



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: April 15, 2026

Re: Waiver of 42 IAC 1-15-1

FILED

APR 15 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.

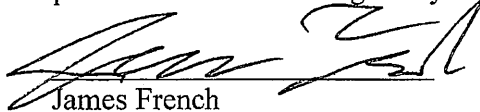
Pretreatment Coordinator Mary Armacost, Field Inspectors Allison Engel, Angie Wickiser, Tom Wiseman, Dustin Hiten, Emma Seyer, and Hannah Stalder; Section Chief Lucio M. Ternieden; Environmental Managers Katya Drake and Chrystal Wagner; and Environmental Engineers Mark Stoddard and Hani Sharaya are employees of the State, working in IDEM's Office of Water Quality (OWQ) and IDEM's Compliance and Technical Assistance Program (CTAP). IDEM OWQ handles all regulatory matters pertaining to wastewater and drinking water in the state of Indiana. CTAP provides confidential assistance to Indiana businesses to help bring them into compliance with IDEM regulations.

Armacost, Engel, Hiten, Drake, Seyer, Sharaya, Stalder, Stoddard, Ternieden, Wagner, Wickiser, and Wiseman have been gifted free registration by the Indiana Industrial Operators Association, Inc. (IIOA) to attend the 2026 Wastewater Industrial Technical Training Education Conference (the Conference), which occurred April 1-2, 2026. Further, the four CTAP employees' registration included the fee for one exhibitor booth. The address for the Association is 5439 N Acorn Street, Greenfield, IN 46140. The conference delivers technical training directly aligned with IDEM's mission. Sessions such as Sampling Specialist coursework, pretreatment regulatory updates, Clean Water Act permitting, QA/QC program development, and IDEM's own annual update reinforce shared objectives related to environmental compliance, water quality protection, and operator competency. IDEM staff participated by presenting regulatory information, assisting operators and businesses, and staying informed about emerging industry practices. This ongoing collaboration supports consistent interpretation of regulations, improved compliance outcomes, and strengthened relationships between IDEM and regulated entities.

Specifically, the employees received registration for eight (8) attendees, valued approximately \$600, as well as exhibitor registration, inclusive of booth space, for four (4) attendees, valued at \$600. The total value of this gift was approximately \$1200.

Though IDEM does not assert that it has a business relationship with the Association, 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 it allows IDEM staff to meet face-to-face with the regulated community in a shared learning environment that is less formalized than typical interactions would allow. The Conference is one of the most efficient ways to promote CTAP's confidential compliance assistance and ultimately helps bring businesses, especially small businesses, into regulatory compliance. The Conference would also present an educational opportunity for IDEM staff who need to stay up to date on the latest in regulatory rules and regulations pertaining to wastewater and drinking water.



James French
Ethics Officer
Indiana Department of Environmental Management