



Community Engagement

ADEM is committed to keeping all residents of Alabama informed and involved regarding the environmental activities in their local communities

Updated October 2020

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Introduction

INTRODUCTION

ADEM has a long history of community outreach. Many outreach programs have been developed to involve all citizens of Alabama's society. This document highlights many of the Department's efforts to ensure local citizens are involved and informed regarding environmental activities in their communities. As you will see, these efforts involve community-based studies, education, and priorities that support the Department's objectives. In addition, this information highlights compliance and enforcement activities as well as the development of electronic tools that enhance communication and provide access to environmental data.

The ability to provide all citizens with access to more information and data that is science-based provides those citizens with a better opportunity to participate in the decision making processes at ADEM. One of the long-term keys to ensuring the sustainability of Alabama's air, land, and water resources is to provide local citizens and communities with a vested interest in protecting those resources at the local level. Recognizing that some citizens may have less access to resources needed to become fully informed and for various reasons, to be less active in participating in the outreach process, the Department has made special efforts to involve those communities to assess environmental results in their local area.

As the steward of Alabama's air, land, and water resources, ADEM not only strives to ensure citizen participation by encouraging public input, but also ensures transparency in its decision-making processes. Through the implementation of electronic features, such as "What's Happening In Your County", e-File, and e-Complaint systems and community training events on how to use those features, ADEM is fulfilling its goal of ensuring the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all Alabama citizens.



Enhanced Community Participation in Rulemaking

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN RULEMAKING AND PERMITTING

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE ADEM RULEMAKING AND PERMITTING PROCESSES

Presented by



An environmental permit is issued to control air emissions, water discharges, and to provide for the proper management of solid and hazardous wastes. Specific constituent limits that comply with Federal and State of Alabama standards are assigned for each permit in order to effectively measure and manage our state's air, land, and water resources, to ensure protection of human health and the environment, and to assure compliance with applicable environmental statutes.

If you need additional information, please contact our Permits and Services Division at (334) 271-7714 or email to permitsmail@adem.state.al.us

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) acknowledges and solicits the public's involvement in its rulemaking and permitting processes. These processes are important in sustaining and protecting Alabama's air, land, and water resources. Public participation in the rulemaking and permitting processes is a valuable tool to help the Department and the Alabama Environmental Management Commission (EMC) make environmental decisions. With the public's continued interest in, and support of, ADEM's efforts, our state's environment will be protected and preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

This publication is intended to acquaint the public with the procedures that the Environmental Management Commission follows in establishing the environmental regulations that the Department enforces. This publication also outlines the process ADEM uses to review environmental permit applications from an activity whose operation could affect the state's environment. These procedures are designed to afford the public and those affected by the Department's regulations notice and opportunity for input prior to a final decision.

GUIDE FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION



Guide for Citizen Participation

How to make your voice heard on community environmental issues



STAKEHOLDERS MEET WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION RULES COMMITTEE

The Rulemaking Committee of the Alabama Environmental Management Commission (EMC) meets in Montgomery with numerous stakeholders and ADEM officials to discuss all pertinent rules. The work sessions are held in ADEM's Main Conference room before or following the regularly scheduled Commission meetings.

Public announcements are issued prior to work sessions of the Rulemaking Committee. During the work sessions, committee members listen to comments and questions from the stakeholders and ADEM officials. The meetings are designed to seek constructive input on how to improve the Commission's existing rules. If rule changes are recommended, those proposed changes must be presented to the full Commission for consideration.

One example was meeting to discuss the public comment section of the rules. The topics discussed and considered included email delivery of public requests to appear before the Commission, a process for encouraging written public comments, deadlines for submitting presentations, and deadlines to clarify the procedures for being approved to address the full Commission. Twenty-eight people attended that work session with most having substantial comments or questions.



Enhanced Community Engagement in Permitting

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COUNTY

The “What’s Happening in Your County” feature has been added to the ADEM website to provide citizens with information on environmental efforts within their county and local community. By clicking on any county on the state map, citizens can have access to permit applications that have been received within the last thirty days, public notices that are currently open, and information about public hearings. This feature also includes information such as press releases, general statewide events, and schedules for meetings of the Alabama Environmental Management Commission, which take place in Montgomery.

ADEM is focused on ensuring transparency in all of its decision-making processes and this feature makes information easily available. The “What’s Happening in Your County” feature is another tool that ADEM utilizes to support the meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income.

ADEM Alabama Department of Environmental Management

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TRANSLATIONS

한국어 | Tiếng Việt | Español | Other

This page best viewed in IE7+ or Firefox

For more information about this website, please contact the webmaster.

What's Happening In Your County?

Citizen's Guide to Public Participation

Statewide - Lead Testing In Schools Report
Statewide - PFAS in Alabama
Statewide - PFAS in Drinking Water Systems Report

LAUDERDALE LIVINGSTONE MADISON JACKSON
COLBERT
FRANKLIN LAWRENCE MORGAN MARSHALL DEKALB
HARSON WENSTON CULLMAN CHEROKEE
LUMAS PAYETTE WALKER ST. CLAIR CALHOUN
PICKENS TUSCALOOSA SHELBY TALLAPOOSA CLAY RANDOLPH
GREENE BEBB CHESTON COOSA TALLAPOOSA CHAMBERS
SLATER HALE PERRY ALTAUGA ELBERTA MOON RUSSELL
CHOCTAW WARENGO DALLAS LOWMOSE NENNINGER BLKLOCK
WILCOX
CLARKE HENRICE BUTLER GENEVA
WASHINGTON COMBUSH COFFEE DALE HENRY
MOBILE BALDWIN

Autauga Baldwin
Barbour Bibb
Blount Bullock
Butler Calhoun
Chambers Cherokee
Chilton Choctaw
Clarke Clay
Cleburne Coffee
Colbert Conecuh
Coosa Covington
Crenshaw Cullman
Dale Dallas
DeKalb Elmore
Escambia Etowah
Fayette Franklin
Geneva Greene
Hale Henry
Houston Jackson
Jefferson Lamar
Lauderdale Lawrence
Lee Limestone
Lowndes Macon
Madison Marengo
Manon Marshall
Mobile Monroe
Montgomery Morgan
Perry Pickens
Pike Randolph
Russell St. Clair
Shelby Sumter
Talladega Tallapoosa
Tuscaloosa Walker
Washington Wilcox
Winston

By selecting a permit notice, a copy of the complete project file, which includes a fact sheet and draft permit, is available directly thru this online access portal.

| Public Hearings | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------|---|
| Subject | Date | Time | Location |
| Proposed Revisions to Division 2 Public Notice | November 12, 2020 | 10:30am | Main Hearing Room, ADEM Central Office |
| Proposed Revisions to Division 13 Public Notice | November 5, 2020 | 1:30pm | Main Hearing Room, ADEM Central Office |
| Proposed Revisions to Division 6 (UST) Public Notice | November 5, 2020 | 10:00am | Main Hearing Room, ADEM Central Office |
| Proposed Revisions to Division 6 (CAFO) Public Notice | November 4, 2020 | 10:00am | Main Hearing Room, ADEM Central Office |
| Alabama Power Company - Gadsden Steam Plant Public Notice | October 29, 2020 | 6:00pm | Beck Conference Center, Gadsden State Community College |
| Alabama Power Company - Greene Plant Public Notice | October 22, 2020 | 6:00pm | Carver Community Center, Eutaw, AL |
| Alabama Power Company - Miller Plant Public Notice | October 20, 2020 | 6:00pm | West Jefferson Town Hall, Quinton, Alabama |
| UOP, LLC - Proposed Title V Permit Public Notice | October 20, 2020 | 6:00pm | Chickasaw High School Gymnasium, Chickasaw, AL |
| Alabama Power Company - Barry Plant Public Notice | October 15, 2020 | 6:00pm | Hampton Inn & Suites - Saraland, AL |
| Proposed Revisions to Division 14 Public Notice | September 17, 2020 | 10:30am | Main Hearing Room, ADEM Central Office |
| Proposed Revisions to Division 1 Public Notice | September 17, 2020 | 9:30am | Main Hearing Room, ADEM Central Office |
| Proposed Revisions to Division 6 Public Notice | August 25, 2020 | 10:00am | Main Hearing Room, ADEM Central Office |
| Proposed Revisions to Division 13 Public Notice | June 25, 2020 | 10:30am | Main Hearing Room, ADEM Central Office |
| Comments on Division 6 Public Notice | June 11, 2020 | 10:00am | Main Hearing Room, ADEM Central Office |

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE SOLID WASTE PROGRAM
DIVISION 335-13, ADEM ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
PUBLIC NOTICE - 422

Notice is hereby given that a hearing before the Department of Environmental Management of the State of Alabama will be held on **Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 1:30 PM in the Main Hearing Room of the ADEM – Central Office location at 1400 Coliseum Boulevard in Montgomery**, to consider proposed revisions and additions to Division 335-13 of the ADEM Administrative Code (Solid Waste Program).

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management proposes to amend the ADEM administrative code. Revisions to the Division 13 Regulations are being proposed to incorporate changes to ensure consistency with State and Federal Statutes and provide clarification of State requirements for the management of solid waste. The Department is also proposing to correct typographical and citation errors in the existing regulations.

Copies of the proposed rules are available at a cost of 30 cents per page at each of the locations listed below. The summary of reasons supporting the revisions are available free of charge. Copies of the proposed rules and summary of reasons can also be found on the internet at <http://adem.alabama.gov/newsEvents/pubHearings.cnt> at no cost. For additional questions or comments, please contact one of the following offices:

ADEM, Office of General Counsel
Attn: Christie Lacey
1400 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, AL 36110-2400
(334) 260-4510

ADEM, Birmingham Field Office
Attn: Mary Taylor
110 Vulcan Road
Birmingham, AL 35209-4702
(205) 942-6168

ADEM, Decatur Field Office
Attn: Jan Childers
2715 Sandlin Road, SW
Decatur, AL 35603-1333
(256) 353-1713

ADEM, Mobile Field Office
Attn: Jenika Haywood
2204 Perimeter Road
Mobile, AL 36615-1131
(251) 450-3400

The public hearing is being held to receive data, views, and arguments from interested persons regarding the proposed rules. Attendance at the hearing is not necessary to present such data, views, arguments, or comments. The same may be submitted in writing, but must be received by the Hearing Officer prior to **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2020**.

Written submissions and other inquiries should be directed to: ADEM Hearing Officer, Office of General Counsel, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, P.O. Box 301463, Montgomery, AL 36130-1463 (street address: 1400 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, AL 36110-2400) or by e-mail at hearing.officer@adem.alabama.gov

Any person wishing to participate in this hearing who needs special accommodations should contact the Department's Permits & Services Division at (334) 271-7714 at least five working days prior to the hearing.

This notice is hereby given this **20th day of September, 2020**, by authorization of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

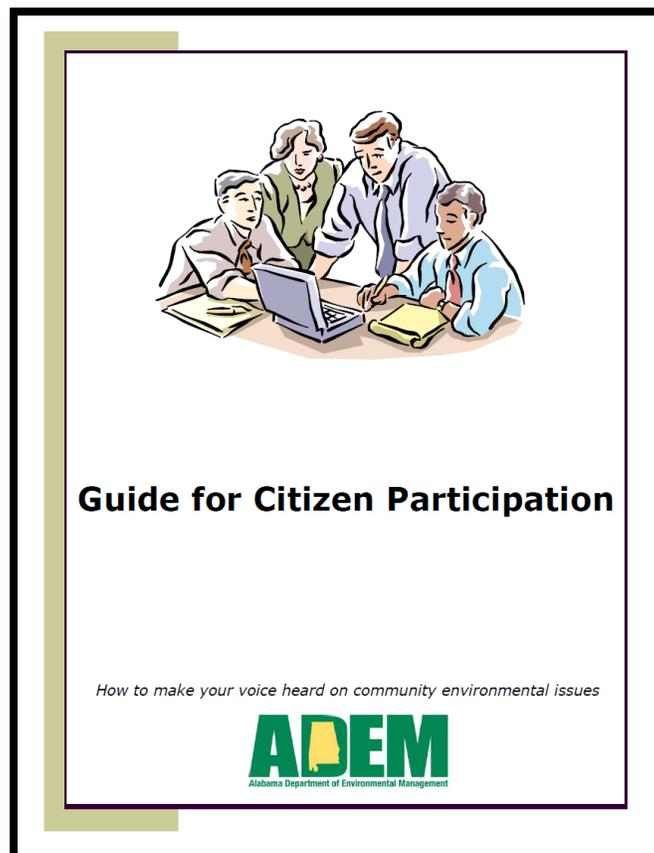
Lance R. LeFleur

EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY COMMENTS

The Department offers expanded community commenting opportunities for all permitting decisions. Public commenting opportunities for permits are available during the public comment period for new environmental permits, renewal permits, permit modifications (in some cases), and other environmentally related activities. The purpose of the public comment period is to allow any member of the public to add their voice to the decision-making process. The comments are submitted in writing to the Department via mail, email, fax, or personal delivery.

