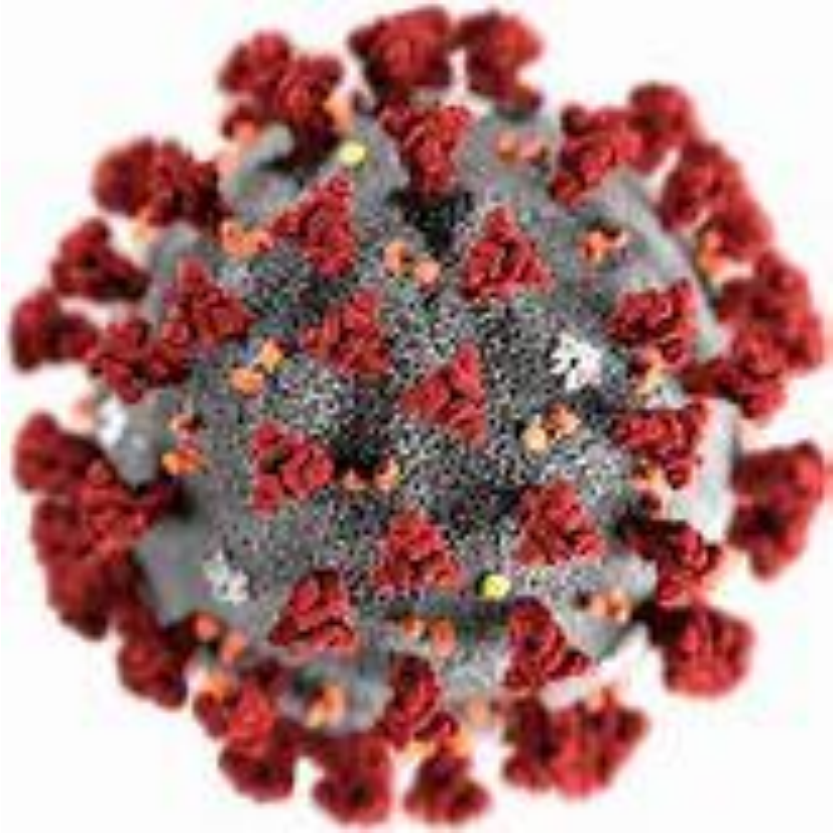
1st Annual Class III/IV Webinar

July 30, 2020

Andrew Barienbrock

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

COVID-19 Pandemic



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COVID -19

- Currently not thought to be a threat of contamination to a water supply
- Bigger concern is workforce issues.
- What does your contingency plan say about absence of an operator?
  - Discuss backing up with neighboring utilities
  - WARN
  - Consider sheltering workers who are not ill at the plant.

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COVID – 19 Resources

- Ohio's website: www.coronavirus.ohio.gov
- Ohio EPA DSW: https://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/covid19
- Ohio EPA DDAGW: https://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/covid19

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

COVID-19

- May and November 2020 exams Canceled.
  - Refunds being issued.
- Exams are still available through Ohio's third-party testing provider the Associations of Boards of Certification.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

COVID -19

- Renewals – Expiration Date is 12/31/2020
- No plans to reduce the number of hours required.
- Ohio EPA is encouraging operators to complete the renewal process on time.
- The major training providers have moved to online or correspondence courses
- Currently working on a way to provide extra time if it is needed. Max 3 months
  - Will need to submit a request to opcert@epa.ohio.gov
    - Name
    - Core ID
    - Reason
- Not finalized yet.

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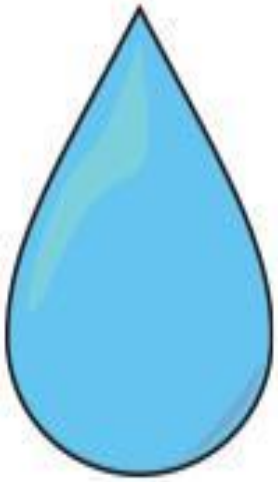

THANKFUL

FOR PROFESSIONALWATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATORS

THE UNSUNG HEROES PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND KEEPING YOUR WATER CLEAN AND SAFE 24/7!

#NOTALLHEROESHAVECAPES

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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Operations, Resiliency, and Certification Section

Andrew Barienbrock	Environmental Manager	
Vacant	Environmental Specialist 3	Developing Inspector Training, District Oversight, Reclassifications, Technical Assistance, Emergency Response and Sanitary Survey Auditing
Carrie Winger	Environmental Specialist 2	Operator of Record notifications, Technical Assistance, Sanitary Survey Auditing
Kevin Swiadek	Environmental Specialist 2	Security, Contingency Planning, Emergency Response Planning, Operator Notifications and Enforcement
Josh Legg	***Environmental Supervisor/Acting Manager SE District DDAGW***	***Operator Certification***
Vanessa Consolo	Environmental Specialist 2	Contact Hours, Advisory Council, eBusiness and application processing
Vacant	Environmental Specialist 2	Contact Hours, eBusiness, ACHTP Program, and application processing
Deidra Davis	Administrative Professional 2	Operator Certification, Exams

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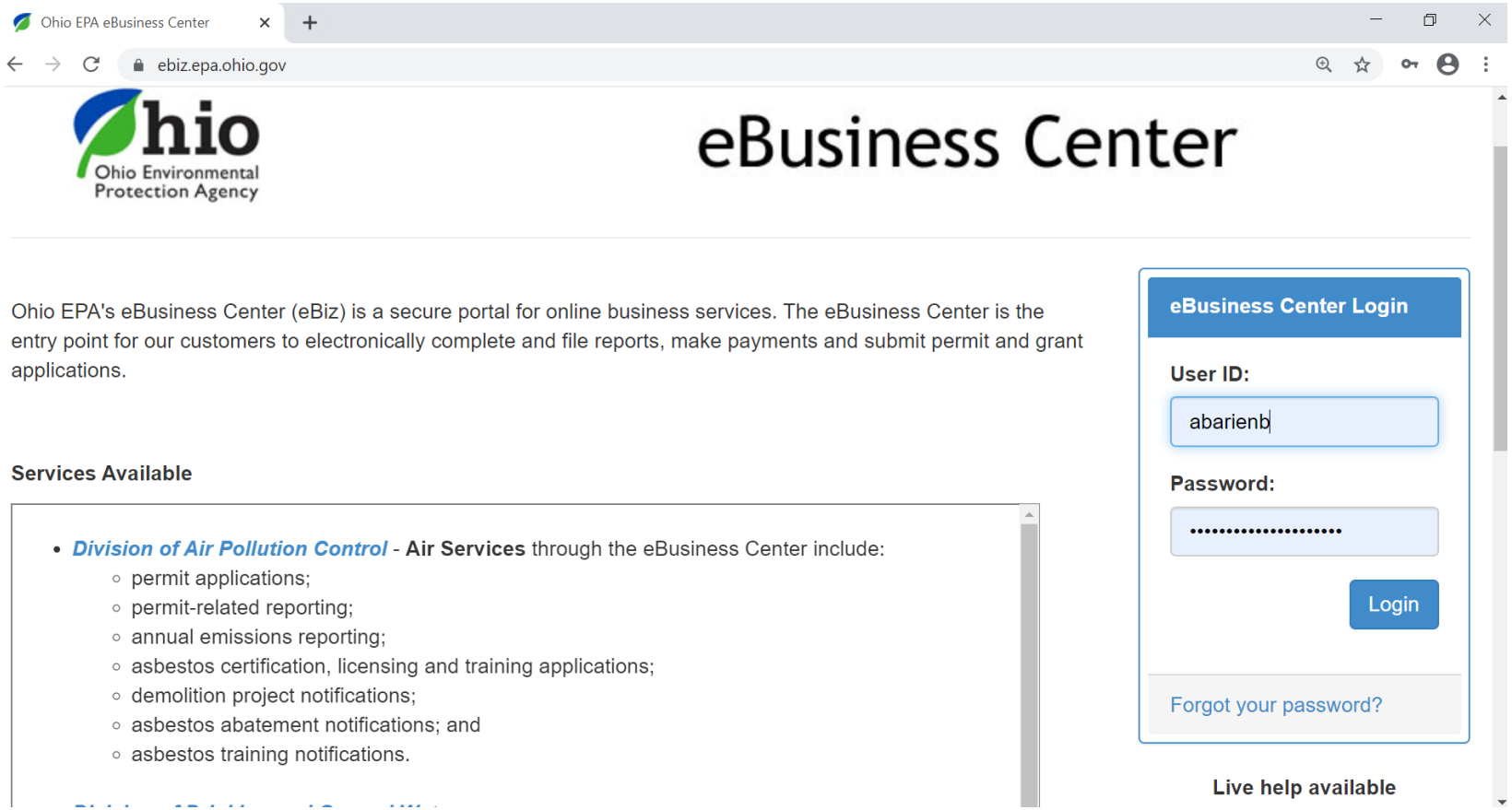
Minimum staffing reporting



