, to bypass the experience/time requirements and earn the AOWB license level carried by the deceased. This waiver is designed to allow a qualifying family member is required to take AOWB approved training and successfully pass the test for each license level he/she wishes to earn. This Waiver can only be used to bypass time/experience requirements up to the level carried by the deceased. If the “Experience Waiver is used to earn a single license level, both training and successful testing must be completed within 180 days. If multiple license levels need to be earned, the first must be successfully completed in 180 days with all remaining completed within 360 days. Failure to do so in the time allotted will disallow the Qualified Family Members are limited to surviving spouse, parents, children, stepchildren and siblings. Relations by both blood and legal adoption qualify. The qualifying Family member an opportunity to keep the AOWB licensees’ business in continuous operation after his/her death. The qualified family member from using the Waiver. qualifying family member must notify, in writing, the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board within 60 days of the death of the licensee of their intent to use the waiver and all-time requirements begin at the date of the licensees’ death.

NEXT ISSUE OF AOWB NEWS WILL BE IN OCTOBER!