Public meetings, which are informal, may be conducted during the comment period and allow comments to be spoken and noted. A public hearing, which is formal, may be determined necessary by the Department. At a formal hearing, all comments are recorded and a transcript is made. It should also be noted that written comments may be submitted at public meetings or hearings.

Detailed information regarding public commenting opportunities are available in the Guide for Citizen Participation on the Department's website.



Enhanced Community Efforts: Compliance and Enforcement

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSIONS

ADEM continues to improve operations to provide more input from the public. ADEM has numerous reports, documents, records, and forms available on the Department's website at the click of a button. ADEM also has events and public hearings designed to give Alabama taxpayers better access.

As a part of the Department's public hearing process, ADEM has developed public availability sessions to enable concerned citizens to have interaction with ADEM staff, ask questions, review maps and charts, and make comments on the record. The sessions provide information to the public, enable citizens to have questions answered face-to-face, and help the Department interact in a more open dialogue with the public.

ADEM's public availability sessions involve employees from Air, Land, Water, Permits & Services, and Field Operations Divisions. ADEM staff were trained on how to set up and conduct a public availability session that generally takes place prior to a public hearing.

Public availability sessions typically involve personnel from the Public Relations Unit, the Environmental Justice Coordinator, the Office of General Counsel, and the ADEM division hosting the public hearing. The sessions also provide the public with resource materials, maps, graphic displays, and other visual aids.



COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

The Department dedicates significant resources to conducting compliance inspections, performing compliance tests, and providing compliance assistance to ensure facilities are operating in accordance with the applicable rules, regulations, and permit conditions. These efforts serve as one of the key components of the Department's efforts to protect Alabama's air, land, and water resources.

However, when noncompliance issues are documented, the Department has the ability to implement swift and effective enforcement procedures. Through the timely issuance of Warning Letters, Notices of Violation, and Consent/Administrative Orders that include civil penalties, ADEM can require that noncompliance issues be addressed and facilitate a return to compliance.

The implementation of an effective inspection program, the initiation of timely enforcement actions, and the collection of accurate data to support a science-based decision making process are the foundations which support the Department's mission of assuring for all citizens of Alabama a safe, healthful, and productive environment.



PROPER REMEDIES AND COMMUNITY-BASED OUTREACH

The Department continues to focus resources on the process of reaching out to local communities where environmental concerns have been documented and establishing open lines of communication with citizens and elected officials. Public meetings, especially in low income and minority communities, provide an opportunity for ADEM to present information to the local stakeholders about specific environmental concerns and allow ADEM to receive feedback from the stakeholders on their views and perceptions of environmental issues in their community.

The following examples from Anniston, North Birmingham, Uniontown, Eight Mile/Prichard, Bayou La Batre, and Decatur demonstrate the Department's commitment to go beyond the required minimum to provide local stakeholders with factual information on local environmental issues. This investment of time and resources is vital to the Department's efforts of ensuring transparency in its decision making processes and ensuring all citizens are familiar with the ways that they can participate in those decision-making processes.



INDUSTRIAL GENERAL PERMIT INSPECTIONS

NORTH BIRMINGHAM

In October 2014, the Water Division conducted an analysis of all facilities holding Industrial National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permits in North Birmingham, a low income and minority area. The Water Division identified more than 80 facilities that had the potential to discharge certain metals.

To ensure the Department had a current assessment of each facility's compliance status with regard to its NPDES permit, over 70 of the facilities were inspected during the 2015 fiscal year followed by a full compliance evaluation. The remaining facilities identified each received a desk audit since these facilities had received a recent inspection.



NORTH BIRMINGHAM ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATION PROJECT

ADEM has been an active participant in the *North Birmingham Environmental Collaboration Project*. This project is a coordinated approach to evaluate the environmental condition and potential environmental impacts, in certain areas of the *North Birmingham, Fairmont, Collegeville, and Harriman Park* neighborhoods, as well as portions of *Village Creek, Five-Mile Creek, and Harriman Park* ditch, located in and around Birmingham.

In conjunction with this effort, ADEM participated in the Region 4, Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (Regional IWG) meetings in August 2014 and January 2015. The meetings included representatives from the communities, Congresswoman Terri Sewell, Mayor William A. Bell, Sr. and Councilor William Parker, along with other City of Birmingham officials, ADEM, ALDOT and Federal Agency heads and their staff. Federal agencies in attendance included HUD, COE, DOT, DOL, DOJ, HRSA, HHS, ATSDR DOI, and EDA.

As a member of the watershed planning team, ADEM has continued providing assistance to the City of Birmingham in the development of the *Village Creek Watershed Management Plan*. The watershed planning team has committed to verify and calibrate the hydraulic and water quality models, assess the existing and future conditions of the creek based on comprehensive land uses, implement a public consensus campaign, develop the watershed improvements toolbox, coordinate future conditions with the framers of the North Birmingham Plan, and prepare a final report with recommendations that will include prioritization of capital improvements and funding initiatives to implement project recommendations. This watershed planning team is comprised of technical partnerships that include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), ADEM, Jefferson County Stormwater Management, Jefferson County Environmental Services and Land Planning, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



UNIONTOWN INITIATIVES

Uniontown is an impoverished minority community in west central Alabama. For many years, the wastewater treatment plant has degraded due to lack of funding for maintenance. In 2003, the facility was unable to meet effluent discharge requirements and was subjected to enforcement action.

ADEM has initiated multiple efforts and participated in more than 10 public meetings, during a 12 month period, to discuss citizen concerns related to air, land, and water quality in the City of Uniontown. These public meetings have provided a forum for interested citizens to learn about the issuance of environmental permits, ADEM enforcement activities, and the process for filing environmental complaints. The Department also participated in a radio talk show with several Uniontown residents to answer questions and provide information to local residents. The show was hosted by WVAS 90.7 FM (a member supported public radio station) located on the campus of Alabama State University. The hour-long program was dedicated to environmental issues in Uniontown providing citizens a question and answer exchange with panelist including an ADEM representative.

The Department has invested significant resources in enhanced inspections of the municipal solid waste landfill and the wastewater treatment plant located in Uniontown (Perry County). These inspection efforts have also included joint inspections with EPA. ADEM has issued several enforcement actions related to the operation of the wastewater treatment plant.

In an effort to assist Uniontown in resolving its persistent wastewater treatment problems, the Department took the unusual step in initiating efforts that eventually resulted in Congresswoman Terri Sewell securing a \$5 million dollar package of grants and low interest loans. Through the leadership and guidance provided by ADEM the residents in the City of Uniontown are better informed, have better access to data, and are more involved with environmental issues in their local community.



EIGHT MILE TOWN HALL MEETINGS

A mercaptan release occurred in the Eight Mile Community (Prichard, Alabama), a low income and minority community. Mercaptan is an odorizer with a pungent smell that is often added to natural gas lines to aid in identifying leaks. The mercaptan release was the source of many complaints about poor air quality and odors in the Eight Mile Community.

Although odor is not regulated under the Clean Air Act or the Clean Water Act, the Department has utilized a two-pronged approach to assist the community in addressing this issue. First, the Department negotiated a binding non-regulatory agreement with the potentially responsible party to install an odor abatement system. The agreement also required a soil/groundwater investigation to determine the extent of the mercaptan contamination and to support the development of a remediation plan for cleanup. Numerous town hall meetings were sponsored by the Department to answer questions from the local residents and provide them with updates on the soil and groundwater investigation.

The town hall meetings involved detailed presentations as well as question and answer sessions with local elected officials and citizens. Other resource agencies such as the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have joined the Department in these efforts to provide the local citizens with accurate information about activities to address the environmental impacts of the mercaptan release but also the quality of life issues. The open lines of communication established between the local citizens and the Department are ongoing.



ANNISTON LEAD CLEANUP

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) became aware of soil lead concentrations greater than or equal to 400 parts per million (ppm) in some locations within the Anniston, Alabama area during ADEM and EPA's investigation of the Anniston Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Site during 1999 - 2000. EPA established 400 ppm as the cleanup standard for lead in residential soils at the site. Sampling results showed that some properties contained lead concentrations greater than or equal to 400 ppm, some properties contained PCB concentrations greater than or equal to 1 ppm PCBs, and some Commingled Residential Properties contain both. The Commingled Residential Properties became part of both the Anniston Lead Site and the Anniston PCB Site.

In January 2006, an Administrative Agreement and Order on Consent for Removal Action (hereinafter referred to as the AOC) was signed between the EPA and the Foothills Community Partnership for lead and PCB contaminated properties located in Calhoun County. Although not a party to the AOC, the Department committed to providing technical and field oversight support to EPA to the extent resources allowed. To that end, the Department dedicated staff as an oversight partner for the project to support EPA at its discretion.

Through a partnership between EPA, the Department, Foothill Community Partnership, and the community, numerous properties were accessed, sampled, and/or remediated. Several community meetings with local churches and other organizations, as well as key stakeholders, facilitated an extensive community outreach effort for this project.

During the course of work at the Anniston Lead Site, Foothills Community Partnership:

- Had more than 6,000 individual contacts with property owners or residents
- Participated in more than 25 community meetings
- Distributed 7 newsletters to more than 3,800 residences
- Sampled more than 4,600 properties, taking more than 15,000 samples
- Cleaned up 596 properties, totaling more than 3 million square feet of property



OUTREACH FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS

DESTRUCTION IN ANNISTON

The Department was instrumental in ensuring the safe and effective destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile in Anniston. The destruction activities conducted by the U.S. Army and its contractors removed the threat of one of the most deadly arsenals of chemical weapons and nerve agents ever stockpiled in the United States and greatly enhanced the safety of Alabama citizens.

A 95-day public comment period was held prior to the issuance of the original permit, along with 45-day public comment periods for each of the 25 major permit modifications during the life of the facility. In addition, numerous public meetings and public hearings were held providing additional opportunities for citizen education and input.

Throughout the 11-year operations phase of this process, ADEM maintained a 24 hour presence at the site, and committed more than 71,000 man-hours to monitoring on-site activities. In addition to providing this on-site presence, ADEM supported a transparent permitting and decision-making process providing citizens with numerous opportunities to submit comments and learn more about the destruction process.



BAYOU LA BATRE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Due to compliance issues with the discharge of treated effluent from the old Bayou La Batre wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), corrective actions including construction of a new 3.0 million gallon per day Wastewater Treatment Plant and an outfall line were completed by the Utilities Board of the City of Bayou La Batre as required by a 2011 Consent Decree.

During development of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the new WWTF, a Public Hearing was held by the Department in June 2008, at the Bayou La Batre Community Center to provide the community with additional information regarding the new WWTF and outfall. Notice of the Public Hearing was provided in Cambodian, Laotian, Spanish, Vietnamese, and English in order to engage the affected minority and/or low income community.

The renewal of the permit is in development and is scheduled to go to public notice in 2018.



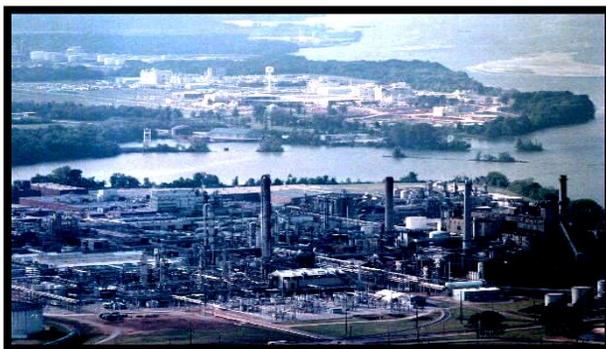
PERFLUORINATED CHEMICALS

Perfluorinated Chemicals (PFCs) are a class of man-made chemicals, which, in most cases, are not regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). PFCs, including Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS), was either produced or used in the production process by several industries in the Decatur, Alabama area. Wastewater containing PFCs was directly discharged to surface waters, land applied, or discharged through the sanitary sewer system to Decatur Utilities. The treated sewage sludge, known as biosolids, from Decatur Utilities was distributed in accordance with EPA's Biosolids Program as a soil amendment from 1996 to 2008. Sewage treatment sludge has also been disposed in area municipal landfills.

ADEM, along with EPA, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), has initiated multiple outreach efforts, including conducting public meetings to discuss citizen concerns related to PFCs. The public meetings have provided a forum for interested citizens to learn about PFCs in the environment.