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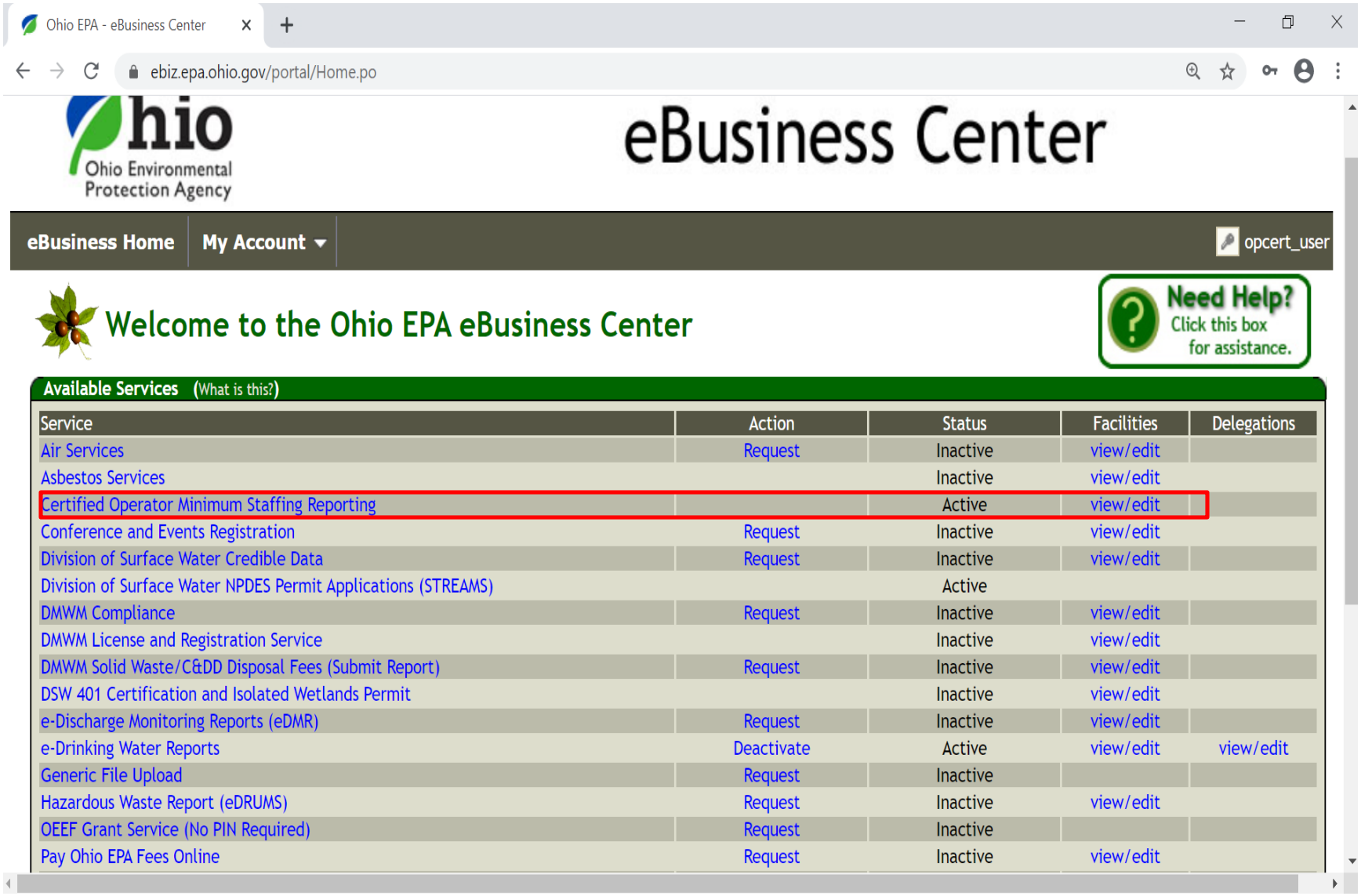

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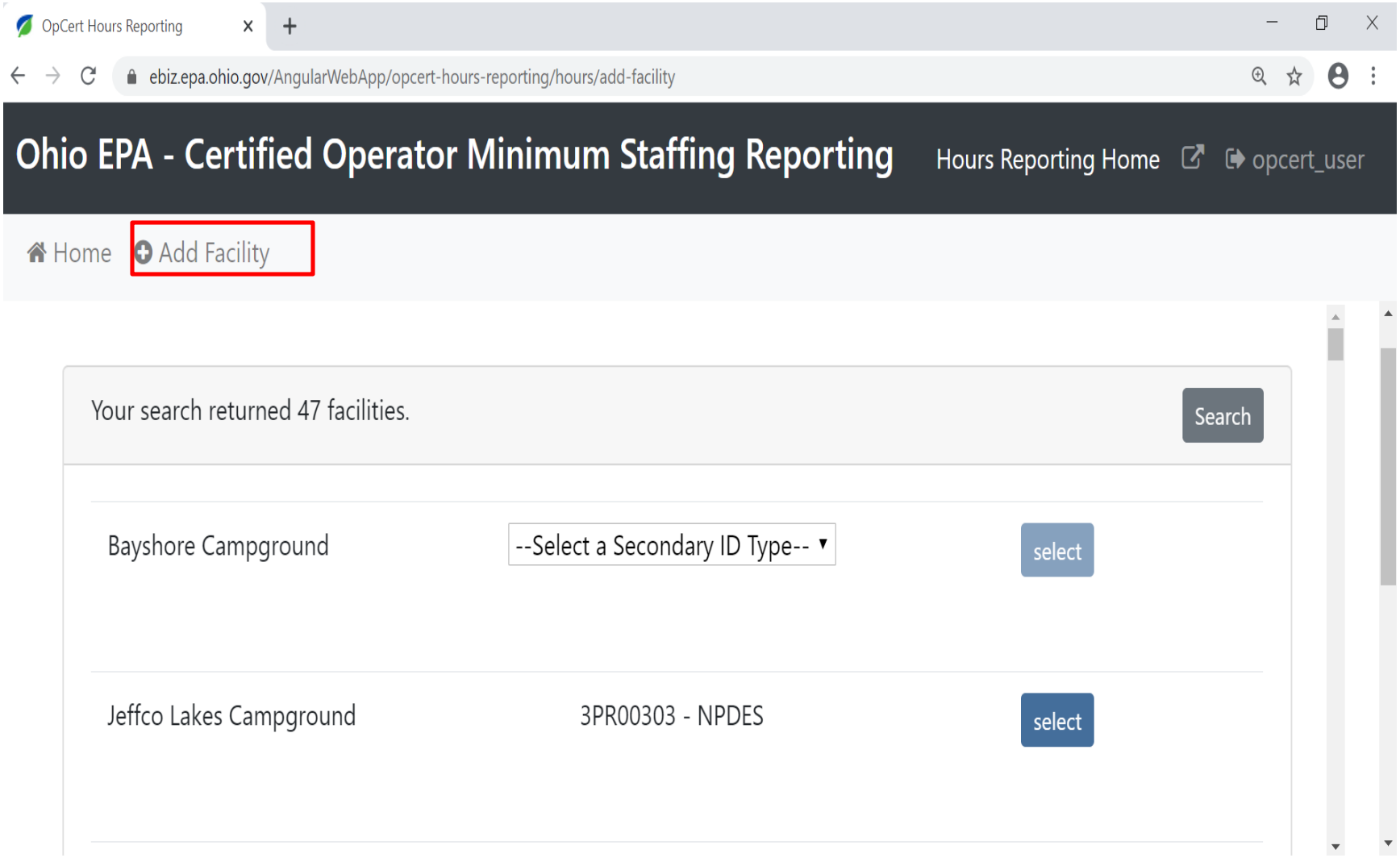

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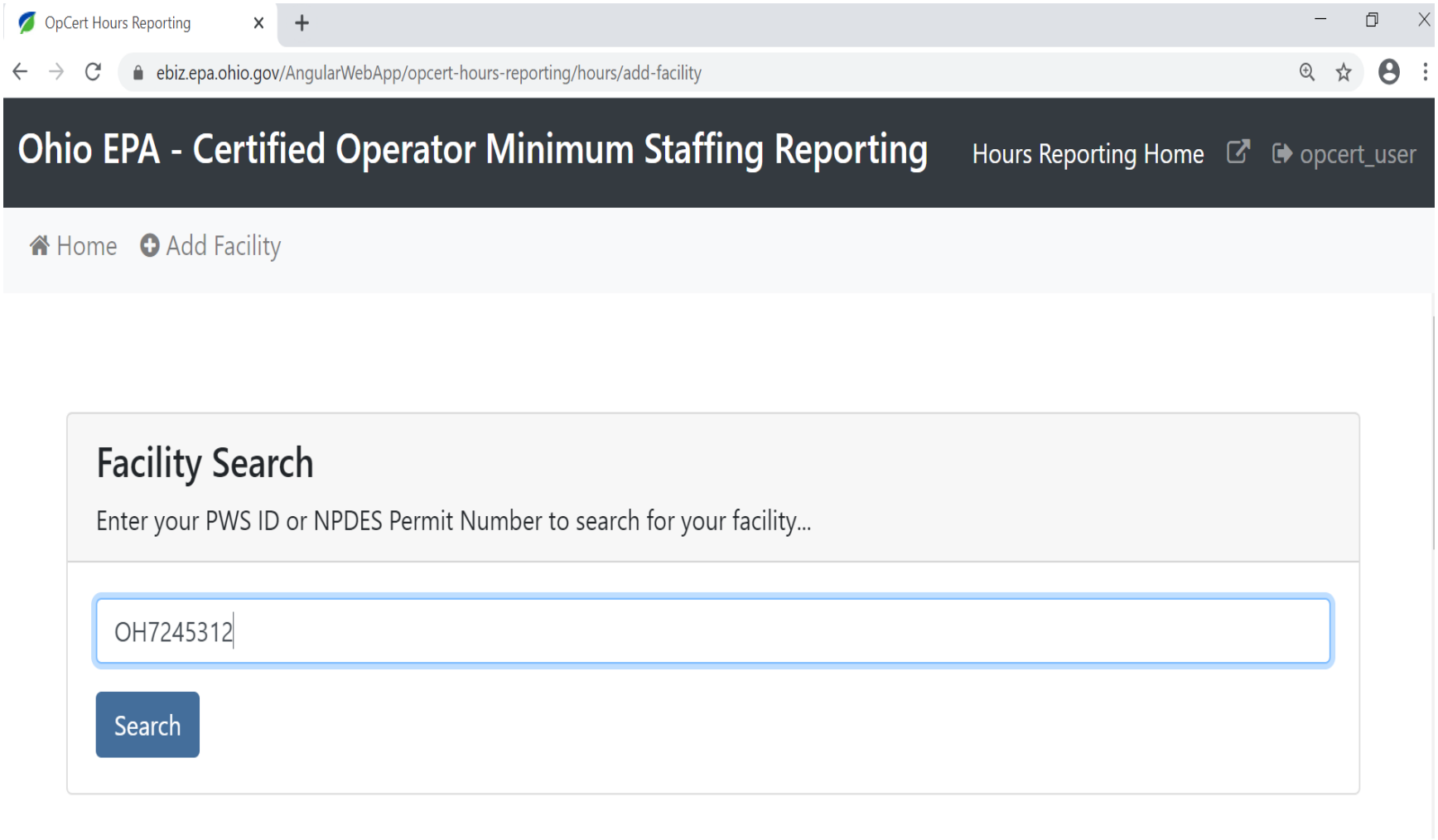

