



**For immediate release:**  
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## **ADEM to Provide Assessments Along National Historic Trail**

Officials representing the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency met in Selma today to kick off an effort to assess the environmental impacts of old underground storage tank sites along the Selma-to-Montgomery National Historic Trail. The meeting provided the first opportunity to explain to local officials the overall scope of the assessment activities, to seek input on site selection, and to discuss the redevelopment potential of these properties.

In June 2006, ADEM officials proposed to EPA the concept of assessing these old underground storage tank sites to promote redevelopment and reuse of old buildings along the National Historic Trail. Since that time, ADEM has applied for several grants to support this goal of conducting the environmental assessments. ADEM has identified approximately 45 sites along the National Historic Trail that may qualify for assessment.

ADEM and EPA plan to conduct public meetings and visioning sessions at various locations to seek local input on site selection and redevelopment ideas. Meetings are tentatively planned for Selma, White Hall, Lowndesboro and Montgomery.

“Addressing environmental concerns and at the same time promoting the redevelopment of buildings along the National Historic Trail is very exciting,” said ADEM Director Trey Glenn. “The Department will be working with a host of federal, state, and local stakeholders to ensure the success of this project.”

ADEM staff attended today’s meeting along with officials from EPA Region 4, EPA Headquarters’ Office of Underground Storage Tanks, and the National Parks Service. In addition, the mayors of Selma and Benton participated in the meeting along with other local/state/federal officials. ADEM will work closely with EPA, the National Parks Service, local elected officials, and local community groups to develop a strategy which will promote redevelopment opportunities.

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