During one of the public meetings, the ATSDR released their Exposure Investigation Report, which focused on residents who may have had a higher non-occupational exposure to PFCs than the average person. This included people who live on or near soils that received applications of biosolids from Decatur Utilities, had private water supply wells located near these biosolids application sites, or received water from the West Morgan / East Lawrence public water system.

In 2013, ADPH issued a fish consumption advisory for largemouth bass on the Tennessee River due to elevated levels of PFOS found in fish tissue samples. Additionally, ADPH issued a fish consumption advisory for all fish species on Baker's Creek due to elevated levels of PFOS found in fish tissue samples. Currently there are no water quality based criteria for PFCs; however, EPA has developed drinking water advisory levels for PFOA and PFOS, which are currently established at 0.7 micrograms per liter (ug/l) for the combined concentrations of the two PFCs. The Department has required facilities that have historically used, manufactured, or received PFCs to implement PFC monitoring along with PFC reduction plans in an effort to further quantify and reduce PFC discharges.



Enhanced Community Based Practices

STATEWIDE STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

During 2017, ADEM's Nonpoint Source Management Program (NPS) sharpened its focus with a series of meetings with individual river basin groups around the state. The meetings were designed to showcase the NPS Program to new partners, to build and strengthen existing partnerships, and to help identify the issues being faced in watershed restoration efforts.

This effort began with a Cooperators' Meeting in January 2018 at ADEM in Montgomery. This meeting included stakeholders who held a Section 319 grant contract with the Department targeting nonpoint sources of pollution to streams and rivers identified as impaired.

In February 2018, two meetings were held in Birmingham with stakeholders from the Cahaba and Black Warrior River Basins. The sessions drew more than 55 attendees who learned about how to become an integral part of the Clean Water Act - Section 319 Grant Program, aimed at improving water quality by reducing pollutant loads in surface runoff. The sessions provided for open dialogue regarding urban and agricultural NPS issues, the development and implementation of watershed-based plans, and protecting rivers and streams.

The meetings across the state were also held to help ADEM staff gather data from stakeholders on how to identify and replicate successful practices, leverage resources, measure results, and build partnerships so they can be incorporated into a strengthened stakeholder involvement with the NPS Management Program in each river basin in Alabama.



COMMUNITY-BASED PRACTICES

The Department's regulatory activities, while based on sound science, are driven by the legal authorities given to ADEM by the Alabama Legislature and the corresponding regulations that have been adopted under those legal authorities. The regulations, which have been adopted after lengthy public comment periods, provide the foundation of the Department's mission to assure for all citizens of the State a safe, healthful and productive environment.

In many instances, the regulations allow ADEM to prioritize resources based on the composition of the local community. For example, when prioritizing the allocation of resources for the cleanup of illegal solid waste dumps, ADEM takes into account whether or not it is located in a minority and/or low-income community. ADEM also considers the Median Household Income (MHI), when providing funds to local municipalities through its Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. These prioritization features are supportive of the Department's goal of assisting minority and/or low-income populations in addressing environmental issues in their local communities.



OPEN MEETINGS AT ADEM

The ADEM director hosts three open meetings each year for environmental groups and any citizen to meet in an open forum to discuss topics of interest. An agenda is compiled by a spokesperson for the environmental groups and submitted to the Director prior to each meeting. Based on the topics, executive and technical staff members attend the meeting to assist the Director in addressing any issues or questions that may arise.

The meetings follow every other Environmental Management Commission meeting and are held in the Main Hearing Room. Attendees are notified of the meetings via an email from the Director's office. Anyone who wishes to be notified of the open meeting should contact the Director's office to be placed on the email list.

It should also be noted that the Director has set aside an hour each month to meet with any individual to discuss a specific topic. To make an appointment for a one on one meeting, please contact the Director's office.



UNIVERSITY CONDUCTED SURVEYS OF
ALABAMA CITIZENS

Omnibus Poll/Survey Comparisons

1998--2003--2008--2013--2018



Omnibus Poll/Survey Comparisons 1998--2003--2008--2013--2018

- Overall, how would you rate the quality of the environment in Alabama?

| | <u>1998</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| ○ Very Good/Fairly Good | 76% | 86% | 90% | 88% | 92% |
| ○ Very Bad/Fairly Bad | 23% | 12% | 9% | 10% | 8% |

- Thinking specifically about the environmental quality of our water, how do you think it compares to 25 years ago?

| | <u>1998</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2018*</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| ○ Somewhat Cleaner/Much Cleaner | 19% | 29% | 43% | 36% | 49% |
| ○ Somewhat Dirtier/Much Dirtier | 50% | 40% | 31% | 27% | 18% |

** Question modified to be for the respondents' lifetime.*

- Now thinking about the quality of our air, how do you think it compares with 25 years ago?

| | <u>1998</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2018*</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| ○ Somewhat Cleaner/Much Cleaner | 18% | 25% | 30% | 31% | 43% |
| ○ Somewhat Dirtier/Much Dirtier | 54% | 51% | 49% | 32% | 16% |

** Question modified to be for the respondents' lifetime.*

- How much do you agree with this statement: Environmental standards protect your health and the environment?

| | <u>1998</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| ○ Strongly Agree/Agree | 81% | 87% | 90% | 76% | 90% |
| ○ Strongly Disagree/Disagree | 15% | 10% | 7% | 16% | 10% |

- How much do you agree with this statement: Environmental laws in effect in Alabama area sufficient to protect public health and the environment?

| | <u>1998</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| ○ Strongly Agree/Agree | N/A | 57% | 61% | 56% | 59% |
| ○ Strongly Disagree/Disagree | N/A | 37% | 33% | 33% | 28% |

Omnibus Poll/Survey Comparisons 1998--2003--2008--2013--2018

- How much do you agree with this statement: Local zoning laws are needed to address environmental impacts of development not regulated by the state?

| | <u>1998</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| ○ Strongly Agree/Agree | 75% | 71% | 74% | 68% | 73% |
| ○ Strongly Disagree/Disagree | 17% | 18% | 21% | 20% | 11% |

- How much do you agree with this statement: Environmental laws are being enforced in Alabama?

| | <u>1998</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| ○ Strongly Agree/Agree | N/A | 39% | 49% | 43% | 56% |
| ○ Strongly Disagree/Disagree | N/A | 48% | 44% | 44% | 44% |

- Overall, how would you rate the funding of state environmental programs in Alabama? Would you say they are

- Significantly under-funded
- Under-funded
- Adequately funded
- Over-funded
- Significantly over-funded
- Don't know

| | <u>1998</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| ○ Over Funded/Significantly Over Funded | N/A | 8% | 9% | 5% | 10% |
| ○ Under Funded/Significantly Under Funded | N/A | 48% | 50% | 54% | 45% |

- When an industry or business is fined for violations of environmental regulations, do you feel the penalty amount is

- Too high
- The correct amount
- Too low
- Don't know

| | <u>1998</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| ○ Too High | N/A | 11% | 10% | 9% | 8% |
| ○ Too Low | N/A | 45% | 48% | 41% | 35% |
| ○ Correct Amount | N/A | 27% | 23% | 26% | 26% |

Omnibus Poll/Survey Comparisons 1998--2003--2008--2013--2018

- What should be the major objective when a violation of environmental regulations is discovered at an industry or business?

- Violations quickly corrected
- Industry or business is fined
- Other
- Don't know

| | <u>1998</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| ○ Quickly Correct Violation | N/A | 87% | 78% | 62% | 81% |
| ○ Assess Penalty/Fine | N/A | 7% | 8% | 22% | 15% |

- What would you say is the biggest source of air pollution?

| | | |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------|
| ○ 1998 | Automobiles – 44% | Industry -- 39% |
| ○ 2003 | Automobiles – 42% | Industry -- 36% |
| ○ 2008 | Automobiles – 55% | Industry -- 36% |
| ○ 2013 | Automobiles – 38% | Industry -- 26% |
| ○ 2018 | Automobiles – 27% | Industry – 40% |

- What would you say is the biggest source of water pollution?

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| ○ 1998 | Industry -- 39% | Agriculture -- 39% | Run-off -- 4% |
| ○ 2003 | Industry -- 36% | Agriculture -- N/A% | Run-off -- 5% |
| ○ 2008 | Industry -- 36% | Agriculture -- 12% | Run-off -- 13% |
| ○ 2013 | Industry – 22% | Agriculture – 4% | Run-off -- 14% |
| ○ 2018 | Industry – 27% | Agriculture – 7% | Run-off – 11% |

- What do you say is the most important environmental problem facing Alabama Today?

| | | |
|--------|------------------------|----------------------|
| ○ 1998 | Water Pollution -- 37% | Air Pollution -- 16% |
| ○ 2003 | Water Pollution -- 28% | Air Pollution -- 12% |
| ○ 2008 | Water Pollution -- 22% | Air Pollution -- 17% |
| ○ 2013 | Water Pollution -- 23% | Air Pollution -- 15% |
| ○ 2018 | Water Pollution – 35% | Air Pollution – 14% |

ALABAMA SOLID WASTE STUDY

The disposal of solid waste in Alabama is an issue that impacts the lives of all Alabamians. Enhancing recycling opportunities as well as ensuring the safe, proper disposal of solid waste is a priority for ADEM.

In an effort to evaluate the ADEM solid waste regulations and potentially improve the landfill permitting process, the Department initiated an independent, third party review that included public input along with a review of how other states implement their landfill permitting processes. An integral part of this evaluation process involved holding at least one public meeting in each of the twelve Regional Planning Commission districts in Alabama, with supplemental meetings in minority and low-income areas. The public meetings provided opportunities for interested citizens to learn about the technical requirements of the existing solid waste regulations and to also provide comments on any proposed changes.

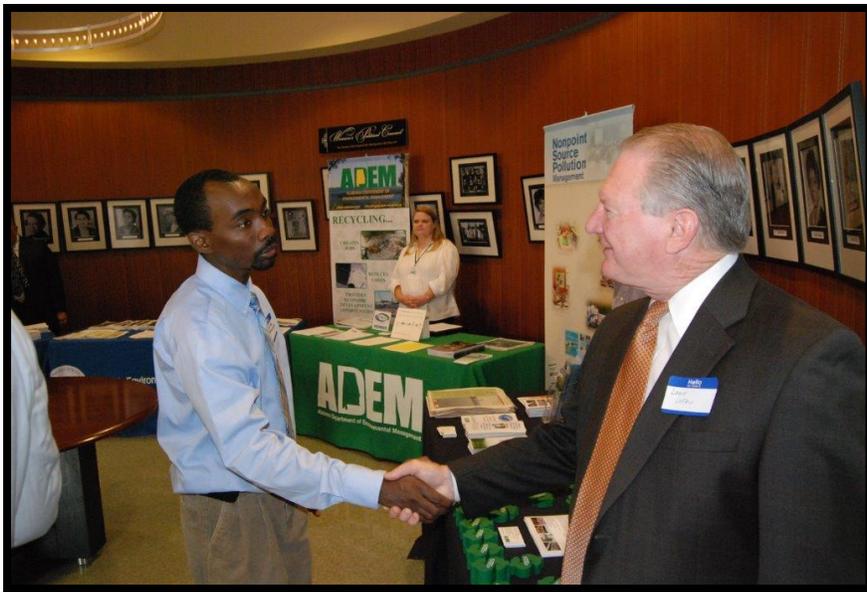
Attendance at the meetings ranged from nine (9) to fifty-three (53) attendees. Although attendance varied, the public meetings provide an example of the Department's commitment to seeking stakeholder input and focusing on transparency as part of its decision-making processes.



BLACK MAYORS CONFERENCE

Through a joint venture with Alabama State University, a historically black university, and the Black Mayors of Alabama organization, ADEM provided mayors from around the state with information on various programs that are administered through the Department. Information was presented on a number of grant opportunities that could benefit local governments. The redevelopment of old, abandoned industrial sites, known as brownfields, was a highlight of the event along with information about low-interest loans through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds.

The Department routinely responds to requests to speak and provide information at events such as the Black Mayors Conference. The cleanup of illegal solid waste and scrap tire dumps, fish tissue monitoring, air quality forecasting, the management of stormwater, and how to apply for recycling grants are always topics of interest to local elected officials. This investment of time by the ADEM staff to educate local elected officials enables them to make informed decisions on behalf of their constituents to sustain Alabama's air, land, and water resources, which benefits all citizens.



COMMUNITY LEADERS INSTITUTE

The Department has participated in three (3) Community Leaders Institute events that were held at the historically black educational institutions of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) University (Huntsville) and Miles College (Birmingham) and at Montgomery City Hall. The overall focus of the Community Leaders Institute is on the unique relationship between environmental protection, human health, environmental justice, and economic development.

A critical factor in the success of community development programs is a well-informed community. The Community Leaders Institute provides an open forum for local community leaders to engage local government leaders and obtain information on how to access resources and data that is necessary for making good decisions for local communities.



DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND

The Department dedicates significant financial and technical resources to ensure local municipalities provide clean, safe drinking water to their citizens. ADEM issues permits, requires specific monitoring for a wide-range of chemicals, and conducts routine inspections of drinking water facilities to document that Alabamians are receiving clean, safe drinking water from the entity that supplies it.

In an effort to provide these municipalities with the ability to keep their treatment plants modernized and up-to-date, ADEM implements the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), which is a low-interest loan program that allows municipalities to borrow money at low interest rates. The money can be used to enhance the drinking water infrastructure through the construction of new treatment plants, storage tanks, and distribution pipes. It should be noted that public meetings are held during this process. The purpose of the public meetings are to provide awareness, gauge public opinion and solicit comments on various projects from interested persons.

Loan recipients are provided maps depicting minority and low-income areas based on the most recent census data. The information is provided to assist the systems in their public outreach efforts. ADEM's SRF projects are not controversial and actually benefit the communities through low interest funding for improvements.



GENERAL BROWNFIELD INFORMATION

The Alabama Land Recycling and Economic Redevelopment Act was signed into law on May 21, 2001 allowing ADEM to create and manage the State’s Brownfield Redevelopment and Voluntary Cleanup Program commonly referred to as the “VCP”. The Act allows for the assessment and remediation of contaminated sites and grants certain liability protections, including protection from third party lawsuits, to those non-responsible entities wishing to redevelop brownfield sites.

A brownfield site is real property that either has contamination or is perceived to be contaminated. Brownfield sites are usually idle, underutilized or abandoned. With the passage of federal and state legislation allowing for significant liability protections to “clean hands” entities, many of these sites have been assessed, cleaned up and returned to productive use. The granted liability protections are fully transferable to any non-responsible party who may purchase the site provided all authorized land use controls are adequately maintained. Location and infrastructure usually play major factors in the reuse of a brownfield sites. Prime brownfield sites are usually near major highways with access to existing power, water, and sewer utilities. Many times existing buildings can be used for new industrial or commercial purposes. The potential for immediate use of a brownfield site may well offset the cost of waiting while a greenfield site is prepared and developed for use.

Once redevelopment in an area begins, other sites in close proximity also generally experience a level of rejuvenation and growth. ADEM has funding available for site remediation through the Alabama Land Recycling Revolving Loan Fund Program. The low-interest loans have a term of 10 years and are available only to local governments for site remediation. The Alabama Department of Revenue also has information on the various brownfield tax abatements and incentives offered on both the state and federal levels.



BEFORE: Buck Creek Cotton Mill



AFTER: Alabaster Senior Center & Park

ENERGY CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

The Department has provided significant financial and technical resources through its Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program and its Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program to local municipalities, including some in minority and/or low income areas. This enables them to complete energy efficiency upgrades at their drinking water treatment plants and their wastewater treatment plants. These upgrades have included the installation of new, energy efficient pumps and motors resulting in significantly reduced operating costs for these municipalities.

In addition to the state revolving funds provided by ADEM, as part of a clean air agreement with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the State of Alabama, and other entities, ADEM has provided guidance on the disbursement of over \$1 million in settlement funds to local municipalities that are located in the TVA service area, some of which are in low income and/or minority areas. These funds have also been used to support energy efficiency enhancements at local drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities.

These upgrades not only provide environmental benefits by reducing energy consumption but also provide economic benefits by reducing operating costs and allowing these municipalities to maintain lower rates for their local customers. To date, the ADEM Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program and the ADEM Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program have provided more than \$1 billion in low interest loans to local municipalities.



ILLEGAL SOLID WASTE DUMP CLEANUPS

ADEM's efforts to eradicate illegal solid waste dumps from Alabama roadsides is one of the key components in allowing Alabama to live up to its name, "Alabama the Beautiful." These illegal solid waste dumps are an eyesore, serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes, and can cause negative impacts to water quality in local creeks and streams.

ADEM was instrumental in obtaining a funding mechanism to support this effort through the passage of the Alabama Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials Management Act in 2008. Since the passage of this legislation, ADEM has dedicated both financial and technical resources to cleaning up illegal dumps across Alabama.

Through a prioritization process that includes whether or not the illegal dump is located in a minority or low-income area, the Department makes informed decisions and prioritizes these sites for cleanup. The efforts under this program assist innocent landowners who have had materials dumped on their property, increase community pride, and provide tremendous improvements to Alabama's natural resources.



SCRAP TIRE DUMP REMEDIATION

The illegal dumping of scrap tires in Alabama has caused environmental impacts. These sites have contributed to problems with mosquitoes and impacted numerous innocent landowners. Due to these facts, the Department actively pursued legislation that would provide a funding mechanism to address this issue. Those efforts were rewarded with the passage of the Alabama Scrap Tire Environmental Quality Act in 2003.

Since the passage of this legislation, ADEM has implemented a regulatory program that ensures the proper disposal of scrap tires and prevents the development of new, illegal scrap tire dumps. In addition, ADEM has provided financial and technical resources to cleanup illegal scrap tire dumps at over 170 locations in Alabama, with many of these being located in minority and/or low income areas. Almost 9 million scrap tire equivalents have been removed from these illegal dumpsites thereby removing environmental threats and eyesores in these local communities.



ABOVE GROUND STORAGE TANK COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROJECT

In an effort to inform municipalities with minority and low income populations of regulatory requirements related to above ground storage tanks (ASTs), the Department launched an initiative to provide compliance assistance visits to AST facilities owned by local governments in those areas. The visits gave the Department the opportunity to inform local governments of AST compliance requirements and of Alabama Tank Trust Fund (ATTF) benefits.

The tanks were typically located at county road and maintenance shops, boards of education, city shops, city school systems and municipal wastewater treatment facilities. The process included contacting each county engineer to discuss the purpose and goal of the project and conducting the compliance assistance visits to provide information, guidance, and points of contact in case questions arise in the future. The specific requirements for a tank to be considered ATTF eligible were explained in detail during the visit.

The total number of sites identified in this project included municipalities in areas with minority populations, low income populations, and below state average income populations. The priority sites (a subset of the total sites) in the project included municipalities in areas with minority populations and low income/minority populations. All of the priority sites have been visited.



ADEM WEBSITE TRAINING

The Department has focused significant resources on educating citizens and stakeholders on how to access information and utilize the new features that have been added to the ADEM website. Specific training events have been held at various universities to include Alabama State University (Montgomery), Bishop State Community College (Mobile), Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) University (Huntsville), Auburn University (Auburn), and the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa). In addition, a training event was held on February 25, 2014, at the public library in Uniontown.

These training events, which were widely publicized and offered at no-cost, allowed citizens to receive information on how to utilize the Department's new electronic complaint system (e-Complaint), the electronic filing system (e-File), and the What's Happening in your County feature. The e-Complaint system allows citizens to file environmental complaints electronically while the e-File system provides citizens with instant access to almost 2 million documents (inspection reports/permits/correspondence) that have been scanned into an electronic format. The What's Happening in your County feature allows citizens to view information related to public notices, proposed permits, permit applications, and public hearings in their local community.

The events also focus on educating local citizens, many of which are located in environmental justice areas, about the web-based features that ADEM offers on its website. Accessible from the comfort of their own home, or the local library, this information provides awareness and allows citizens to become more involved in the Department's decision-making processes.



ENERGY MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

ADEM is helping Alabama utilities preserve resources, obtain significant cost savings, and optimize utility operations by reducing their energy use for wastewater plant operations. This is an initiative of ADEM's Permits and Services Division and has been ongoing for many years. Today, ADEM continues to help utilities reduce energy use, save money, and optimize their wastewater operations in 2020.

The first project began in 2014 as a joint initiative with EPA Region 4 and the University of Memphis. Under the Phase I EMI, ADEM completed energy assessments at 19 wastewater utilities. ADEM provided recommendations on how to operate their wastewater plants with optimal efficiency. Since then, the outcome of this project has been tracked. The utilities are now saving a great deal of money (in some cases over \$100,000 per year) as a result of using less kilowatt-hours to run their utilities on a monthly basis.

Expanding on the first initiative, ADEM became involved in a larger two-state project with the State of Tennessee. ADEM helped win a competitive Department of Energy (DOE) grant to continue doing energy assessments at Alabama utilities. As a member of the DOE Joint Energy Project Team, ADEM worked with the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the EPA, and the University of Memphis. Under this DOE grant, ADEM and ADECA assessed 23 additional wastewater utilities in Alabama over a two-year period, helping them to conserve energy, reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) generation, and reduce nutrient discharge by improving the operating efficiency of their wastewater plants. ADEM and ADECA also developed a template for other wastewater utilities to follow so that they too may achieve improved energy efficiency, broadening the impact of the project to other Alabama utilities and indeed other plants around the nation.

ADEM and ADECA also hosted a series of technical workshops around the state to train utility managers and wastewater plant operators on how to implement energy efficiency measures, how to track energy savings, and how to optimize their wastewater utilities. The Department is proud to note that this endeavor has been incredibly successful and the participating utilities are now saving a great deal of energy while in-fact discharging an improved effluent quality as a result of plant optimization.

The DOE project concluded in July of 2018. However, ADEM continues to work in partnership with ADECA and EPA Region 4 to perform several additional energy assessments per year, as we identify opportunities for additional success.

To date, ADEM's recommendations have identified a potential energy savings of more than 20 million kWh per year. The improved energy efficiency can potentially reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by about 29 million pounds per year. In addition, Alabama utilities are

collectively reducing the amount of total nitrogen discharged to receiving waters by more 1.6 million pounds per year through plant optimization.

ADEM is also proud to have assisted the Hanceville Water and Sewer Board with its energy savings initiative. For several years, Hanceville has achieved a notable energy savings by continually improving its plant efficiency. Nevertheless, Hanceville then took the initiative to also install a solar energy facility at its wastewater plant. Commencing operation in July 2018, Hanceville now operates the first-ever solar array constructed to support the energy management of its wastewater utility. ADEM provided a low interest loan through the State Revolving Fund to support the solar plant construction.



David Moore (Muscle Shoals Plant Manager) receiving an Award for Success in Alabama Wastewater Energy Management Initiative.

ADEM WORKS WITH PARTNERS TO REDUCE DIESEL EMISSIONS

More than \$2.49 million has been made available in the last 13 years for grant projects and programs to reduce air pollution in Alabama. At least \$1.5 million has been utilized in Birmingham, Mobile, and Montgomery.

The money has been allocated by the ADEM to eleven partners to fund numerous projects all across the State from 2002-2017. Each project has uniquely served to reduce air pollution, and was designed to encourage efforts to promote cleaner air.

ADEM has partnered with municipalities, companies, school systems, and other state agencies in Diesel Retrofit Projects to improve air quality through the reduction in diesel emissions, which lower carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and particulate matter. The individual projects were primarily chosen for areas of the state that were exceeding, or were close to exceeding, the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

The Diesel Retrofit Projects have been implemented from Mobile to Fort Payne with seven taking place in the Greater Birmingham area.

The projects involved school buses, trains, refrigerated trailer, terminal tractors, as well as on-road and off-road vehicles. Many of the projects included the installation of retrofit devices such as diesel oxidation catalysts on vehicles and anti-idling devices installed on trains in order to reduce particulate emissions.

The partnerships not only assisted in achieving improvements in air quality but also allowed contractors, vendors, and employers involved in the diesel retrofit industry to retain their current staff and create new jobs. The ability of ADEM to establish these partnerships has enhanced public-private collaboration, and the leveraging of resources for the benefit of Alabama's overall air quality.



GEE'S BEND FERRY RECEIVES **ENVIRONMENTAL UPGRADE**

The famous Gee's Bend Ferry located in Camden, Alabama has been upgraded as the first zero-emissions powered vessel in the nation. The ferry was previously operating using diesel fuel and has been repowered into a zero-emissions battery-electric vessel. This upgrade will be more energy efficient, safe for the environment, and more cost-effective.

The funding for the repowering project was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA). The DERA program funds grants and rebates that protect human health and improve air quality by reducing harmful emissions from diesel engines.

Being the first vessel of its kind in the United States and second in the world, the Gee's Bend Ferry operates 362 days a year, providing five round-trip voyages each day.

In 2017, the Wilcox County Chamber of Commerce hosted a 10th Anniversary Celebration in honor of this repowering project at the Gee's Bend Ferry Terminal in Camden. Attendees included representatives from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Alabama Department of Transportation, EPA, the Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission, Lieutenant Governor Kay Ivey, U.S. Congresswoman Terri Sewell, and many others.

