



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

100 N. Senate Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46204
(800) 451-6027 • (317) 232-8603 • Fax (317) 233-6647 • www.idem.IN.gov

Mike Braun
Governor

Clint Woods
Commissioner

To: Katherine Noel
Chair, Indiana State Ethics Commission

William Deane
Ethics Director, Office of the Indiana Inspector General

From: James French
Ethics Officer, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Date: June 12, 2026

Re: Waiver of 42 IAC 1-15-1

FILED

JUN 12 2026

INDIANA STATE
ETHICS COMMISSION

In accordance with 42 IAC 1-5-1(c), as the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM's) Ethics Officer, I am filing this waiver of the application of the Gift Rule based on the following facts.

Jeremy Ferguson is an employee of the State, working in IDEM's Office of Water Quality as a senior environmental manager. The Office of Water Quality handles all regulatory matters pertaining to wastewater and drinking water in the State of Indiana.

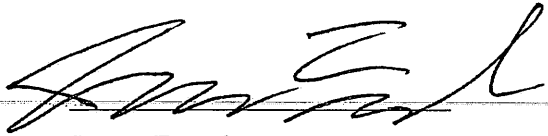
Ferguson has been gifted free registration by the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water (Alliance) to attend the 2026 Southern Operator Expo (Expo), which occurred May 14th, 2026. The address for the Alliance is 555 W. Jefferson Street, Franklin, IN 46131. The Alliance is a non-profit membership association of over 1,000 water and wastewater systems and related professionals within Indiana.

The Expo is a networking and educational event held in Huntingburg. Attendees of the Expo watch live demonstrations, visit with industry exhibitors, and sharpen their skills and credentials with trainings.

Specifically, Ferguson received free registration totaling \$750.00.

Though IDEM does not assert that it has a business relationship with the Alliance, IDEM is nevertheless filing this waiver out of an abundance of caution to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

This waiver of the Gift Rule is consistent with the public interest because the Expo presents the agency with an opportunity to engage and strengthen relationships with members of the regulated community, communicate recent regulatory changes, and discuss areas of IDEM focus for the coming year. This relationship building enhances IDEM's visibility and can lead to improved environmental outcomes.



James French
Ethics Officer
Indiana Department of Environmental Management