

# ADEM UPDATE

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## Innovative Learning Students Visit ADEM



**ADEM's staff answer questions from students**

In June, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management hosted 78 students from 29 different public and private schools across central Alabama. The students ranged in age from 11 to 14-years-old and were on an enrichment field trip as part of an innovative learning program at Tuskegee University.

The tour and outreach sessions that were part of the field trip to ADEM included presentations on the Department's computer based systems, eGovernment portal, electronic reporting, and ADEM's web-based innovations.

The Verizon Innovative Learning program at Tuskegee University is a partnership for entrepreneurship and tech innovation for minority males in Alabama. The program includes hands-on, interactive instruction and mentors. It utilizes a two-prong

approach, kicking off with a three-week summer program where students participate in technology classes on college campuses, followed by field trips and visits to locations to introduce the students to careers that require science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

## New Members Join Commission

The Alabama Environmental Management Commission welcomed two new commissioners recently.

In June, Jay H. Masingill, III, of Tuscaloosa attended his first Commission meeting after filling the position reserved for a person Certified by the National Ground Water Association Certification Program or a Professional Geologist.

Masingill was born and raised in Russellville and received his Bachelors of Science and Masters of Science in Geology from the University of Alabama.

After serving in the military, Mr. Masingill began his career as a geologist in 1974 at the Geological Survey of Alabama before moving to the State Oil and Gas Board. In 1982, he became an Assistant Oil and Gas Supervisor, where he served for 28 years before retiring in 2010.



**Jay H. Masingill III**



**Thomas P. Walters**

In September, Thomas P. Walters of Montgomery was appointed to fill the vacant Professional Engineer seat on the Commission.

Walters is a recently retired civil engineer who worked in a number of positions for CH2M HILL (now Jacobs Engineering Group), a global engineering firm. He has a Master's Degree in civil engineering from Tennessee Technological University and worked extensively on wastewater treatment systems for municipalities during his 37-year engineering career. Walters is a licensed professional engineer in Alabama and Florida.

## ADEM Partners with Companies to Reduce Emissions

August 31 marked the conclusion of two projects designed to provide energy conservation, environmental benefits, and financial savings. In May, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management partnered with two companies to utilize funding under DERA - the Diesel Emission Reduction Act - to reduce diesel emissions through an idle-reduction project and an equipment update.

ADEM partnered with Piggly Wiggly Alabama Distribution Co., Inc. in Bessemer and Vulcraft Carrier Corporation in Fort Payne to utilize funding under DERA for equipment replacement and upgrades. The Department awarded a combined \$204,884 through the State Clean Diesel Program to partially fund the projects to the two companies.

Piggly Wiggly replaced 12 refrigerated trailers equipped with diesel-only transport refrigeration units (TRUs) with new, more efficient trailers with hybrid-electric TRUs. The new hybrid-electric TRUs will benefit from a 2016 DERA-funded project in which 51 electrified parking spaces were installed. The electrified parking spaces give the hybrid-electric TRUs the ability to refrigerate the trailers using electricity, reducing more than five hours per day of diesel engine idling per trailer.

Vulcraft was able to replace one Tier 1 terminal tractor with a new, more efficient 2018 XSpotter-ACTT42 off-road Tier 4 terminal tractor. The Tier 4 terminal tractor is equipped with the most current diesel emissions reduction technology available.



Hybrid-electric trailers help reduce diesel emissions

## ADEM Hosts Annual Groundwater Conference



More than 115 people attended this year's Groundwater Conference

Each year, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management hosts a groundwater conference for public drinking water utilities, municipal officials, government agencies, and environmental consultants to meet and discuss issues of importance related to groundwater availability, impacts to groundwater resources, and changing regulatory requirements. The event provides an opportunity for groundwater professionals to network and learn about new technologies related to groundwater protection and restoration.

On June 13, more than 115 professionals who work to manage and protect groundwater resources attended ADEM's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Groundwater Conference in Montgomery at the Gordon Persons Building, where they heard presentations on a variety of subjects related to geology, hydrology, geochemistry, assessment, remediation and regulatory issues. Approximately 1.5 million Alabamians depend on groundwater resources as their source of drinking water. Ensuring a clean, safe supply of this precious commodity is a priority for ADEM along with helping drinking water systems operate at maximum efficiency.

## ADEM Promotes Environmental Awareness at River Region Health Fair



Over 1,000 children attended the Health Fair on August 4

More than one thousand school children from around the River Region attended the Community Health Fair & School Supply Giveaway on August 4 in Montgomery.

The event was held from 8 a.m. until noon at Health Services Inc.'s location at 1845 Cherry Street and was free to the public.

It was sponsored by Health Services, Inc., the City of Montgomery, Montgomery County, the Alabama Department of Environment Management, and the Junior League of Montgomery. Over a dozen ADEM employees participated in

the fair for the second consecutive year, helping to give away educational items and providing the children a hands-on learning experience.

Over 1,000 backpacks and school supplies were given away to the crowds of children who waited in lines to get into the event. ADEM personnel offered recycling information in English and Spanish to the children from the surrounding low income and minority communities in an effort to promote a cleaner environment. In addition, the children were provided with environmental educational material and were encouraged to pursue careers in environmental fields such as science and engineering.

Other than the numerous "back to school" giveaways of school supplies, the Health Fair focused on health awareness and disease prevention for students and parents with free health screenings and educational information to increase awareness of local, state, and national health services and resources.

## ADEM Employees Complete Public Manager Program

In August, four ADEM employees completed the classroom and comprehensive project work for the Certified Public Manager II program.

Sonja Favors, Rick Kelsey, Jennifer McCord, and Don Prempramot finished the rigorous study, training, and project component of the nationally accredited CPM II program certified by Auburn University at Montgomery. Their graduation ceremony will be held in October.

The employees achieved this important career milestone after completing more than 250 hours of classroom work and numerous out-of-class activities.

One of those activities was their final community outreach project and presentation that was held on August 22 at the State Capitol Auditorium.



(L-R) Don Prempramot, Jennifer McCord, Sonja Favors, and Rick Kelsey

# ADEM UPDATE Available Online

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management publishes the *ADEM UPDATE* quarterly to inform Alabamians on the latest news and activities of the Department. As a cost-savings measure, the *ADEM UPDATE* is no longer printed. It is distributed electronically and available online through the publications link on the ADEM website at [adem.alabama.gov](http://adem.alabama.gov).



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