ADEM supports DERA and works with the EPA to find opportunities to better safeguard the environment and protect human health.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community based outreach, education, and engagement with the general public is essential to the overall mission of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

ADEM and its employees invest a significant amount of time and resources to meeting with and speaking to community-based organizations. The goal is to educate Alabama residents of all ages on ADEM's mission and the importance of safeguarding the State's air, land, and water resources. This is essential from an environmental standpoint and also from an economic perspective.

The Department receives and fulfills many opportunities for community engagement with the public. ADEM employees have met with senior citizen groups to explain the services provided by the Department and to encourage environmental awareness. Educating Alabamians of all ages provide benefits and helps keep the lines of communication open between ADEM and the citizens that the Department strives to protect.



Interagency EJ Efforts

SELMA-TO-MONTGOMERY NATIONAL HISTORIC VOTING RIGHTS TRAIL

ADEM has been the driving force behind a concerted effort to assess old brownfield sites along the Selma-to-Montgomery National Historic Voting Rights Trail (Trail) and to assist community leaders in the redevelopment of these abandoned commercial facilities. The goal of this effort has been to address environmental concerns along the Trail while at the same time revitalizing the blighted areas, providing employment opportunities, increasing the local tax base, and creating greenspace along the Trail.

ADEM and EPA conducted assessment activities at over 25 old locations that had previously stored petroleum products and also hosted numerous visioning sessions (charrettes) with the local citizens and elected officials to allow them to identify their visions for the redevelopment of their local communities. Numerous communities along the Trail have participated in this effort including Montgomery, Hayneville, White Hall, Uniontown, Selmont, and Selma.

In addition, ADEM committed over \$400,000 to the restoration of Genetta Creek, which is located in an area where the Trail enters the City of Montgomery. The project, while improving water quality, was also designed to support the EPA Urban Watershed Initiative to get disenfranchised citizens back in touch with their natural water resources.

A diverse and dedicated group of government and private entities have supported these revitalization efforts along the Trail. ADEM, EPA, the National Parks Service, the Alabama Department of Revenue, the Alabama Department of Transportation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and others, have all committed financial and/or technical resources to this effort.



GENETTA CREEK / FAIRVIEW

ENVIRONMENTAL PARK

Genetta Creek was channelized during construction activities on US Interstate 65 in the 1970's. Watershed health in the Genetta Stream and Catoma Creek watersheds has been drastically altered from the harmful effects of urbanization. Development throughout the watershed has resulted in increased volumes of stormwater runoff from impermeable surfaces; flashy hydrology associated with armored, man-made stream channels; loss of natural wetlands and riparian areas, inadequate natural flood plains; and threats to aquatic and wildlife species survival and habitat. The installation of conventional, hard-engineered, stormwater containment and conveyance infrastructure has diminished the Genetta Stream watershed's natural capacity to sustain a naturally functioning, hydrologic and ecological condition.

The genesis of the Genetta Park restoration project began in 2008 when Montgomery City Council members proposed a study of West Fairview Avenue. Visioning sessions were held to develop a master plan for all of West Fairview Avenue. Focus was put on providing greenspace at one of the entrances to the Historic Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights Trail and the City of Montgomery. In 2010, the City acquired the project site located at 750 West Fairview Avenue and near to where the Genetta Stream flows past Interstate 65.

The City applied to ADEM for a Section 319 Grant and was subsequently awarded funds from fiscal year 2010 to mitigate the transport of nonpoint source (NPS) pollutants via the Genetta Stream to Catoma Creek - and ultimately to help improve water quality discharged from the impaired Catoma Creek to the Alabama River. In May of 2011, ADEM provided additional funding through a principal forgiveness loan from the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund.

Constructed wetlands were installed on approximately 1-acre or about 1/3 of the project site in order to moderate stormwater flow and velocity and provide a natural sink to recharge groundwater. Wetland substrate and flora intercept and bioremediate Genetta Stream stormwater as it drains from a significant number of acres north of the project site. In addition, stream daylighting (i.e., deliberately exposing stream flow or stormwater runoff to light by liberating it from pipes, culverts, and paved channels) has been utilized in a segment of the Genetta Stream in order to restore it to a more natural, functioning ecological condition. Natural stream conditions and function is expected to be enhanced as the flow of water is exposed to air, sunlight, vegetation, and soil - all of which may transform, bind up, or otherwise neutralize stormwater pollutants. The walking trails of the park are brick paved to prevent erosion and allow for the infiltration of rainwater to the local aquifer. Trees, shrubs and other vegetative cover also aid both soil and groundwater remediation, a process known as phyto-remediation.

The Genetta Park project demonstrates to the public and private urban sector in envisioning and validating the benefits of stream daylighting; installing constructed wetlands; and establishing greenways as stormwater treatment, watershed and water quality protection, and economic benefits of natural "green infrastructure" practices as an implementation option to traditional, hard-engineered, stormwater containment and conveyance systems.

GENETTA CREEK / FAIRVIEW
ENVIRONMENTAL PARK



INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The EPA is engaged in a coordinated approach to evaluate the environmental condition and potential environmental impacts, in certain areas of the *North Birmingham, Fairmont, Collegeville, and Harriman Park* neighborhoods, as well as portions of *Village Creek, Five-Mile Creek* and *Harriman Park* ditch, located in and around Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. This effort, which includes air, water and waste issues, is known as the ***North Birmingham Environmental Collaboration Project***. The EPA is also working with local stakeholders to develop a plan to revitalize this area and improve the quality of life for its residents.

On August 4, 2014, EPA Regional Administrator convened the Regional Environmental Justice (EJ) Interagency Working Group (IWG) to bring federal support and technical assistance to the myriad of needs facing the City of Birmingham and the citizens in the area that makeup the *North Birmingham Environmental Collaborative*. The EPA's goal is to work with other federal agencies to assist with revitalization efforts towards making a visible difference in the communities impacted by potential environmental concerns, blight and degradation. The meeting included representatives from the communities, along with other City of Birmingham officials, ADEM, ALDOT and Federal Agency heads and their staff. Federal agencies in attendance included HUD, COE, DOT, DOL, DOJ, HRSA, HHS, ATSDR, DOI and EDA.

Since that time, various workgroups, which comprise representatives from federal agencies, the City of Birmingham, state agencies and neighborhood representatives, have worked together to explore opportunities to build interagency collaborative efforts in support of the needs on the North Birmingham communities.

On Thursday, January 22, 2015, the *Regional IWG* met to hear from the workgroups on the priority issues explored, potential long and short-term actions, opportunities for technical assistance and capacity building, and potential funding opportunities explored or initiated to address the concern. The relationship of the priority issues were explored for the *North Birmingham Community Coalition Plan* and the *North Birmingham Community Framework Plan* as well as the *Village Creek Watershed Management Master Plan*.



Community Engagement

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

The Department collaborated with EPA to officially designate Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) University and Auburn University as Centers of Excellence in Watershed Management. These designations have streamlined communications between the Department, each university, and numerous local stakeholder groups. Their official designation as a Center of Excellence in Watershed Management enhances grant opportunities for the designated universities.

Improving water quality in local communities begins at the local watershed level. One of the keys to the long-term sustainability of water resources is to educate local citizens to recognize that they have a vested interest in protecting their water quality at the local level. Each of these universities, through its designation as a Center of Excellence in Watershed Management, has contributed to this watershed focused effort and assisted local citizens and stakeholder groups to become more engaged in the decision making process and the protection of water quality at the local level.



Alabama A&M University



Auburn University

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL **JUSTICE CONFERENCE**

ADEM, in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, co-sponsored the 2012 Southeast Regional Environmental Justice Conference that was held in Atlanta. The event provided attendees with information on a variety of topics including developing sustainable partnerships, collaboration with minority academic institutions, effective ways to promote environmental justice, and building blocks to environmental justice.

Over 200 representatives from various stakeholder groups were in attendance at the conference. ADEM provided travel scholarships for a number of community representatives to support their attendance. In addition, ADEM staff met with all attendees from Alabama during a state/community engagement session to hear their concerns and provide information about ADEM programs.

This event, entitled “Promoting Environmental Justice through Effective Education, Collaboration, and Mobilization” also provided a venue for ADEM staff to network with representatives from other states to learn more about their environmental justice efforts. The opportunity to share information with other states and network with other environmental justice experts will provide benefits to ADEM in its effort to ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in the environmental decision making process.

TUSKEGEE MINORITY AGRICULTURE

Officials with the ADEM and staff from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) joined local farmers, representatives from other state and federal agencies, and officials from Tuskegee University at Al Hooks Produce, an area farm in Shorter, recently to share ideas related to agricultural activities in Alabama. In the summer of 2010, Al Hooks Produce joined the Tuskegee University Farmer's Cooperative, and since that time, has been supplying fresh produce to Walmart, the largest grocery retailer in the U.S.

The farm tour provided an opportunity for EPA to share information with farmers on issues such as pesticide regulations, and also provided area farmers a chance to highlight how agricultural operations interact with state and federal agencies. EPA and ADEM were joined on the tour by members of the National Association of Black Farmers, Tuskegee University, the Association of American Indian Farmers, and the United States Department of Agriculture. Following the farm tour, a roundtable discussion was held at the Kellogg Conference Center at Tuskegee University. The theme of the meeting was "Connecting with the Minority Farming Community." The discussions focused on farmers and landowners developing plans and implementing best management practices to improve water quality and making a visible difference in their communities.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT REEF FACILITY

REEF Environmental Services, in Sylacauga, was a centralized wastewater treatment facility located in a low income area that was permitted through ADEM to treat industrial wastewater. While operational, ADEM inspected the facility numerous times and initiated enforcement actions due to documented noncompliance. The facility ceased operations in 2010 leaving large surface basins full of untreated, or partially treated, wastewater.

In response to numerous citizen complaints about the facility and based on limited financial resources to address the situation, ADEM contacted EPA and requested federal assistance in dealing with the facility. An emergency response was initiated and it was discovered that hydrogen sulfide and other sulfide compounds were trapped under two tarps that were partially covering the surface basins. EPA utilized federal resources to remove the hydrogen sulfide gases and to treat/dispose of the wastewater in the surface basins.

As part of this effort, ADEM and EPA hosted three community engagement meetings to answer questions from local citizens and to also keep them up-to-date on the latest removal activities. In addition to these community engagement meetings, there were continuous meetings with the local elected officials to ensure that they could accurately answer questions that arose from their constituents.



MARKET DEVELOPMENT FOR RECYCLED **SCRAP TIRE MATERIALS**

ADEM has taken the lead in promoting the reuse/recycling of scrap tires and tire derived materials (TDM) and incentivizing businesses that process scrap tires to locate in the state. This effort provides environmental benefits through the diversion of tires from Alabama landfills and provides economic benefits through the reduced costs for tire disposal and affordable TDM for consumers.

ADEM initiated a Scrap Tire Marketing Program and partnered with other state agencies, municipalities, and schools to implement projects to demonstrate the viable uses of TDM. Tire derived materials have been installed on playgrounds at Buck's Pocket State Park, Joe Wheeler State Park, Lake Guntersville State Park, DeSoto State Park, Roland Cooper State Park, T.R. Simmons Elementary School, and Mt. Laurel Elementary School. Also, alternative surfaces that utilize TDM have been installed at Montgomery's Riverfront Park and at Prattville's Pratt Park.

A pilot project to use tire derived material instead of gravel in septic systems has been implemented and ADEM has partnered with the Alabama Department of Transportation to test rubber modified asphalt at the National Center for Asphalt Technology Pavement Test Track. Additionally, a scrap tire processing facility in Coffee County has been constructed, with partial funding from ADEM, to provide a better supply stream of TDM for commercial uses.



FIRST WATERCARE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IN SELMA

On January 20, 2016, in Historic Selma, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency made the first announcement of a new community water assistance program. It was announced that \$50,000 in financial and technical guidance would be provided to help Selma invest in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

ADEM nominated Selma as a candidate for EPA's new WaterCARE program, which will assist selected communities in developing innovative financial strategies for improving water infrastructure in order to meet long-term needs. WaterCARE stands for Community Assistance for Resiliency and Excellence.

ADEM Director Lance LeFleur, Selma Mayor George Evans, and Ellen Gilinsky, Senior Policy Advisor in EPA's Office of Water made the announcement at a news conference at the historic St. James Hotel in Selma. ADEM, EPA, and city officials also toured the Selma water treatment and wastewater treatment facilities.

Nationally, EPA will provide \$500,000 in financial and technical assistance for 10 communities. Through WaterCARE, EPA can help communities conduct financial evaluations, rate and revenue studies, water efficiency studies, and resiliency assessments of existing water infrastructure. Under the WaterCARE program, the selected communities each meet the following criteria: They have a population of less than 100,000; they have a need to address public health challenges; they have median household income considerations; and they have a readiness to start capital improvement projects.

