

ADEM

Alabama Department of Environmental Management

For immediate release:

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ADEM Seeking Assistance On Smith Lake Water Quality

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management dedicates tremendous resources to the protection and preservation of Alabama's water resources. These efforts include regulatory activities such as permit issuance, inspections, and enforcement as well as non-regulatory efforts such as education/outreach and providing technical/financial resources for project support.

In addition to these ADEM efforts, there are a wide-range of industries, municipalities, government agencies, environmental groups, citizen groups, and nonprofit organizations that selflessly dedicate their time and effort to the protection of this precious resource. The protection of Alabama's 77,000 miles of rivers, lakes, and streams requires the commitment and dedication of all Alabamians to ensure future generations are able to enjoy the recreational opportunities provided by this resource.

Recently, the Department has documented the presence of large, and small, pieces of beaded white foam (Styrofoam) floating in Smith Lake. This debris appears to be the result of pier replacement projects that are taking place around Smith Lake. This improper disposal of this material in Smith Lake creates environmental problems, causes health hazards for wildlife, and threatens the scenic beauty, and property values, in the Smith Lake area.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management as well as the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources have the ability to issue fines and civil penalties for issues that create environmental problems or threaten wildlife in Alabama. Yet, with limited resources and significant areas of responsibility the illegal disposal of beaded white foam (Styrofoam) in Smith Lake creates enforcement difficulties.

Therefore, the local residents who live, work, and recreate in the Smith Lake area have to play an active role in preventing this activity from occurring. In the event you are participating in a pier replacement project make sure all debris and litter are disposed of properly. In addition, if you have hired a contractor to conduct your pier replacement ensure they properly dispose of their debris/litter.

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The key to the long-term protection and preservation of Alabama's natural resources is for local citizens to have a vested interest in participating in those protection and preservation efforts. Please do your part and help protect Smith Lake for the enjoyment of future generations.

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