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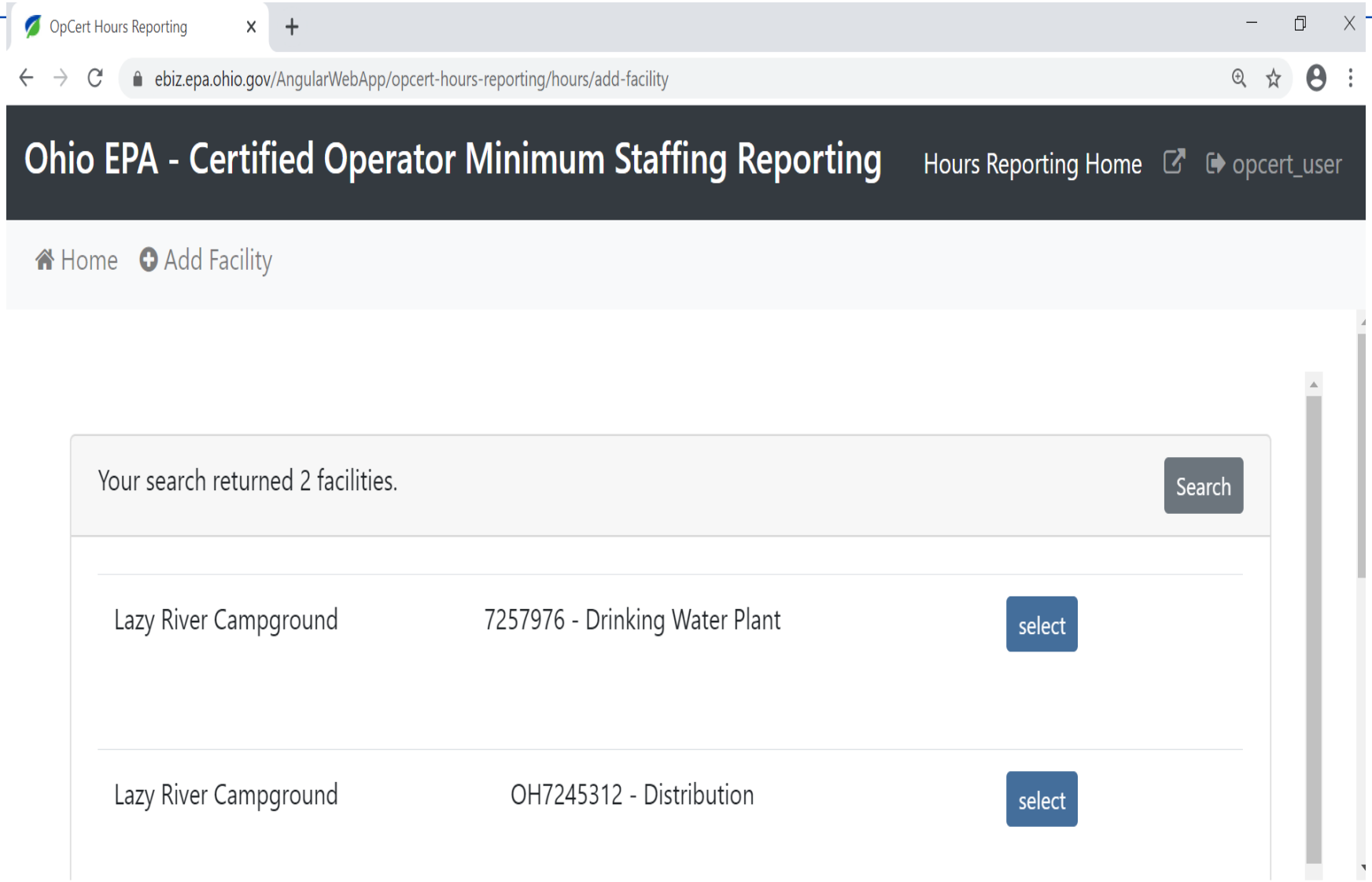

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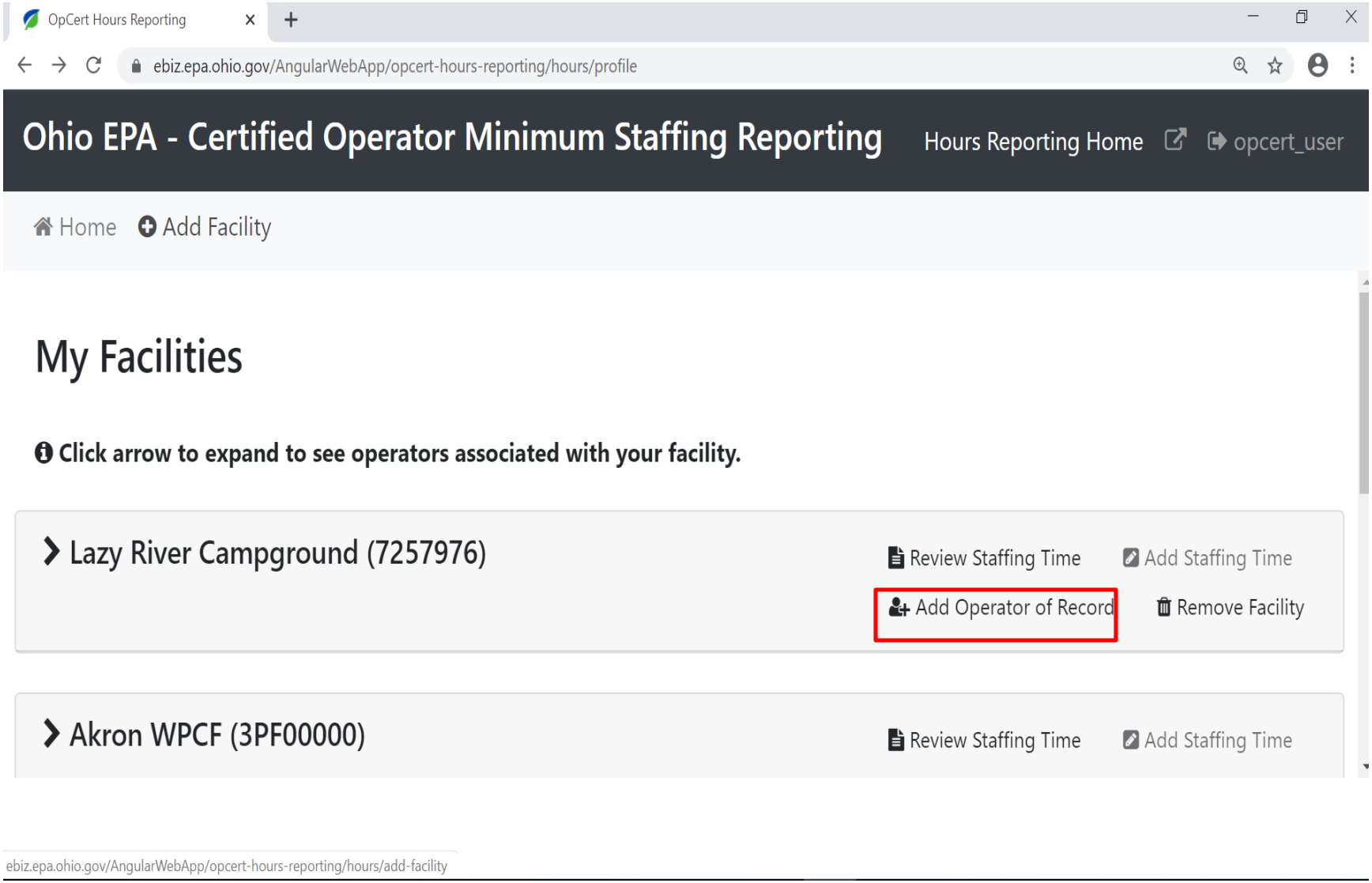

