



For immediate release:
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Contact: Jerome Hand
(334) 260-4500

ADEM to Crack Down on Illegal Dumps

MONTGOMERY—The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is enhancing its efforts to locate and clean up unauthorized dumps that are located across Alabama and often impact innocent landowners. The Alabama Environmental Management Commission recently adopted regulations to establish procedures for the disbursement of monies from the Solid Waste Fund. The monies will be utilized to support the assessment, investigation, remediation, and proper closure of unauthorized solid waste dumps.

The newly adopted regulations will enable ADEM to work more closely with local governments to clean up these illegal dumps and at the same time locate the responsible parties and protect innocent landowners. The new rules allow the Department to have an increased oversight in the removal of all solid wastes from illegal dumps, along with approval of the final disposal of the solid wastes in an appropriate permitted landfill, or delivery to an appropriate recycling center.

According to ADEM Director Trey Glenn, “These regulatory changes will enhance the Department’s ability to clean up the many illegal dumps that are such an eye sore in Alabama and have the potential to impact Alabama’s natural resources. We are grateful to the Governor, the Alabama Legislature, and the Alabama Environmental Management Commission for their work in this area and the Department’s dedicated staff of professionals will now move forward in implementing this program to protect Alabama’s air, land, and water resources.”

ADEM will establish a site ranking system to determine priority for the remediation of these existing illegal dump sites. Higher ranking sites will be given priority for clean up unless it is determined by the Department that sites located in close proximity can be bid together, and cleaned up together, to more efficiently utilize resources. The Department will provide a notice for bids from potential remediation contractors by publication of a legal advertisement.

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(ADD ONE)

The person responsible for the creation, contribution to, or operation of an unauthorized dump site will be responsible for the clean up of the site under the regulation changes. In the event the responsible person is not determined, the landowner shall be responsible for site clean up, unless the landowner qualifies as an innocent landowner. An innocent landowner is exempt from the clean up requirements if they can prove they had no prior knowledge of the waste disposal activities and conducted due diligence to prevent the waste disposal on their property. However, they must allow ADEM access to the property and cooperate with the Department during the clean up process.

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