

ADEM UPDATE

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Coffee County to Build Scrap Tire Processing Center



Processed scrap tires have many uses including being shredded for softer playground surfaces

The Coffee County Solid Waste Disposal Authority has reached an agreement with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management for the construction of a regional tire processing center near Enterprise. The center will provide a more efficient way to dispose of scrap tires and is expected to create jobs and attract more industry in the Wiregrass area.

ADEM assisted in securing more than \$5.8 million from the Alabama Scrap Tire Fund for the project to bid, procure, design, construct and operate a scrap tire processing facility for a period of no less than seven years. When completed, the regional processing center will take tires including those collected from the Wiregrass area and shred them. The shredded product can be used for items such as playground equipment, tiles, mats, fuel, and construction aggregate.

“This is a very worthwhile project,” said ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. “It will enhance recycling efforts in the Wiregrass, while at the same time create jobs, help eliminate illegal scrap tire dumps, and reduce the amount of materials going into area landfills.”

The center will be built just across from the Coffee County landfill along Highway 125 in the county’s industrial park. The county’s Solid Waste Authority will oversee operations at the facility.

As part of the agreement, the county must run the plant for seven years, after which the equipment becomes county property. If the center ceases operations before then, the equipment will become the property of the Scrap Tire Fund. The project also stipulates that the county must enter into public-private partnerships for the transportation of materials to and from the center. Coffee County officials report that they plan to recruit industries that will use the center’s finished shredded product in manufacturing processes.

EPA Office of Inspector General Ranks ADEM High

A trio of programs administered by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management received high marks from EPA’s Office of Inspector General in a recent report. In fact, ADEM’s enforcement of the Clean Air Act obtained the highest average performance in the country. Other state enforcement data analyzed by the Inspector General for the report included selected programs under the Clean Water Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). According to the report, the overall performance and level of consistency by ADEM in these two programs ranked in the top four of all states.

“This is quite an accomplishment for the Department,” said ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. “I commend our staff for their hard work. I would also like to note that of the top performers, ADEM received the least amount of state funding.”

The Office of Inspector General reviewed data from September 2010 through July 2011 for all 50 states in three programs: Title V under the Clean Air Act; NPDES under the Clean Water Act, and the Subtitle C program of RCRA. The evaluation of the states utilized EPA enforcement data and reviewed environmental laws, regulations, and EPA guidance.

The report was designed to “determine whether EPA set clear national performance benchmarks for state enforcement programs, and to what extent EPA headquarters holds regions accountable and supports them to ensure that all state enforcement programs protect human health and the environment.”

Four Watershed Projects Receive Funding



(L-R) ADEM Director Lance LeFleur with Gary Lemme of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Bill Batchelor, Dean of Auburn's College of Agriculture, and Auburn University President Dr. Jay Gouge

Early this year, ADEM announced the beginning of four specific efforts to improve water quality in Alabama. The Department presented checks totaling more than \$1.3 million for watershed projects designed to improve water quality, improve habitat for aquatic organisms, and provide the public with opportunities to learn about the importance of protecting water quality.

ADEM is providing the funding to implement scientifically sound and environmentally protective best management practices to mitigate nonpoint source pollution and protect water quality. Each of the projects encourages local input and active participation by cities, counties, and area stakeholders.

The watershed projects seek to educate citizens on the importance of protecting water quality and highlight the significance of water quality to local communities and surrounding areas.

The Department held news conferences at each of the following locations to announce the plans and present

checks: Joe's Branch in the D'Olive Creek Watershed in Baldwin County; No Business Creek in Morgan County; Parkerson Mill Creek in Auburn; and Mill Creek in Phenix City.

Cahaba River Society Recognizes ADEM

ADEM has been recognized for its work in cleaning up illegal solid waste dump sites within the Cahaba River Watershed. The Cahaba River Society presented the Department with the Society's Public Service Award during its annual meeting in February.

The Cahaba River Society spotlights projects within the Cahaba River Basin that support the protection and preservation of Alabama's natural resources. The presentation of their Public Service Awards and Conservation Development Awards allows the Society to recognize the stewardship of firms and coalitions that invest their time and resources to ensure future generations will be able to enjoy the natural beauty of the Cahaba River.

ADEM and its project partners worked to remove more than 5 million pounds of garbage and waste from nine unauthorized dumps located in Bibb and Perry counties. The stormwater impacts from those unauthorized dumps could contribute a large, and diverse, pollutant load into the Cahaba River and its tributaries. The Department provided approximately \$250,000 in funding to support the project and also provided technical oversight of the removal efforts.

"We appreciate the Cahaba River Society recognizing one of the many successful programs that we implement here at ADEM," said ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. "The Department has worked to clean up illegal dumps in the Cahaba River Watershed and other areas across Alabama and I am proud that our staff and our project partners are able to enjoy this recognition."



NPS Conference Largest Ever



More than 340 people attended the NPS Conference in January

ADEM held its 23rd Annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference in January at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Montgomery. Almost 350 environmental engineers, biologists, geologists, municipal leaders, and water quality specialists registered to attend the annual event.

This year's conference was entitled "Maintaining Momentum & Making a Difference" and included a summary of the state's Nonpoint Source Program that has been in place for more than 20 years. ADEM Director Lance LeFleur opened the conference which also included 30 exhibitors with displays and informative handouts.

The numerous sessions offered attendees a variety of updates on efforts to achieve water quality improvements. These included the installation of best management practices, the development of education/outreach materials, and the implementation of watershed management plans to enable local stakeholders to play an active role in protecting water quality.

Participants were also able to hear the latest on how storm debris removal in Alabama streams has been progressing since the tornadoes in April of 2011. In addition, ADEM staff presented updates on initiatives including the clean up of illegal solid waste dump sites, an overview of Alabama's NPS management plan, and the implementation of the new Construction General Permit.

A number of organizations and agencies participated in the conference including the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Tennessee Valley Authority, Auburn University, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Alabama Clean Water Partnership.

ADEM Employee Comes to the Rescue

ADEM has numerous emergency responders answering calls 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week involving fires, vehicle wrecks, chemical spills, storms, train derailments, and other emergencies. However, on January 31, the Department's Tommy Milford responded to a different emergency.

Just outside the Gulf State Park, a volunteer worker had suffered a seizure associated with atrial fibrillation (irregular heartbeat) and fell backwards hitting his head, rendering him unconscious. Milford, who was waiting in line at the park, immediately came to the assistance of the volunteer worker.

Milford asked for someone to call 911 and began performing CPR. He continued this until emergency personnel arrived. The emergency personnel "shocked" the volunteer worker four times

with a defibrillator until they got a steady heartbeat and were able to transport him via ambulance to the hospital. The attending cardiologist told the patient's wife that the actions of Tommy Milford had saved her husband's life. She subsequently sent a letter to ADEM stating the following: "If not for Tommy's past training and quick action, my husband would not be alive and with his family today! We thank God for Tommy and his kindness every day as most people would have simply looked the other way instead of jumping in to help."

Tommy is a Senior Environmental Scientist in the Decatur Branch. He is a 1987 graduate of Auburn University, and has worked at ADEM since 2006.



Tommy Milford

ADEM UPDATE Available Online

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



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