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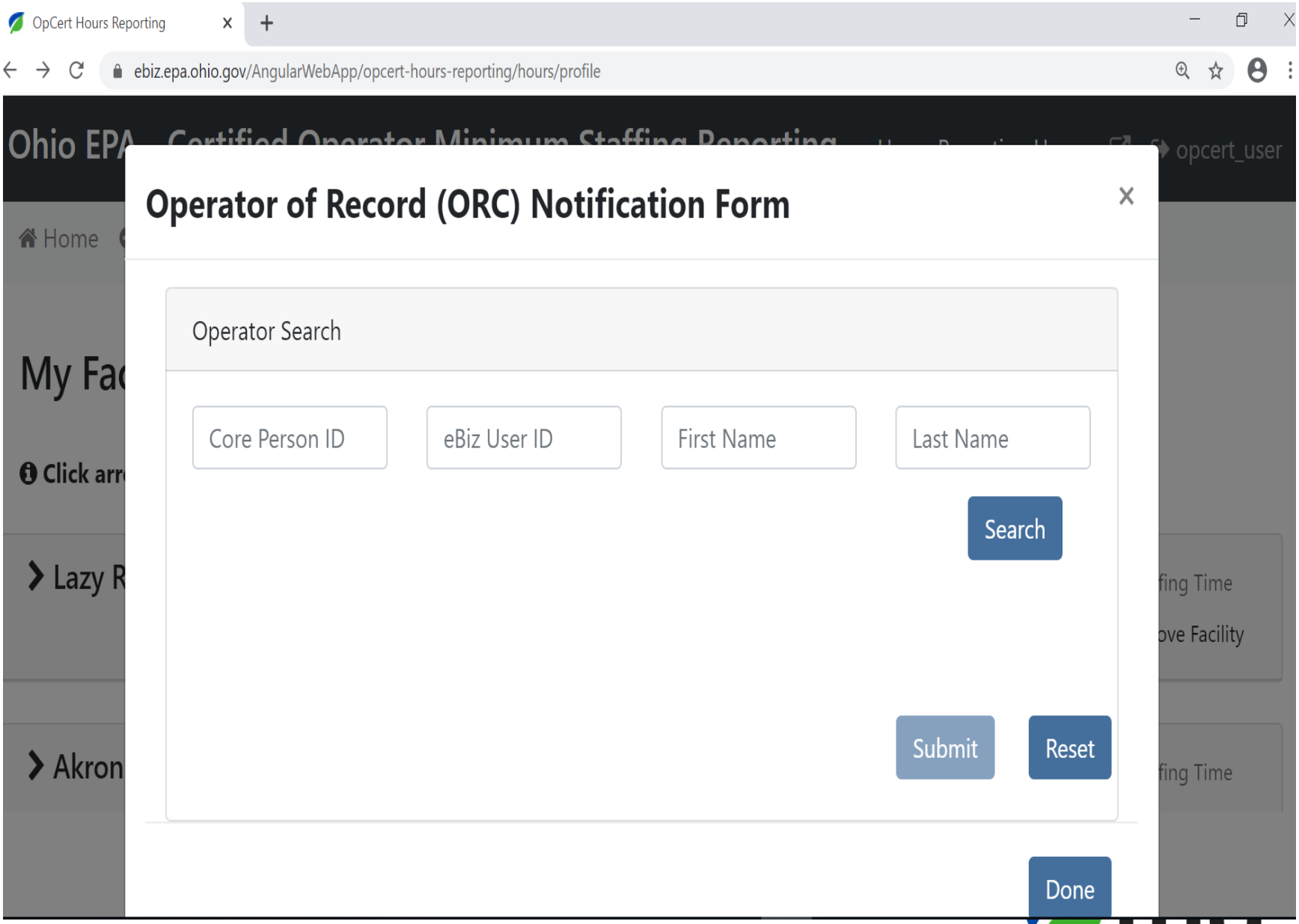

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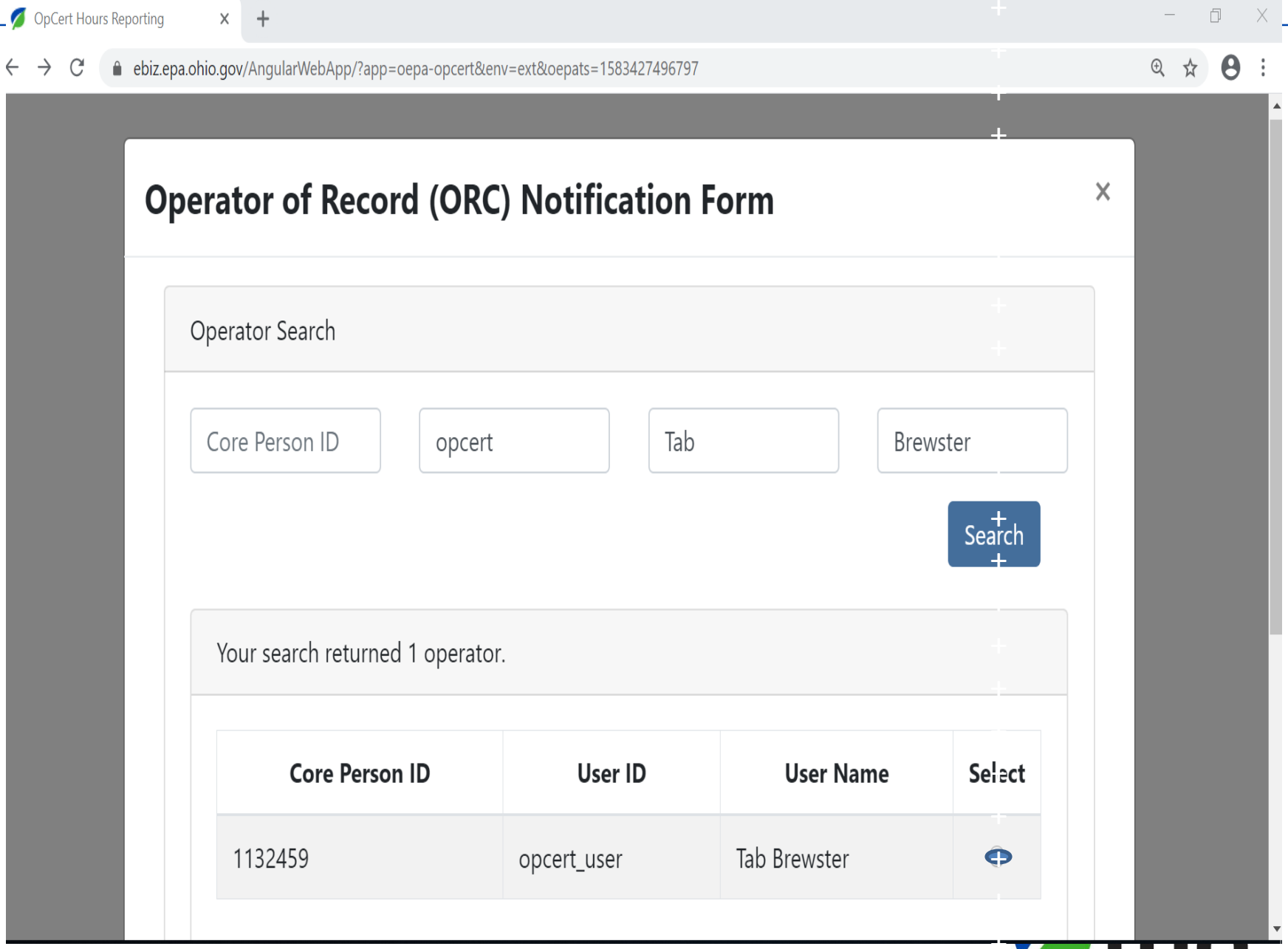

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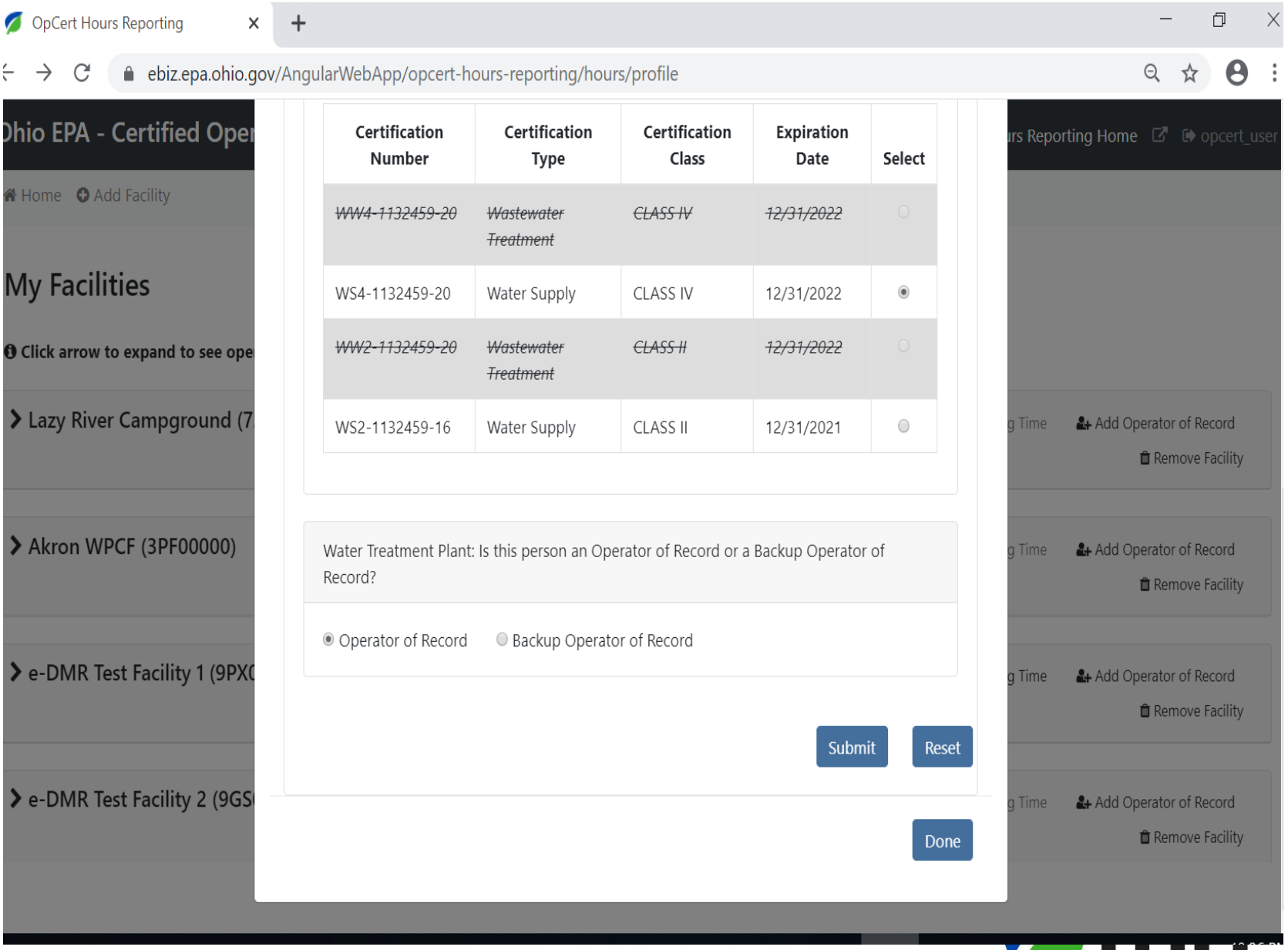

