

Luke Hill

In reference to Rule Project Number 2025-027-030-WS. I would like to go on record saying that I do not believe requiring another 4-hour ethics course for the renewal of a water license will be beneficial. While it may be requested with good intentions, adding more training that does not directly correlate to the water industry will only make it more difficult to find qualified water operators in the State of Texas, a field that is already shorthanded. Being a licensed operator myself for almost 30 years, I have seen a backlash on every level for the newly required "Resiliency Training" that came as the result of the winter storms over the last two years. Having kept a facility running during those storms I see little, if any, real world benefit from the resiliency training. That is the general consensus amongst all operators that I've spoken to. I believe the ethics course will be similar in effectiveness. Ethics are certainly something that an individual should have to receive a water license, but a 4-hour course is not going to instill ethics into an individual that does not already possess them. That needs to be the job of the water system manager(s), and if an employee's lack of ethics leads to an on-job issue, then management should be held accountable.