EPA and ADEM will work with Selma to collaborate on activities needed to develop a financial strategy to meet the City's local utility needs. The program is designed to provide the following specific avenues of assistance to Selma: 1. Assist the city in developing the appropriate technology needed for its wastewater treatment plant; 2. Determine asset management practices that could be undertaken to implement short and long-term capital planning strategies for replacing aging infrastructure; and 3. Explore possibilities for regional partnerships to assist surrounding communities with water and wastewater needs.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE REGIONAL MEETING

ADEM hosted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Regional Environmental Justice 2017 Spring Meeting on May 10-11, 2017, in Montgomery. Representatives from EPA Region 4 and several states spent time engaged in meaningful discussions designed to strengthen relationships and build alliances with states across the region with the goal of achieving healthy and sustainable communities for everyone.

Topics discussed at the meeting included recent Title VI Developments at EPA, Community Focused Exposure and Risk Screening, and health impact assessments. The future direction of community engagement was presented along with Environmental Justice research, and the priorities and strategies for the continual support of Environmental Justice work.

Environmental Justice (EJ) is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EPA has the goal for all communities and persons is to have the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

Participants at the EJ Regional Meeting listened to reports and had discussions involving community solutions and the impact results from conferences like this may have in the future. It gives individual state environmental agencies the ability to make recommendations and monitor issues relevant to the needs and circumstances of minority and low-income populations, and help facilitate involvement and participation.

The meeting and outreach activities were structured to help broaden mutual awareness of EJ topics, and keep the states connected, so together the state environmental agencies can more effectively identify and address EJ issues impacting their communities.



LEAD TESTING IN CHILD CARE FACILITIES

In 2016, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Safe Drinking Water Act to address lead in drinking water at schools and child care facilities in the state of Alabama. The ADEM and its partners, Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (DECE) and Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) announced a statewide initiative to help voluntary testing of water at all child care and Pre-K facilities since children under 6 years of age are the most vulnerable to the harmful effects of lead contamination in drinking water.

During this initiative, ADEM is using EPA's 3Ts guidance as a model to communicate throughout the implementation of the program, the results, and important lead information to the public, parents, teachers and staff, and to the larger community. The 3Ts are as follows: (1) **Train** on the risks of lead in drinking water and testing for lead, as well as developing key partnerships to support the program; (2) **Test** using appropriate testing protocols and a certified laboratory; and (3) **Take Action**, including the development of a plan for responding to results of testing conducted and addressing potential elevated lead where necessary.

Throughout 2020, ADEM staff from the Drinking Water Division prepared and mailed out water sampling kits across the state to the child-care facilities. Representatives from DECE and DHR visited with staff members from these facilities and provided them with instructions and assistance on the testing. The sampling kits are used to test the water for any lead contamination from faucets and water fountains within the building and shipped back to the main ADEM laboratory in Montgomery for analysis.

To further provide assistance to the facilities, ADEM created a how-to video on the Department's website on step by step instructions for effectively sampling the water. Following the testing, ADEM staff report the results to each facility and have mailed out thank you packets including a poster letter of thanks and coloring books for the children.



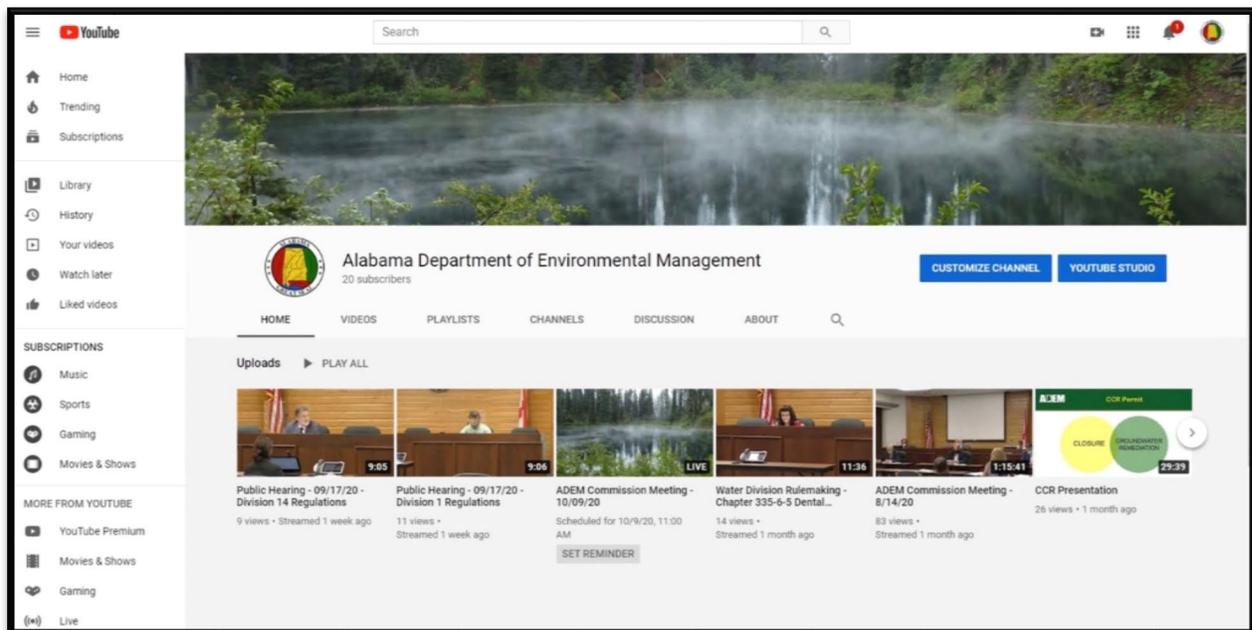
Enhanced Community Access: Tools Development

ADEM GOES VIRTUAL DURING COVID-19

In the spring of 2020, ADEM personnel began working remotely from home in an effort to protect themselves against COVID-19. With ADEM implementing a number of safety measures recommended by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ADEM employees have continued to work effectively and provide opportunities for the citizens of Alabama to participate in public input.

The Department has set up virtual meetings via Zoom and Microsoft Teams to use in place of public meetings where there is limited face-to-face contact. These virtual meetings have been utilized for staff meetings, industry meetings, workshops, webinars, and public hearings. The public hearings that have taken place at the Main Office in Montgomery have been livestreamed via YouTube and made available to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADEM continues to update safety protocols and procedures when necessary while keeping the public informed of all activities and events taking place at ADEM.



WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

ADEM has taken steps to ensure that boaters, anglers, and swimmers will be better informed regarding water quality.

ADEM has installed signs around the state at various rivers, bays, boat ramps, and beaches to inform the public of the condition of those water bodies. The signs contain information to direct people to the latest news and updates regarding fish consumption advisories, coastal beach monitoring, treated water discharge points, and sanitary sewage spills.

Safeguarding Alabama's natural resources is a priority at ADEM, and notifying the public of changes in water quality is a key component.

The signs have a link to the Department's website where the latest water quality information can be found along with any recent changes and feature a QR code that can be scanned with a smart phone to easily access this information.

The Department is also working on placing watershed signs along interstates and highways to promote environmental awareness and to help educate the public. The signs are designed to enhance public awareness of particular water bodies and of watersheds in general, and promote stewardship through changes in attitudes and behavior.



ELECTRONIC TOOLS DEVELOPMENT

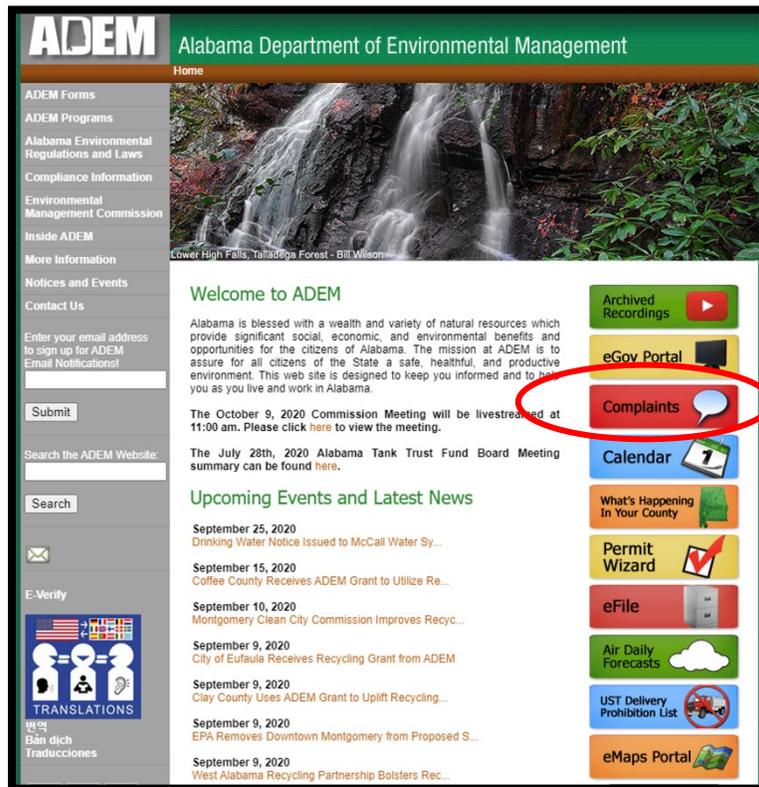
In recent years, ADEM has significantly enhanced the ability of citizens and industry to obtain information and communicate with ADEM staff, via the internet and the ADEM website. In addition, geographical information systems (GIS) and data layers have resulted in citizens having unprecedented access to information, records, and science-based data. These efforts have not gone unnoticed as ADEM has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognized by numerous organizations as a leader in electronic tool development. The information contained in this section highlights these efforts and provides an insight into how these electronic tools are supporting the Department's efforts to operate more efficiently and ensure all people can have meaningful involvement in the ADEM decision-making process.



ELECTRONIC COMPLAINTS (E-COMPLAINT)

The Department has implemented an electronic complaint system (e-Complaint) to provide citizens with another method of providing information to ADEM regarding environmental issues in Alabama. The e-Complaint system is housed on the ADEM website and allows a quick, easy-to-use system for citizens to file new complaints, search existing complaints, and determine the status of complaints.

Citizen complaints and other inquiries regarding open burning, stormwater runoff, illegal dumping, and other issues have all been submitted through the e-Complaint system. In addition to providing basic information about the complaint, citizens can include photographs with their submittal. The e-Complaint system is allowing ADEM to better focus its inspectors in areas where there is a real, or perceived, environmental issue and to be responsive to the concerns of local citizens.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COUNTY

The “What’s Happening in Your County” feature has been added to the ADEM website to provide citizens with information on environmental efforts within their county and local community. By clicking on any county on the state map, citizens can have access to permit applications that have been received within the last thirty (30) days, public notices that are currently open, and information about public hearings. This feature also includes information such as press releases, general statewide events, and schedules for meetings of the Alabama Environmental Management Commission, which take place in Montgomery.

ADEM is focused on ensuring transparency in all of its decision making processes and this feature makes information easily available to local citizens. The “What’s Happening in Your County” feature is another tool that ADEM utilizes to support the meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income.

ADEM Alabama Department of Environmental Management

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ADEM Programs
Alabama Environmental Regulations and Laws
Compliance Information
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TRANSLATIONS
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Other

What's Happening In Your County?
Citizen's Guide to Public Participation
Statewide - Lead Testing In Schools Report
Statewide - PFAS in Alabama
Statewide - PFAS in Drinking Water Systems Report

LAUDERDALE LIMESTONE MADISON JACKSON
COLBERT
FRANKLIN LAWRENCE MORGAN MARSHALL DEKALB
HARLOW WENSTON CULLMAN BLOUNT CHEROKEE
LAMAR FAYETTE WALKER ST. CLAIR CALHOUN
PIKEENS TUSCALOOSA SHELBY TALLAPOOSA CLEBURNE
GREENE HALE BIBB CHILTON COOSA TALLAPOOSA CHAMBERS
SUMNER PERRY ALTAUGA ELMORE NACON LEE
CHOCTAW HANCOCK DALLAS MONTGOMERY BALDWIN RUSSELL
WASHINGTON WILCOX BUTLER GENEVA HENRY
MOBILE BALDWIN
CLARE HENRIK BUTLER GENEVA HENRY
WASHINGTON WILCOX BUTLER GENEVA HENRY
MOBILE BALDWIN

Autauga Baldwin
Barbour Bibb
Blount Bullock
Butler Calhoun
Chambers Cherokee
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Clarke Clay
Cleburne Coffee
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Coosa Covington
Crenshaw Cullman
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ELECTRONIC FILES

(E-FILE)

In an effort to provide citizens and other stakeholders with easier access to ADEM files and records, the Department has implemented an electronic filing system (e-File) that now contains over 3 million scanned documents. All of these documents can be accessed by citizens through the ADEM website and provides tremendous cost savings for citizens as well as the Department.