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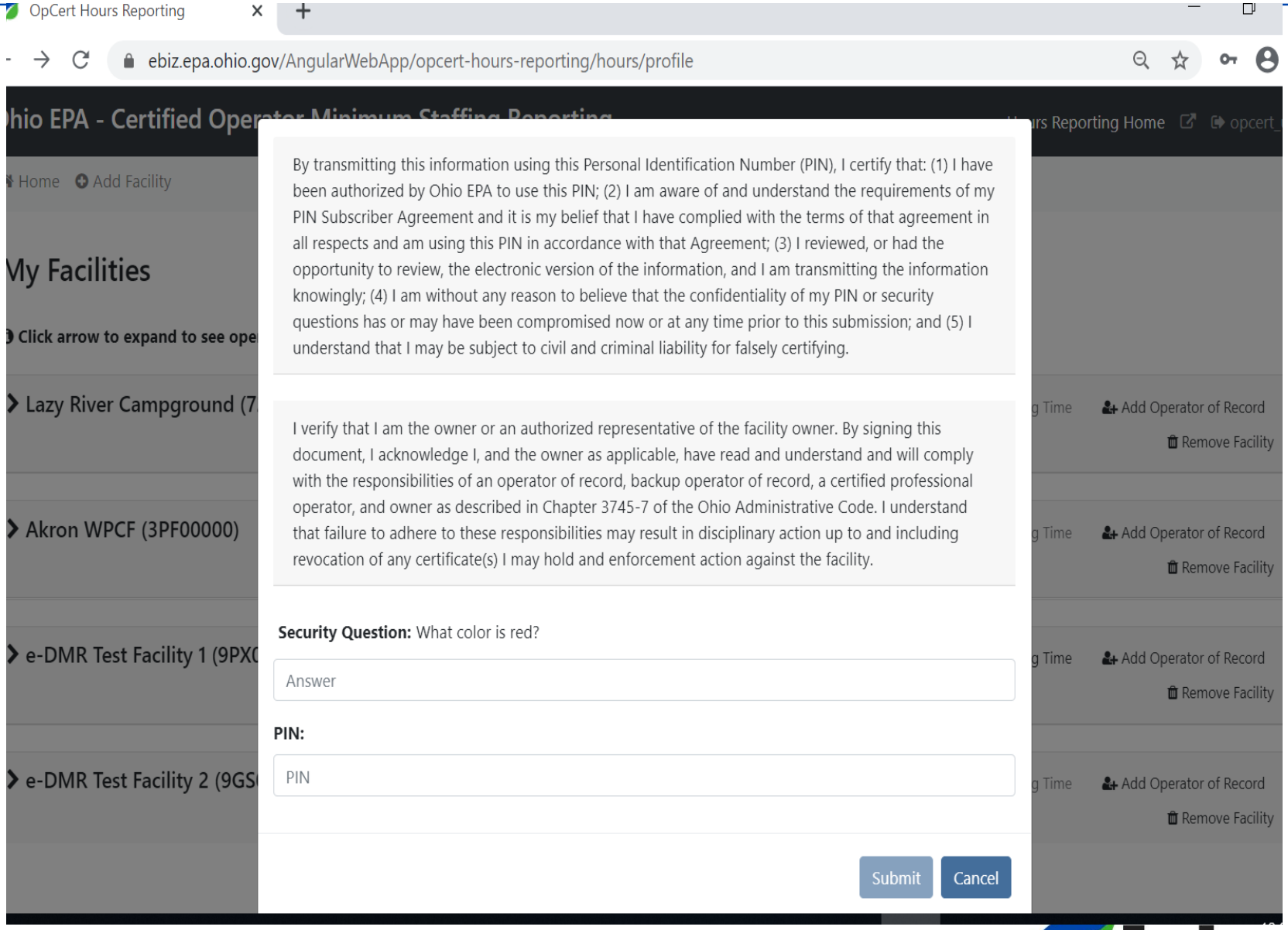

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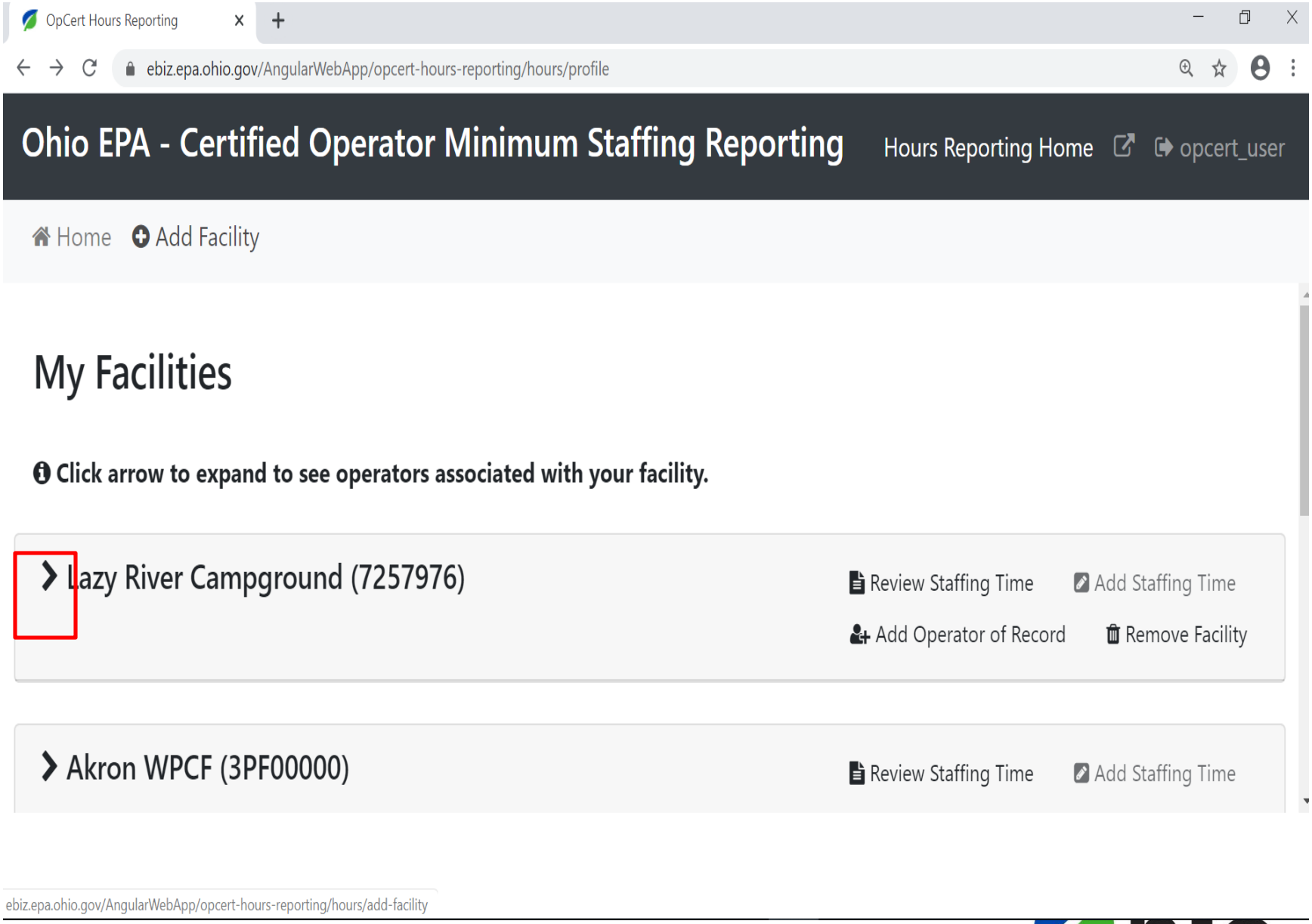

