

ADEM UPDATE

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Region 4 State Director's Meeting Hosted by ADEM

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management hosted the EPA Region 4 State Director's Meeting in December. The proceedings took place over a two-day period, both at the ADEM Offices and at the Renaissance Convention Center in Downtown Montgomery.

EPA Region 4 Administrator Heather McTeer Toney gave opening remarks during the first day of the meetings, and made a presentation on "Making a Visible Difference in Communities" to those in attendance on the second day of the conference.

Environmental management representatives from Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee attended the meetings along with members of Toney's staff and ADEM officials

along with Director Lance LeFleur. The conference included roundtable discussions, an Environmental Justice presentation, and comprehensive updates on the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act.

Alan Farmer, Director of EPA's Resource, Conservation, and Recovery Act (RCRA) Division, also led a discussion on EPA's "Sustainable Food Management and Food Recovery Challenge Activities."

LeFleur called the State Director's Meetings very productive. "We were pleased to host this very important annual meeting," said LeFleur. "In these difficult financial times, we believe it is extremely vital to keep open lines of communication with EPA, Administrator Toney, Region 4 staff, and representatives from other states in the Southeast."



ADEM hosted the EPA Region 4 State Director's Meeting for two days in Department's Offices and at the Renaissance Convention Center

Compliance Calendars Assist Small Businesses

For the 15th consecutive year, ADEM is providing free compliance calendars to dry cleaners that use perchloroethylene (PERC) as their primary cleaning solvent. The 2015 calendars contain logs for documenting the storage and use of dry cleaning chemicals and also feature monthly tips to explain compliance requirements.

ADEM provides this compliance assistance tool to dry cleaners owners whose use of perchloroethylene requires compliance with specific record-keeping guidelines. In the past, the calendars have proven to be a valuable asset in tracking the use of dry cleaner chemicals and in meeting regulatory obligations. The 2015 calendars feature information on refrigeration system pressure, carbon adsorbers, along with leak detection and repair logs. These calendars serve as a compliance tool to help small businesses and can be utilized to enhance compliance efforts, which is a tremendous benefit for small businesses. The calendars also address additional requirements for PERC usage established by EPA. The calendars contain contact information that dry cleaner owners can use to get answers to questions they may have regarding environmental regulations, record-keeping, or adding new machines.

EMC Holds December Meeting



The full commission prior to the December 12th meeting

The Alabama Environmental Management Commission met on December 12, and dealt with seven items on the agenda, and heard one presentation during the meeting's public comment period.

One of the items on the agenda was a detailed report from ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. He presented an update on the Department's 2015 fiscal year budget, along with statistical "dashboard" metrics, and news regarding ADEM staff changes, and regulatory updates.

The EMC's Rulemaking Committee also met earlier in the day to discuss an update of the Commission's procedures and requirements regarding requests from the public to appear, speak, and make presentations to the full Commission. No formal action was taken by the Commission on

potential "public comment" rules changes. However, they will continue to receive input on the matter from the general public and stakeholders.

The Commission's next regularly scheduled meeting is set for February 20.

Surface Water Meeting Held at Embassy Suites

For the first time, ADEM hosted its annual Surface Water Meeting at Embassy Suites in Downtown Montgomery. Public water system operators, consultants, and engineers conferred on a number of surface water issues and topics at the 17th annual event on October 29-30. Departmental environmental engineers and other presenters discussed important topics, reviewed ongoing surface water projects, presented updates on various regulations for drinking water systems, and provided updates on operator certification.

The meeting helped demonstrate how the ADEM drinking water regulations meet federal requirements and how the Department partners with public drinking water systems to ensure compliance, lessen environmental impacts, and safeguard public health. Participants at the meeting were presented with the latest information on water conservation, water treatment plant issues, sampling and testing techniques, and drinking water security.

Providing drinking water professionals with the latest treatment and safety information will pay future dividends and help ensure continued compliance for our public water systems.

Presentations were also given by representatives from the state's Office of Water Resources and the Alabama Department of Public Health. Additional sessions handled by Departmental staff covered the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) and Operator Certification.

An update on ADEM's Area Wide Optimization Program and AWOP awards were also presented at the meeting. AWOP is a voluntary program designed to help surface water treatment plants perform at peak efficiency and exceed federal drinking water standards for health and safety. The optimization process helps drinking water systems maximize public health protection against a broad range of risks from waterborne contaminants.



A record 347 people attended the Annual Surface Water Meeting

Steve Jenkins Retires After 34 Years at ADEM

Following a sterling record over the past three decades, Steve Jenkins has retired from ADEM. Since 1998, Jenkins has served as the Chief of the Field Operations Division.

He began his career at ADEM shortly after graduating from the University of Tennessee in 1979. Over the last 16-years as Field Operations Chief, Jenkins has been responsible for managing compliance sampling activities at NPDES facilities, environmental emergency response functions, including responses to hurricanes and tornadoes, spills of oil and hazardous materials - including the Deepwater Horizon response - where he led the State's efforts in removing oil from Alabama's beaches, marshes, and near shore environments. He also has been responsible for managing ambient water quality monitoring, special water quality studies, ambient air monitoring, NPDES compliance evaluation activities, nonpoint source inspection and compliance activities, and the regulatory provisions of the Alabama Coastal Program.

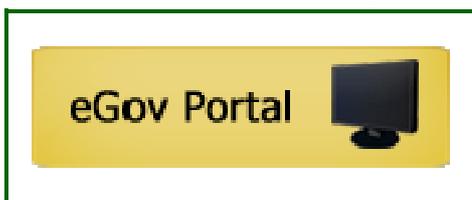
On November 21, Jenkins was honored with a retirement reception at ADEM and a proclamation from Governor Robert Bentley. Prior to that, he was formally presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Gulf Shores for his tireless efforts with all of Alabama's coastal communities to ensure the highest standards during the state's oil spill response and recovery activities.

"Your efforts have resulted in our sugar white beaches being returned to their pristine conditions," said Gulf Shores Mayor Robert Craft. "You have been instrumental in bringing about an excellent quality of life for our citizens with your active participation, energetic leadership, and unfailing commitment while serving at the Alabama Department of Environmental Management."



ADEM recognized Steve Jenkins for his 34-years of service with a reception on November 21

Data Management Innovations Enhance Efficiencies



The Department continually strives to enhance compliance opportunities for the regulated community and also provide citizens with access to environmental information, which enhances transparency.

To assist with this effort, the ADEM website has recently been updated to include a new icon entitled, "E-Gov Portal." This link allows regulated facilities to access a number of E-Government data

management items in one convenient location that is easy to navigate.

By clicking on the E-Gov Portal, applications such as e-Pay and e-Permit can be easily accessed. E-Pay allows for the electronic payment of various ADEM fees for items such as water/wastewater operator certification, smoke school, underground storage tanks, and bacteriological sample analysis. The e-Permit system is an electronic method for submitting permit applications and registration forms for activities that are regulated under the Department's permitting authorities.

The E-Gov Portal also enables an easy, online way to submit electronic Discharge Monitoring Reports (eDMR), reports under the Drinking Water Reporting System (eDWRS), and an electronic Notice of Intent (eNOI) to request coverage under a General NPDES Permit.

Another feature of the E-Gov Portal is the automatic transfer, or flow, of data from ADEM databases to databases that are maintained by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The automated flow of data to these federal databases, such as IRIS (Integrated Risk Information System) and ECHO (Enforcement and Compliance History Online), increases efficiency and at the same time reduces the chances of data entry errors thus improving data accuracy.

ADEM UPDATE Available Online

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



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