The environmental files and records maintained by ADEM are viewed on a regular basis by local citizens that are interested in environmental issues in their local community as well as attorneys, environmental consultants, and environmental organizations as part of their daily business practices. Prior to the implementation of e-File, these individuals were required to make an appointment, drive to Montgomery on a designated date/time, look through the paper files, and then pay a copying fee to have copies made of the documents of interest. With the implementation of e-File, all of these files and records can now be accessed from the comfort of their home or office.

The development of the e-File system is an example of how ADEM is working more efficiently and utilizing electronic tools in an effort to absorb recent budget cuts. In addition, by making these files and records more easily available to local citizens the Department can achieve transparency in its decision making processes and can ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people.

The screenshot shows the ADEM website's eFile search interface. At the top, the ADEM logo and the text 'Alabama Department of Environmental Management' are displayed. Below this is a navigation menu with options like 'Main', 'UST Search', 'Director's Correspondence', 'Complaint', 'Fish Kills', 'Disclaimer', and 'How-To Guide'. The main content area is titled 'eFile' and contains a search form with the following fields: 'Media Area' (checkboxes for Air, Land, Water), 'Facility' (text input), 'Permit Number' (text input), 'County' (dropdown menu), 'File Name' (text input), 'Document Date' (text input), and 'Document Category/Type' (dropdown menu). There are also radio buttons for 'Name' (selected) and 'Master ID', a 'Find a Master ID' link, a 'Date Range' checkbox, and a 'Custom Query' checkbox. 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons are at the bottom of the form. A disclaimer is located at the bottom of the page.

Menu

- Main
- UST Search
- Director's Correspondence
- Complaint
- Fish Kills
- Disclaimer
- How-To Guide

eFile

Media Area: Air Land Water

Facility:

Name Master ID
[Find a Master ID](#)

Permit Number:

County:

File Name:

Document Date:

Date Range

Document Category/Type:

Custom Query

Disclaimer: This application is intended to provide a convenience to stakeholders so that they may freely access documents that exist in electronic format in the Department's document management system. Because of the existence of significant volumes of documents that are not in electronic format, no representation is made that the documents retrieved by this system represent the entirety of documents that exist for a particular area of concern. Use of this system shall not be construed to constitute a formal request for records to the Department.

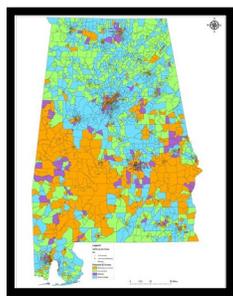
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The ability to manage and portray data in an easy to recognize manner is fundamental to achieving the Department's goal of protecting Alabama's air, land, and water resources. This ability provides crucial support to the Department's goal of ensuring transparency in its decision-making processes. Sharing data with others and assisting them with understanding the complex, scientific data that is handled by ADEM yields trust from the Department's valued stakeholders.

The use of geographic information systems, or GIS, allows ADEM to not only make data easily available to interested parties but to also portray that data in an easy to understand format such as a map. The Department created a webpage for brownfield sites where citizens can easily view brownfield locations that are ready for re-development. Underground storage tank sites can be viewed in another webpage. The locations of leaking underground storage tanks can be seen from a different webpage. ADEM has developed several other webpages that provide a variety of data views. Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) are available for viewing for 10 days after the overflow has ceased. Municipal Outfalls are another dataset provided in an easy to understand map interface. ADEM created a Water Info map that provides information such as 303(d) listed waters, TMDLs, water use, and stream classification. ADEM continues to add pages as data and needs dictate.

The ability for citizens to access information and files within ADEM is at historic levels. However, once citizens access this information, it must be presented in a format that is easy to read and understand. The GIS applications that have been developed by ADEM support the goal of presenting environmental data in a simple format that all citizens can understand. The availability of this data provides the public with a better understanding of current environmental conditions and encourages their participation in the decision making process.

It should also be noted that ADEM staff continues to receive updated training from EPA on EJSCREEN. Along with that training, the Department's GIS application enhances the staff's ability to utilize environmental data regarding decision-making processes in minority and low income areas.



ELECTRONIC DATA SUBMITTAL

(E-DMR)

The Department reviews and processes a tremendous amount of data on a daily basis to ensure facilities are operating in accordance with the limits contained in their environmental permit. As part of their environmental permit, businesses are required to submit to ADEM a discharge monitoring report, or DMR, on a regular basis. This DMR contains monitoring results that are then compared to the limits in their environmental permit.

Historically, the only way for a business to submit its DMR has been via mail with the accompanying data. This process has been time consuming for both the business to compile the data and for ADEM to process the data.

In an effort to streamline this process, ADEM has begun the implementation of an electronic reporting process called e-DMR. Through the e-DMR process, a business can submit its monitoring data electronically and in-turn ADEM can electronically flow that monitoring data to the appropriate database for review. The e-DMR process is providing significant efficiencies in the handling of e-DMR data for ADEM and is supporting the Department's efforts to streamline its operational processes.



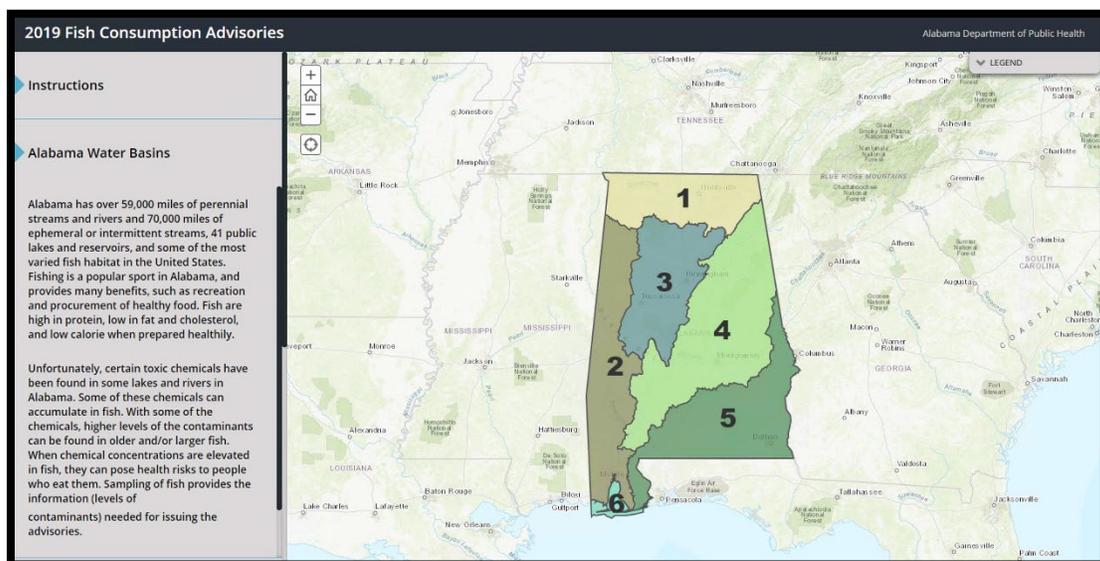
FISH TISSUE MONITORING

In Alabama, many people are considered sustenance fishermen meaning that they fish in various rivers, lakes, and streams and consume most of the fish that they catch. In addition, many of these sustenance fisherman are low-income and/or minorities who utilize their fish to feed their families and reduce their overall grocery bill.

In an effort to ensure fish in Alabama's waterways are safe for consumption, the Department collects approximately 500 fish each year as part of its Fish Tissue Monitoring Program. These fish are analyzed for a wide-range of chemicals/pollutants and the data is provided to the Alabama Department of Public Health so their medical experts can accurately review the data and determine the need for issuing any fish consumption advisories.

The issuance of a fish consumption advisory informs citizens of the need to either reduce or eliminate their consumption of fish species from that specific waterway. Providing citizens with information upon which they can make informed decisions about their consumption of fish from Alabama waterways is another way ADEM is working to keep citizens up-to-date on environmental issues in their community.

The Department developed a map that is available on the website that shows the geographic areas described in the Fish Consumption Advisories issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health. The user can click on the tab that interest them and then click on one of the Fish Consumption Advisories to learn more.



AIR QUALITY FORECASTS

In an effort to provide citizens with accurate, science-based information about air quality, ADEM meteorologists issue air quality forecasts for three of Alabama’s largest metropolitan areas. These air quality forecasts are issued in Huntsville, Birmingham, and Mobile providing residents with a “forecast” of what the air quality will be on the following day.

ADEM meteorologists use current and predicted weather conditions in conjunction with computer models to generate the air quality forecasts. Based on the forecast, citizens can adjust their daily routine to reduce their risk of exposure. Citizens can also do things like utilize public transportation, delay the use of lawnmowers, and wait to fill up their automobile in an effort to actually help improve air quality.

The air quality forecasts can be especially beneficial to young children that have respiratory illnesses, like asthma, as well as to the elderly. In addition, businesses that cater to young children such as day care centers and schools can adjust their daily schedules on days when the air quality forecasts predict higher than normal levels of pollutants such as ozone or particulate matter to reduce exposure.



Enhanced Community Educational Practices

ADEM PARTICIPATES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION EVENTS

ADEM participates in numerous events to better educate the public on their role in safeguarding the environment by their everyday activities. At three separate events, ADEM staff presented educational events aimed at elementary age students to five-year-olds.

One event held at the Coliseum Boulevard Branch library, ADEM presented a program called, “Build a Better World by Beating Pollution.” The program targeted fighting pollution and demonstrated to the students what they can do to prevent this problem. The children learned with a hands-on model how pollution in their community can spread to area rivers and streams.

In June 2017, ADEM took the opportunity to teach kindergarten and elementary school children about water conservation through a “Build a Better World with Water” presentation. The Department is dedicated to reaching out and educating young students in Alabama to help continue ADEM’s mission to “assure for all citizens a safe, healthful and productive environment.”

In September 2018, the Department was asked to speak to 3-5 year olds and their parents at the E.L. Lowder library about the importance of recycling, keeping the environment clean, and water and electric power conservation. A model of a “magic” recycling center was created to educate and entertain the children by showing them the process of recycling. ADEM also donated a children’s book as well as coloring books and crayons for the children to enjoy.

In 2019, ADEM demonstrated a watershed model to numerous library visitors at the E.L. Lowder Library. This was part of the Earth Day celebrations. ADEM also participated in the Montgomery Public Library’s event Summer Reading Party at the Juliette Hampton Morgan Memorial Library in July. ADEM provided children’s coloring books, pencils, stickers, and other learning materials.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

From 2017-2019, ADEM has participated in a large community unity “Health Fair and Back-to-School Giveaway” in Montgomery. More than 1,000 school children and adults from around the River Region Community attended the event each year that was held at Health Services Inc.’s River Region Health Center at 1845 Cherry Street.

The event’s sponsors included the City of Montgomery, the Montgomery County Commission, and the Alabama Department of Environment Management. ADEM employees participated in the fair, giving away educational items and encouraging environmental awareness and careers.

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. In addition, hundreds of book bags and school supplies were given away to the crowds of children who lined around the parking lot to get into the event, which also featured bouncy houses and games.



COASTAL YOUTH PROGRAM

In 2017, ADEM's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program continued its persistent message of environmental responsibility and personal stewardship for Alabama's coastal waters. ADEM was invited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico program to conduct an interactive workshop concerning coastal Nonpoint Source (NPS) issues.

More than 30 students were part of the national Asian Youth Empowerment program. The local Summer Youth Camp class was held in June 2017 at the BP-SOS office in Bayou La Batre.

BP-SOS (Boat People - SOS) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization devoted to Vietnamese-American civic and political activism. Their mission is to "empower, organize, and equip Vietnamese individuals and communities in their pursuit of liberty and dignity." There are 17 office locations in the U.S. that support individuals, families, and communities.

The participating students were taught about topography, watersheds, types of nonpoint pollution, and possible impacts to the environment. As part of the program, students first built small-scale table-top watersheds to learn about the concepts of topography and gravity, land use coverage, and their potential role in types of NPS impacts.

The students helped build a large, 20 by 25-foot, "We Live in a Watershed - A Watershed and NPS Pollution Module." Next, the students selected from five color-coded "pollutant" pads and each student designated their placement in the model watershed. The students witnessed the dramatic NPS processes and impacts of surface waters as the simulated rain washed "pollutants" downstream. The exercise was entertaining and educational for the children.



WATER FESTIVALS

The Department also invests significant resources to support local Water Festivals that are held each year in more than 25 counties across Alabama. While the Earth Day event targets various students, the Water Festivals specifically target 4th grade students. In addition, volunteers, community leaders and citizens benefit through this effort.

Water Festivals, with support from ADEM employees, educate over 20,000 4th grade students, many of which are minorities or live in low-income households, each year on the importance of protecting Alabama's water resources and allow the students to participate in hands-on events such as making a water cycle bracelet or building an edible aquifer.