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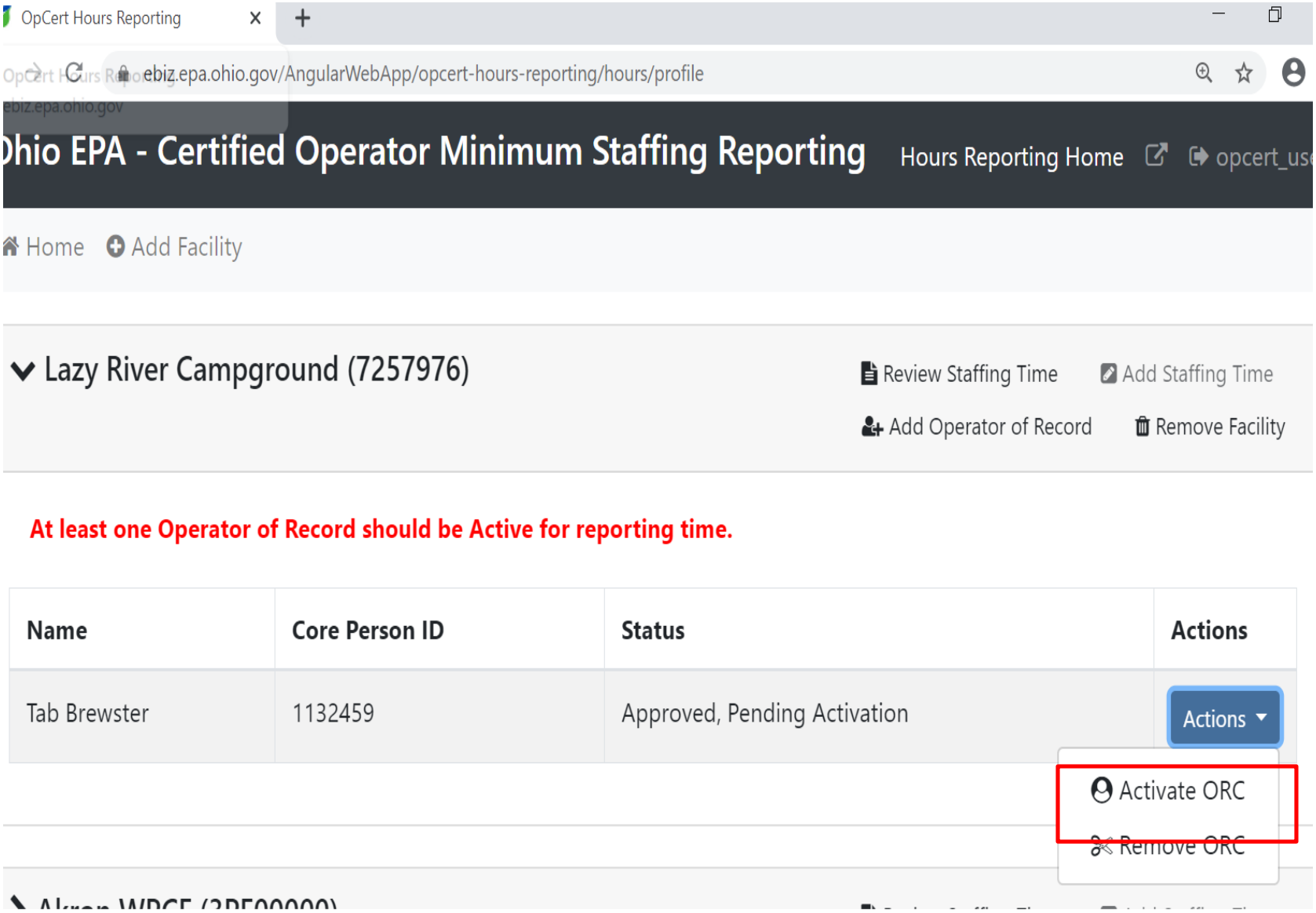

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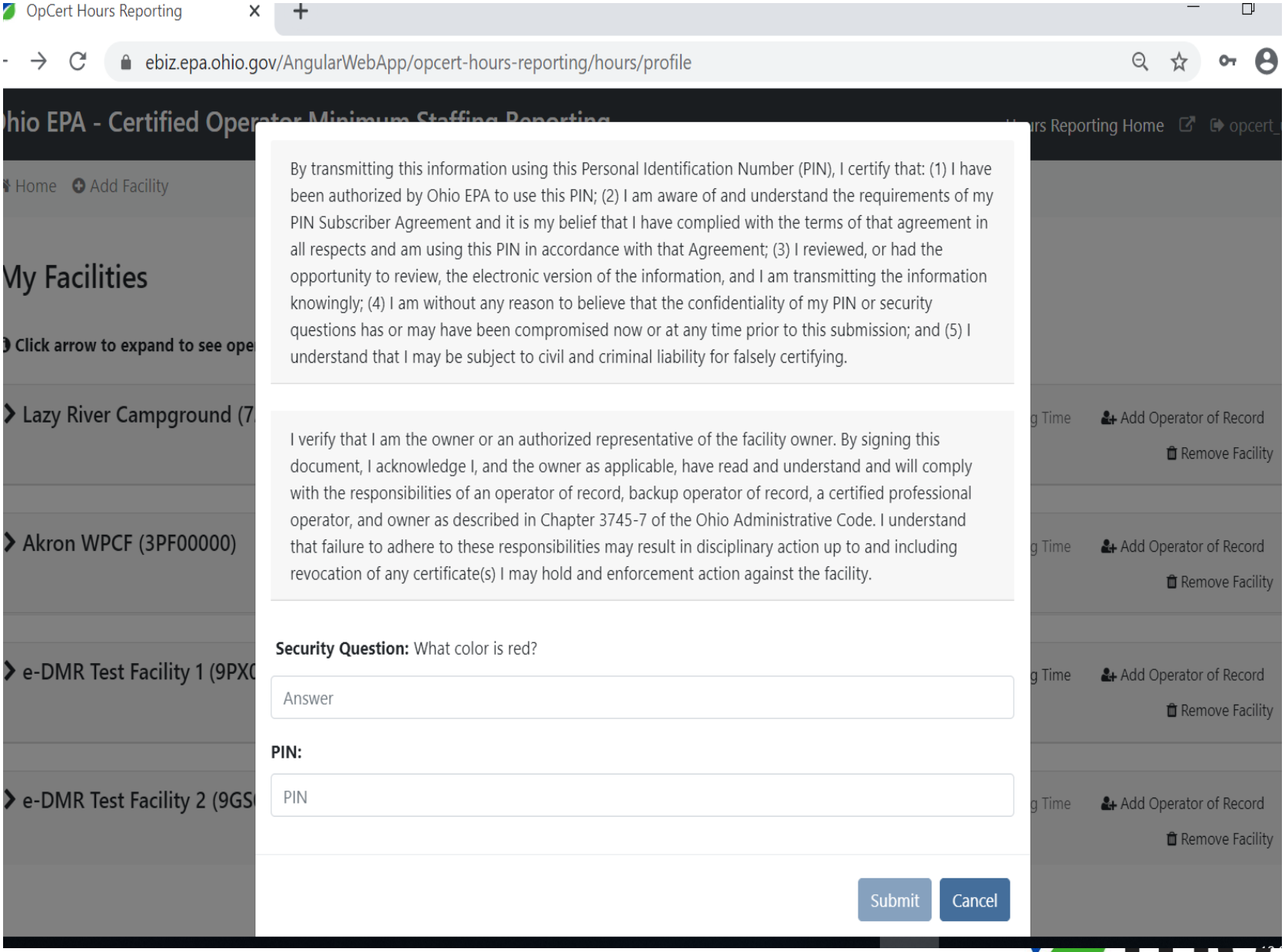

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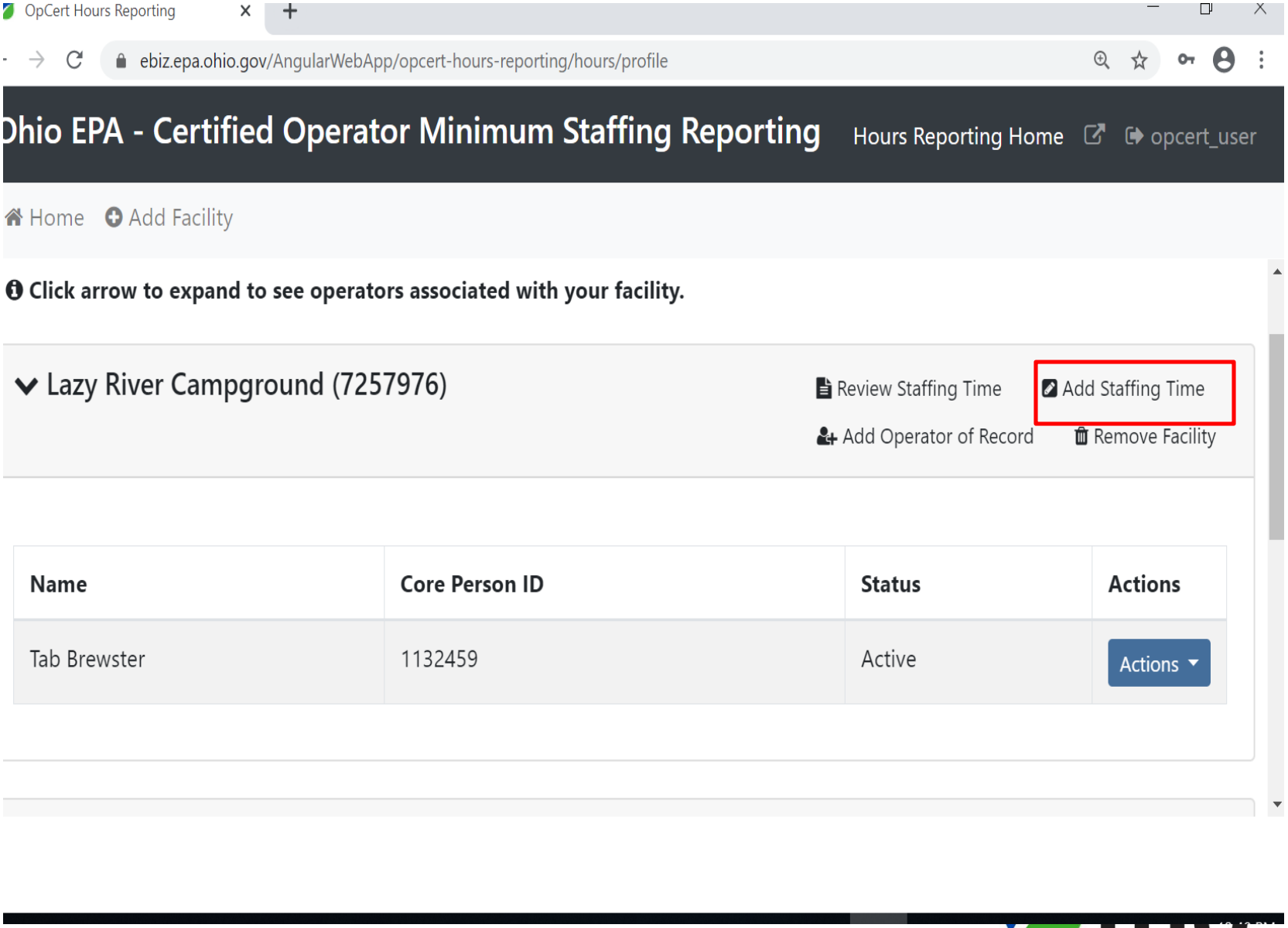

