

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, March 27, 2023 CONTACT: M. Lynn Battle, Chief Office of External Affairs mlb@adem.alabama.gov (334) 271-7955

ADEM to Install New Air Monitor in Mobile

MONTGOMERY - The Alabama Department of Environmental Management announced it has reached an agreement with the City of Mobile that will enable the Department to install an air monitoring station on city property near downtown Mobile.

The air monitoring station will be installed at the James Seals Jr. Park and Recreation Center, 540 Texas Street. Area residents had requested the air monitoring due to concerns about dust. ADEM chose the site in response to those concerns. The site is in a high-use urban recreational area, and is surrounded by terrain that is relatively flat.

"Some residents have complained about dust in the area, and we want to see what possible impact that dust is having on air quality," said Ron Gore, chief of ADEM's Air Division.

The station will monitor for particulate matter of 10 micrometers or less (PM 10) - particles small enough to be of concern to human health.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has provided \$140,000 for the air monitoring station. The funding will cover equipment purchases, preparation of the site, and installation of the equipment. Resources for routine operation of the monitor will be provided by ADEM.

Construction of the air monitoring station is expected to begin in April. It will include building a platform to house the monitor and a fence around the site.

Monitoring activity will begin when the construction is completed, likely in late spring or early summer.