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ADEM Partners with Piggly Wiggly Alabama Distributing Co., Randolph County Board of Education and Winston County Board of Education to Reduce Diesel Emissions

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) is partnering with Piggly Wiggly Alabama Distributing Co., Inc. (PWADC) in Bessemer to reduce diesel emissions through an idle reduction project. ADEM will also partner with the Randolph County Board of Education in Wedowee and the Winston County Board of Education in Double Springs to reduce diesel emissions through a school bus replacement project. All participants will utilize funding under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA).

PWADC will replace 12 refrigerated trailers equipped with diesel-only transport refrigeration units (TRUs) with new, more efficient trailers equipped with hybrid-electric TRUs. The new hybrid-electric TRUs will benefit from a 2016 DERA-funded project in which 51 electrified parking spaces were installed. The electrified parking spaces give the hybrid-electric TRUs the ability to refrigerate the trailers using electricity, which will reduce approximately 5 to 10 hours per day of diesel engine idling per trailer.

The Randolph County Board of Education and the Winston County Board of Education will replace a combined 17 older diesel school buses with new, cleaner diesel school buses. Clean diesel school bus fleets have been shown to reduce the amount of air pollution that school children are exposed to, improve lung function, and reduce hospitalizations due to asthma and pneumonia.

ADEM has set aside funding for all three eligible participants. PWADC was awarded \$230,588, the Randolph County Board of Education was awarded \$291,612, and the Winston County Board of Education was awarded \$70,371. All projects were partially funded through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act. These projects are scheduled for completion by Aug. 28.

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