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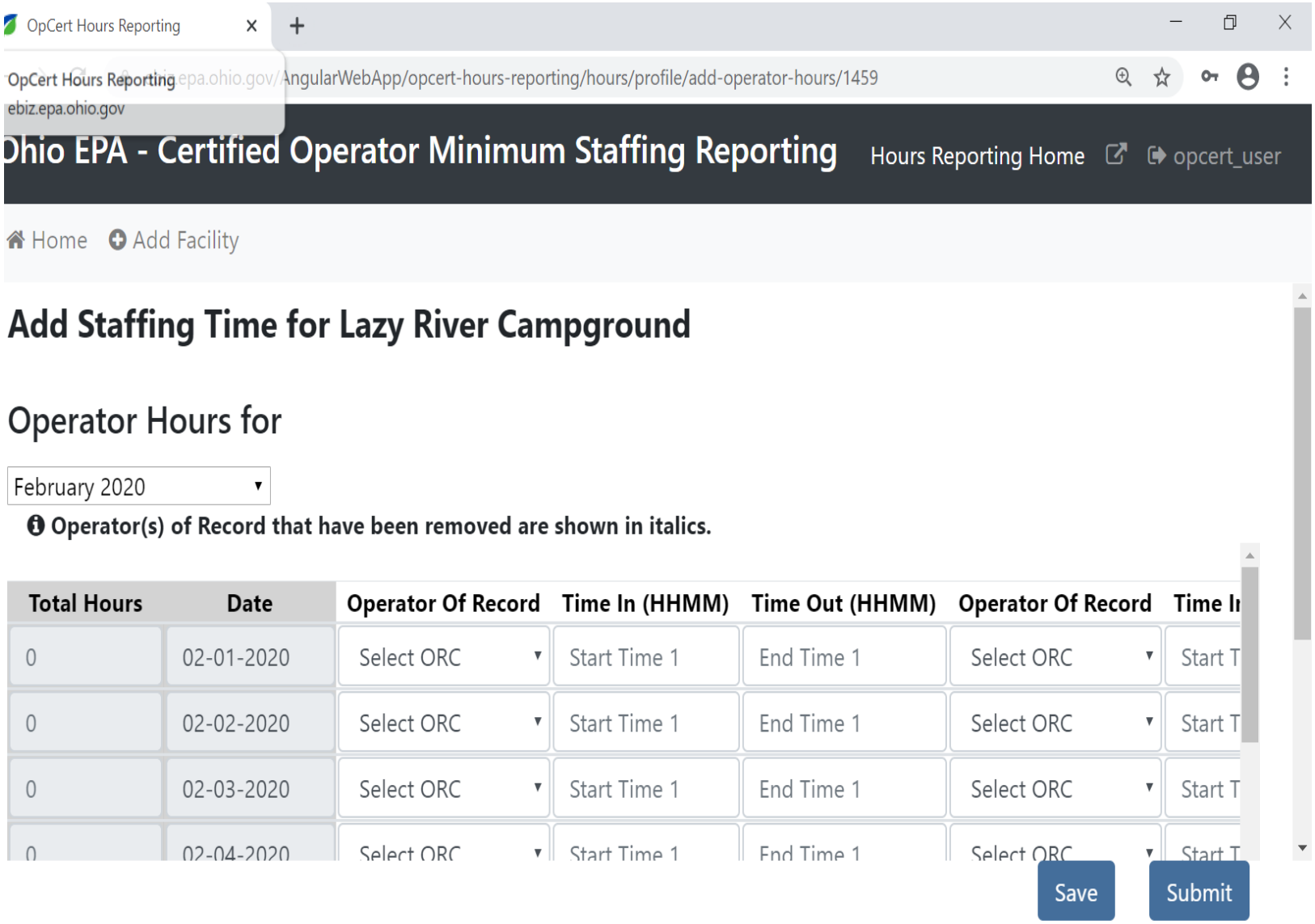

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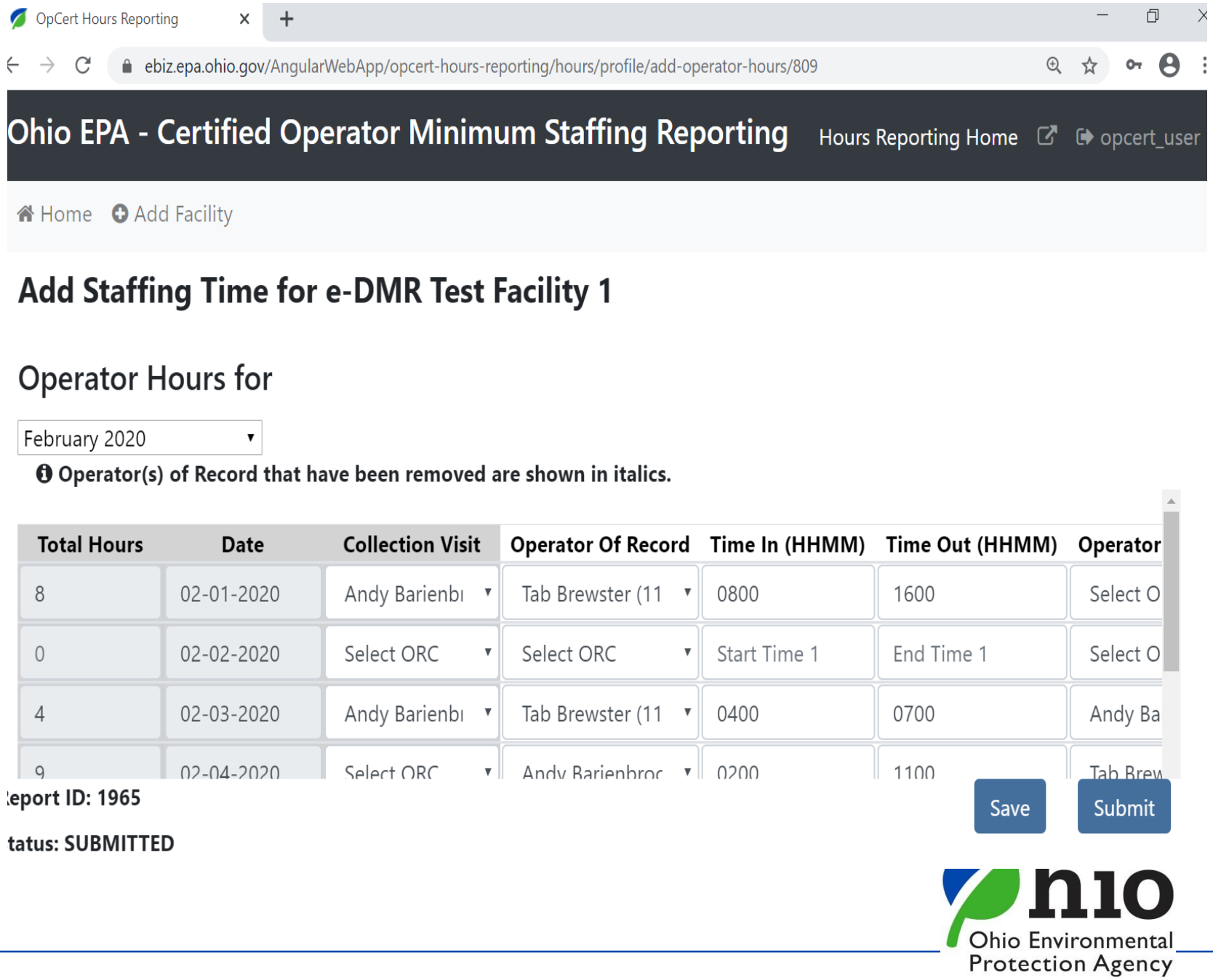

