



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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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: May 21, 2026

Re: Waiver of 42 IAC 1-15-1

FILED

MAY 21 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.

Martha Clark Mettler and Alexandra Gates are employees of the State, working in IDEM's Office of Water Quality as the Assistant Commissioner of the Office and as Technical Environmental Specialist, respectively. The Office of Water Quality handles all regulatory matters pertaining to wastewater and drinking water in the State of Indiana.

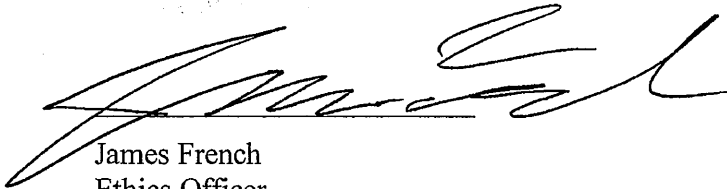
Clark Mettler and Gates have been gifted travel expenses by the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) to attend the 2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop (Workshop), which occurred April 21-23, 2026. The address for the ACWA is 1725 I Street NW, Suite 225, Washington, DC, 20006. The ACWA represents State clean water program concerns, interests, and priorities; facilitates best practices in state water quality programs; and facilitates collaboration between states and the federal government for public policy.

The Workshop is a national meeting organized by ACWA for state staff involved in state water quality standards programs, as well as for both Regional and Headquarters-based U.S. Environmental Protection Agency managers and staff.

Specifically, the employees received travel costs totaling \$1000.00.

Though IDEM does not assert that it has a business relationship with the ACWA, 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 workshop presents the agency with an opportunity to engage and strengthen relationships with other states and the federal government, communicate recent regulatory changes, discuss areas of IDEM focus for the coming year, and collaborate with the regulatory community. This relationship building enhances IDEM's visibility and can lead to improved environmental outcomes. Participation in the event also allows Clark Mettler and Gates to gain firsthand insights into issues impacting water quality both within Indiana and around the country.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James French', written over a horizontal line.

James French
Ethics Officer
Indiana Department of Environmental Management