The Department's professional, highly-trained, and dedicated staff takes great pride in its work. A tangible measure of our employees' commitment to protecting Alabama's air, land, and water resources is demonstrated by their work ethic along with their willingness to share their knowledge with others.



ASTHMA INITIATIVE YOUNG LUNGS AT PLAY

In another effort to ensure young children, including those in minority and low income areas, have clean air, and are protected against the harmful impacts of tobacco products, the Department has established a partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the American Lung Association of Alabama to highlight asthma awareness and designate public parks as tobacco-free. This effort has supported the development of numerous outreach and awareness tools such as asthma displays at local libraries, a Girl Scout Asthma Awareness Badge activity, an asthma awareness poster, and the placement of Young Lungs at Play signs at local parks and athletic complexes.

The partnership has worked with local governments and municipalities to help bring awareness of air quality for the young children that are playing in these areas through the placement of the Young Lungs at Play signs. The signs remind park visitors of the harmful impacts that tobacco products can have on young lungs. While the Department does not regulate second hand smoke, it is responsible for clean air in Alabama through its implementation of the federal Clean Air Act. The asthma initiative and the Young Lungs at Play awareness program provide an additional mechanism to protect young children in Alabama.



NO IDLING CAMPAIGN

ADEM has worked through a coalition of various state agencies to develop a No Idling Campaign available to local school systems across Alabama. The program is designed to bring awareness to parents, bus drivers, teachers, and students about the effects of vehicle idling while children are being dropped off and picked up at school. Automobile emissions can have adverse health impacts on young children, especially those with asthma or other respiratory illnesses. The No Idling Campaign was designed to reduce those health impacts, many of which are prevalent in minority and low income communities.

Participating school officials were asked to establish a No Idling Zone and to place signs in the area to serve as a reminder to parents and bus drivers. In addition, many schools established a no idling policy and asked parents to sign a pledge card to document their commitment to the program.



ADEM PROMOTES ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Education is a key component to sustaining Alabama's natural resources for future generations. Educating the state's youth and increasing their environmental awareness are also essential.

From 2017-2020, the Department has participated in the Central Montgomery Optimist Club's annual Dare to Dream Career Fairs for eighth grade students at McKee Middle School in Montgomery.

In 2017, ADEM participated in a career fair at Georgia Washington Middle School in Montgomery. The event was designed to provide career guidance and encouragement to students as they prepare for high school and post-secondary education. The students were able to meet with ADEM representatives to learn about Alabama's environment and career possibilities in science and engineering.

For the past three years, ADEM has attended multiple career fairs geared towards middle and high school students hosted by Council on Substance Abuse (COSA). These events have taken place at Lanark in Millbrook and Prattville Junior High School.

ADEM employees were able to spend a few hours talking to the students about their careers. The students had the opportunity to ask questions about what careers are available in the environmental field, what skills were valued in environmental professions, and what classes would be beneficial in providing those skills.

The Department emphasized to these students the importance of individuals of all ages in protecting Alabama's natural resources. Exposing students to potential opportunities in environmental management fosters critical thinking about future career paths and encourages excitement in learning about the environment. Reaching out and educating students ensures that Alabama will have bright, young professionals to continue ADEM's mission to "assure for all citizens a safe, healthful and productive environment."



Community Engagement

ADEM PARTICIPATES IN SCHOOL SCIENCE EVENTS

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management strives to continue educating the public, especially children, on environmental awareness. In January, the Department's Recycling team visited Redland Elementary in Wetumpka for their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) event geared towards K-6th grade students. ADEM encouraged the children to be engaged by asking questions and playing games. The group handed out toys and educational materials including coloring books, bracelets, and bookmarks while engaging with the children on various recycling facts about the state.

In November 2019, ADEM also participated in a similar event at Montgomery Academy. The event consisted of vendors from across Alabama such as Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, and National Society of Black Engineers and was a 'pop-up' children's science museum introducing hands-on activities related to STEM and art. ADEM's Non-Point Source group introduced the enviroscape model to educate children on the importance of watershed protection and not littering and keeping the environment safe.

In February 2020, ADEM engineers were selected to help judge and participate in the Shelby County Schools E3 – Engaging Elementary Engineers event. The event took place at the Shelby County Instructional Service Center in Alabaster. This two-day event aims to provide authentic and engaging STEM experiences for elementary students by challenging them with tasks and competitions that involve science, technology, mathematics, and engineering. More than 450 students from 37 schools participated in a full day of activities to strengthen their STEM skills. Representatives from Honda, Alabama Power, and ADEM helped judge and provide assistance to the students. Students were allowed to ask the professional engineers for guidance and tips on each project. ADEM engineers had the opportunity to speak to the students during their lunch hour about each of their responsibilities in protecting the environment and the importance of their degree in their career.



ADEM HOSTS TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY **VERIZON INNOVATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM**

Starting in 2018, the Department has hosted nearly 100 students each year from multiple 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 students toured the Montgomery Field Operations laboratory along with the “Ozone Room” in the Air Division. 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, GIS, 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. This two-year program is the first-of-its-kind to give minority boys in middle school access to high-level technology and entrepreneurship skills. 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.

According to Tuskegee University, minority males are severely underrepresented in STEM fields and are less likely than Caucasian peers to graduate from high school on time and pursue college degrees. In recent years, much more attention has been paid to empowering girls in these subject areas, but very few programs exist that specifically work with boys to spark their interests in STEM disciplines. Verizon identified this need and created a new, innovative program to focus specifically on minority middle school boys, giving them an opportunity for a bright future in these high demand fields.



ADEM EARTH DAY

While the employees at ADEM fulfill a wide-range of educational requests by speaking to students in schools across Alabama, the Department has also hosted an Earth Day event for the past seven years to educate tomorrow's leaders on various environmental issues. This event often includes minority schools to encourage minority students to pursue a future career at ADEM and to endeavor to protect the environment of their local communities and Alabama's environment. The Earth Day event provides an opportunity for students to visit ADEM and learn about the environmental programs that are implemented to protect Alabama's air, land, and water resources.

These Earth Day events have allowed ADEM employees to interact with over 1000 students and provide them with hands-on demonstrations about fish tissue monitoring, water quality sampling, air monitoring, and recycling. Students also learn about career opportunities at ADEM and are encouraged to pursue careers in science-related fields.

In 2015 and 2017, ADEM took the Earth Day event "on the road." The Department held a special event in 2015 for more than 120 middle school students at the School of Discovery in Selma. In 2017, ADEM traveled to Pike County High School where 250 students participated in Earth Day. During these events, students engaged in a number of activities with ADEM staff to learn about the environment.



OUTREACH AT THE MONTGOMERY ZOO

Since 2007, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management has held Earth Day activities at the Montgomery Zoo. On many occasions, the displays and activities last for the entire week surrounding Earth Day.

Over the years, ADEM employees have participated in clean air events, safe drinking water tips, an Earth Day Safari, and environmental trivia contests at the Montgomery Zoo along with the Montgomery Clean City Commission, and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts.

People visiting the zoo on those occasions have been able to learn about various aspects of water treatment, recycling, plant and animal conservation, and air quality protection. The events have enabled students and teachers to roam the zoo exploring and learning about the environment.

The first organized “Earth Day” was held in 1970, with more than 20 million Americans demonstrating in various cities. It is now an annual event in which activities are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental awareness.

At ADEM, “every day is Earth Day.” ADEM employees spend Earth Day each year involved in various activities to highlight conservation, education, and outreach efforts to safeguard the state’s natural resources. The Department has also participated in events at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens in celebration of Earth Day and as a way to promote environmental awareness.



RECYCLING CHALLENGE

In an effort to increase awareness and provide educational experience on the merits of recycling, the Department has initiated the Recycling Challenge where local schools can challenge each other to a recycling contest. The Recycling Challenge is designed to motivate students, teachers, and parents to learn more about the benefits of recycling and encourage them to participate in a recycling program.

As part of the challenge, ADEM provides each school with a recycling trailer and the students collect recyclable materials for a specific period of time. At the end of the collection period all of the materials are weighed and the school with the most pounds of recyclable materials is declared the winner. In addition to collecting money for their recycled materials, each school is provided with a monetary donation from the Department for their participation in the Recycling Challenge.



STEM CAREER ACADEMY 2016

SELMA HIGH SCHOOL - MARCH 8-10, 2016

Staff from the ADEM Field Operations Division provided a presentation on “The importance of water quality monitoring and how it relates to majoring in college in the fields of Environmental Science and/or Environmental Engineering” to the 2016 STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) Career Academy, sponsored by the Selma Chapter of The Links Inc. Twenty high school students from the Selma public school system were selected to participate in the Academy.

An introductory presentation on water quality monitoring was provided to the STEM students in 2016, parents, and teachers on March 8 while a technical, hands-on demonstration of water quality monitoring equipment, techniques, and biological indicator organisms was provided to the group on March 10. These events highlighted ADEM water quality monitoring programs as well as common causes of poor water quality. Attendees were also provided with information on how ADEM conducts compliance monitoring at wastewater treatment facilities and general information about the wastewater treatment process.

The presentation was followed by concurrent hands-on demonstrations of equipment and biological indicators that Field Operations Division uses to monitor water quality. These demonstrations included the microscopic analysis of water quality indicator organisms (insects/fish), the filtering of water samples collected from a nearby lake to extract algae, and the utilization of backpack electrofishers, waders, and nets to collect biological indicator organisms. All students used the water sample filtering apparatus and the microscopes while several kids tried on the backpack electrofisher. Photometers, turbidity meters, secchi disks, and ISCO samplers were also demonstrated to the attendees.



MINORITY RECRUITING

Since 2006, the ADEM has focused on recruiting and establishing diversity within the Department in entry-level positions. Our Minority Recruitment team continues to visit colleges and universities throughout Alabama each spring and fall in an effort to successfully attract minority applicants. Specific historically black colleges/universities visited on a continuous basis include: Alabama State University, Miles College, and Tuskegee University. Other colleges/universities visited include: Auburn University, Auburn University Montgomery, Huntingdon College, Troy University, University of Alabama, University of North Alabama, University of South Alabama, and University of Alabama Birmingham.

In 2011, the Department initiated a focus on middle and high school aged students to enhance their awareness of science careers in the hopes of sparking interest in environmental fields of study. To accomplish this effort, several scientists and engineers have spoken at various schools and distributed brochures along with career information. The Department participated in the 2013 and 2014 Inner City Career Connection. This connection targets pre-college aged potential candidates. In addition, the Department attended other events such as Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell's Job Fair in Montgomery and the 2015 EAWIN Career Discovery Expo presented by Tuskegee University in February, which was held at Auburn University. It should also be noted that ADEM Earth Day events have been held for the eight years so that local middle and/or high school students may attend hands-on learning events and learn of future careers to protect Alabama's air, land, and water resources.



COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION

Education is a central component to sustaining Alabama's natural resources for future generations. ADEM invests significant resources by speaking to students at various schools, by participating in local community events, and by speaking to civic organizations like Lions Clubs and Rotary Clubs. The need to educate Alabamians on the ADEM mission and the importance of protecting Alabama's air, land, and water resources not only from an environmental perspective but also from an economic perspective is an endeavor that cannot be underestimated.

The Department receives and fulfills many speaking requests around Earth Day and throughout the year. In addition to speaking at events that are held in the local community, the Department also hosts students and other stakeholders at its central office building in Montgomery providing presentations and updates on ADEM initiatives.

The investment in educating today's business leaders, as well as the business leaders and decision makers of tomorrow, will undoubtedly provide benefits as Alabama positions itself to economically compete with other states and at the same time be a wise steward of its resources.



ENHANCING RECYCLING AWARENESS

A significant key to the long-term sustainability of Alabama's natural resources is recycling. The ability to recycle materials provides environmental impacts, economic impacts, and will allow Alabama to further sustain its valuable resources.

ADEM is working to enhance the awareness of recycling and working to educate Alabamians on the environmental and economic benefits of recycling. ADEM staff routinely travel with the ADEM recycling trailers to large events like the Talladega Super Speedway, the National Peanut Festival, and the Health Services Inc. Annual Health Fair. The recycling trailers provide the attendees at these events with an opportunity to recycle and also allow ADEM staff an opportunity to interact with local citizens and discuss the importance of recycling.

Included in Earth Day activities, recycling trailers have been placed at schools in minority and/or low income areas, so that students could compete by gathering the most recyclable goods. This opportunity allows the students to become more aware of recycling and the school to earn additional financial resources through the Department's matching incentive.





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This publication has been produced using federal funds provided to the Department through EPA grants and Cooperative Agreements.

[Community Engagement](#)