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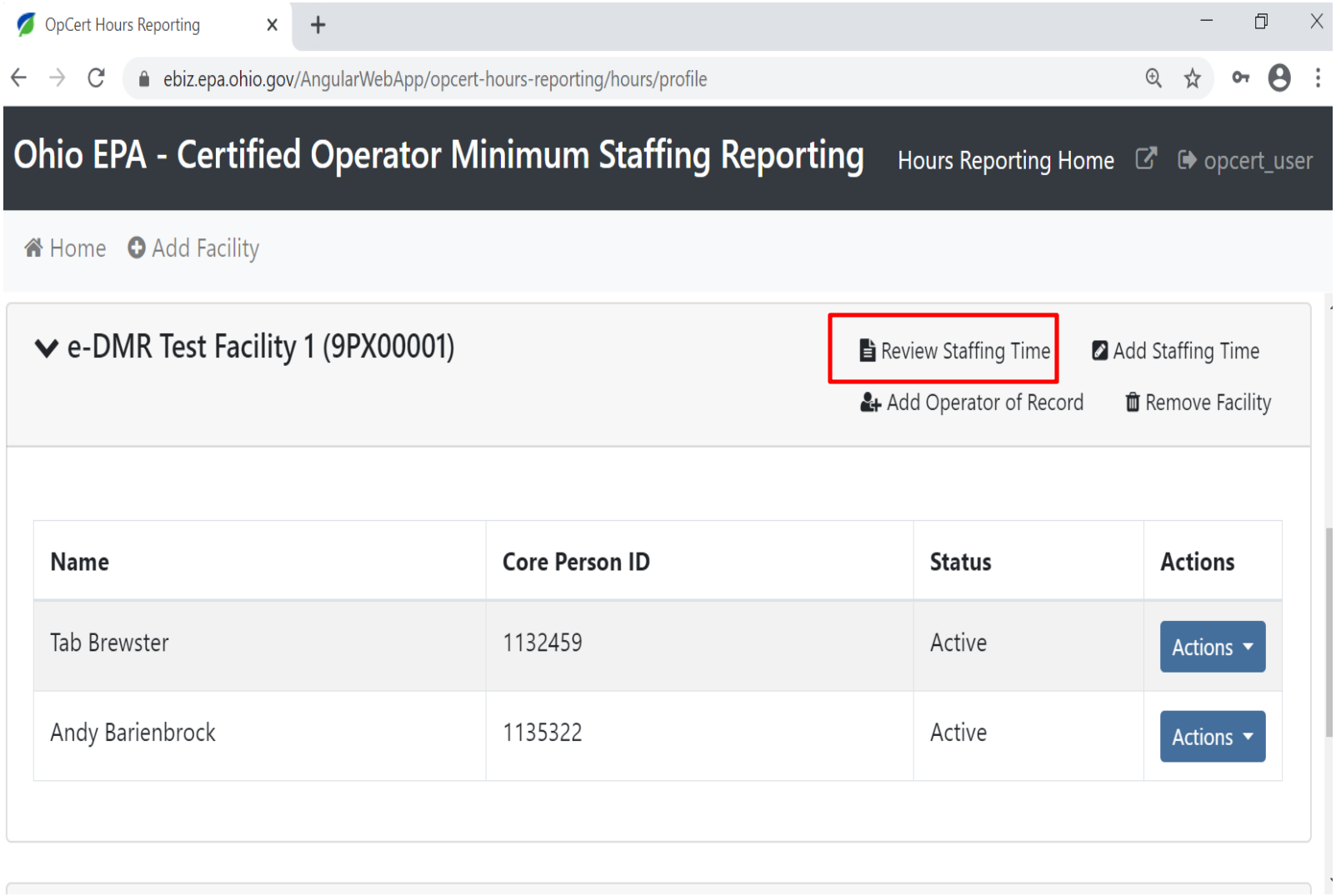

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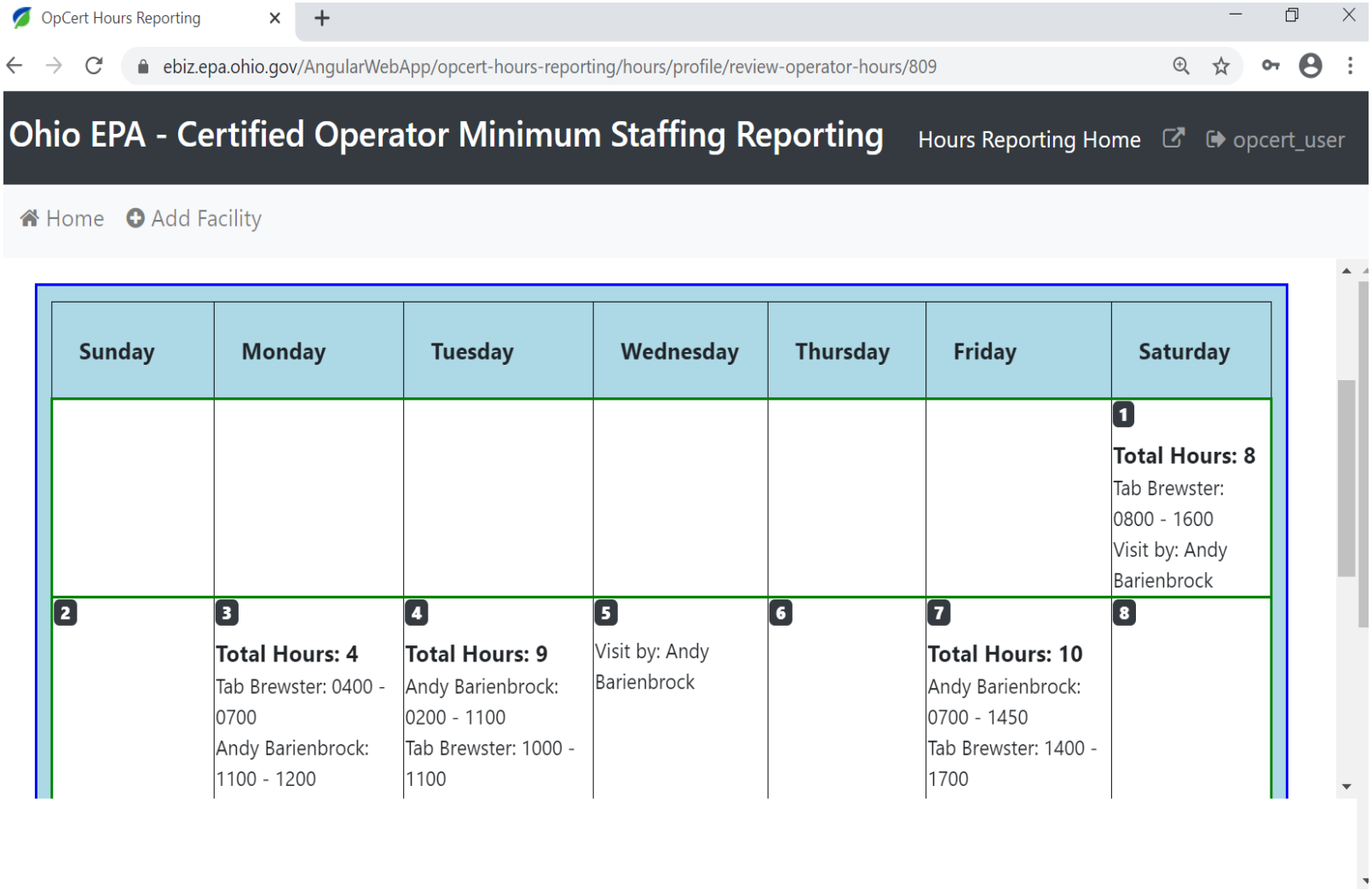

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Operator Certification Rules

As of 08/15/18 all certified operators are professionals!

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Operator Certification Rules

- **On <u>August 15, 2019</u>,** the definition of operating experience changed:
- **Operating experience**
  - For applicants who **<u>solely</u>** have laboratory, pretreatment and engineering experience, can only use a maximum of 25% of the total operating experience requirement.

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Operator Certification Rules

- Operating experience (Continued)
  - Collection and Distribution experience moved to the same provision as above when an operator is applying for a Wastewater Treatment or Water Supply Certificate.

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OAC Rule 3745-7-03 and 04

- Distribution and Collection System staffing requirements:
  - **Class 1** visits to the Distribution/Collection system 3 days per week.
  - **Class 2** visits to the Distribution/Collection system 5 days per week.

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OAC Rule 3745-7-03 and 04 (Cont.)

- Visits must be documented in the log book.
- Visit is defined and can include performing routine sampling, maintenance, or observation.

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Operator Certification Rule Changes

- **3745-7-06** (Certification of professional operators)
  - All applicants for certification shall complete Ohio EPA's professional operator training course.
  - Class IV exam deadline (2 years from approval)

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Operator Certification Rule Changes

- 3745-7-09
  - Date and times of arrival and departure shall be recorded in military time.
  - Failure to document minimum staffing is evidence that minimum staffing requirements have not been met.

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Operator Certification Rule Changes

- Report minimum staffing times to the agency on a form approved by the Director
  - Began reporting in November 2018.
    - Guidance and youtube video for PWS.
    - Guidance for eDMR.
  - Better reporting being developed.
  - Reporting suspended during COVID-19 emergency declaration.

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Operator Certification Rule Changes

- **OAC Rule 3745-7-15**
  - Renewal applications must be submitted electronically.
  - Due date for renewals is November 30th of the expiration year.
  - Grace period reduced to 6 months. **June 30th.**
  - All operators renewing must complete the Ohio EPA professional operator certification training course.

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Operator Certification Rule Changes

- **OAC Rule 3745-7-21 (Contract Operator Rule)**
  - As of September 15, 2018, must be approved by the Director prior to acting as the ORC.

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Website Update

Operator | Contract Operators | Training Provider | Exam Information | Advisory Council

Forms and Resources | Career Information | Contacts

Access to any services, lists or forms you may need as an operator, or to become an operator, can be found here. Use the eBusiness Center, to submit a variety of applications, access your profile, update contact information and pay fees online.

NEW REQUIRED TRAINING: Starting Aug. 15, 2018, all applicants will need to review the Operator Certification Required Training document **prior** to submitting the Ohio EPA exam, third-party exam certification, reciprocity and renewal applications and Operator-in-Training forms.

- eBusiness Center
- Certification
- Operator-in-Training (OIT)
- Renewal
- Operator Lists
- Operator of Record

QUESTIONS?

Call the Operator Certification Hotline at **1-866-411-OPCT (6728)** or email us.

WANT TO RECEIVE UPDATES?

Subscribe to the Operator Certification Mailing List

DDAGW Site Links

Select an item and click "Go" to navigate

Go

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Website Update

New career information tab

- Updated job boards.
- Improved veteran information and outreach.
- Provide links to apprenticeship, associate degrees and certificate programs.

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New Legislation

- SB 255 – created a committee to review professional licensure

- Other bills
  - Bill allowing criminals to become licensed
  - Reciprocity for individuals holding licensure in other states

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Questions?

Andrew Barienbrock

614-728-1216

andrew.barienbrock@epa.ohio.gov

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