

ADEM UPDATE

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Stakeholders Meet with EMC Rules Committee



The EMC's Rulemaking Committee held a work session on Feb. 20

The Rulemaking Committee of the Alabama Environmental Management Commission met for more than two hours with numerous stakeholders and ADEM officials on February 20 in Montgomery. The work session was held in ADEM's Main Conference room following the regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

During the work session, Rulemaking Committee Members Scott Phillips and Mary Merritt heard comments and questions from the stakeholders and ADEM Director Lance LeFleur and Deputy Director Marilyn Elliott.

The meeting was designed to seek constructive input on how to improve the Commission's existing rule in regards to public comment. The Rulemaking Committee stated in a public notice to announce the work session that it intends to improve the rule (335-2-3-.05, Sections 1 through

3), and if changes are decided, to present them to the full Commission for its consideration.

In his opening comments at the work session, Committee Chairman Phillips said, "This is intended to be a dialogue, a productive dialogue. It's not about a decision that's coming out of this room today. It's really to get your views on what enhancements, if any, could be made to our public comment rule for us to consider. We will then take this information, look back over it, talk to Commissioner Richardson, who's not here, and decide at our next meeting, which will be in April, what, if anything, we want to take to the Commission."

Areas of the public comment section of the rules that are under consideration include, but are not limited to: e-mail delivery of public requests to appear before the Commission, a process for encouraging written public comments, deadlines for submitting presentations, and to clarify the procedures for being approved to address the full Commission. Twenty-eight people attended the work session with most having substantial comments or questions. Some of those in attendance included Nelson Brooke with the Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Cindy Lowry of the Alabama Rivers Alliance, former ADEM Director Trey Glenn representing the Business Council of Alabama, and Beth Stewart with the Cahaba River Society.

Scott Hughes Takes Over as Field Operations Chief

In November, ADEM's Scott Hughes was named Chief of the Field Operations Division, taking the place of Steve Jenkins. In this new role, Hughes is responsible for the Department's environmental emergency response functions and managing compliance sampling activities at NPDES facilities. He also will oversee the collection of ambient water quality data, special water quality studies, NPDES compliance evaluation activities, nonpoint source inspections and compliance activities, and the regulatory provisions of the Alabama Coastal Program.

Hughes graduated from Auburn University in 1988 with a degree in Biology, and started his career with ADEM the next year. He has worked previously in the Water, Air, and Permits & Services Divisions.

For the last nine years, Hughes has served as Chief of the External Affairs Office overseeing the Nonpoint Source Program and acting as spokesman for ADEM.



Lance LeFleur & Scott Hughes

ADEM and EPA Tour Tuskegee Farm



EPA and ADEM officials tour Al Hooks Produce in Shorter, Alabama

Officials with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and staff from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency joined local farmers, representatives from other state and federal agencies, and officials from Tuskegee University at an area farm recently to share ideas related to agricultural activities in Alabama.

EPA Region 4 Regional Administrator Heather McTeer Toney and Deputy Administrator Anne Heard partnered with ADEM and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries to

tour Al Hooks Produce in Shorter. In the summer of 2010, Al Hooks Produce joined the Tuskegee University Farmer's Cooperative, and since that time, they have been supplying fresh produce to Walmart the largest grocery retailer in the U.S.

The farm tour provided an opportunity for Administrator Toney to share with farmers information on issues such as pesticide regulations, and also provided area farmers a chance to highlight how agricultural operations interact with state and federal agencies.

"This tour was a wonderful opportunity for EPA to witness how a small family farm has grown into a model by being environmental stewards of their land, contributing to the local economy, and tapping into big industry with a small but mighty work force," said Administrator Toney, who was joined on the tour by ADEM Director Lance LeFleur, and members of the National Association of Black Farmers, Tuskegee University, the Association of American Indian Farmers, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Following the farm tour, a roundtable discussion was held at the Kellogg Conference Center at Tuskegee University.

The theme of the meeting was "Connecting with the Minority Farming Community."

The discussions focused on farmers and landowners developing plans and implementing best management practices to improve water quality and making a visible difference in their communities.



Al Hooks shows fresh-cut greens to Administrator Toney

EPA Region 4 Holds Air Workshop in Montgomery



More than 40 people attended an Air workshop in Feb.

Following similar workshops in Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida, ADEM hosted representatives from EPA Region 4, who held an Ambient Air Monitoring Overview & Data Quality Requirements Workshop from February 3-5 in Montgomery. More than 40 people attended the sessions held in the Department's Main Hearing Room, including 22 from ADEM, nine from EPA Region 4, and six representatives from other states.

The workshop was designed and coordinated by EPA, following what they identified as a need for more training for state and local ambient monitoring personnel due mainly to staff turnover. EPA created this training format to present an overview of the background for ambient air monitoring, and the regulations that govern ambient air monitoring. The workshop also instructed participants on the identification of the users of air monitoring data, and

the importance of high quality data, and best management practices in monitoring and data quality assurance.

The three-day workshop included a webinar for those that could not attend in person, and included hands-on data review exercises for participants.

Nonpoint Source Conference Well Attended



ADEM held its 26th Annual Nonpoint Source Conference on Jan. 15

ADEM held its 26th Annual Nonpoint Source Conference on January 15 at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Montgomery. The event was attended by more than 300 environmental engineers, biologists, geologists, municipal leaders, and water quality specialists.

The conference was entitled "Nonpoint Source Pollution - The Great Confluence: Water, Issues, and People Coming Together," and included an overview of the state's Nonpoint Source Program, which has been in place since 1989. The conference also included 15 exhibitors with displays and handouts. The event offered attendees updates on efforts to improve water quality in local watersheds. These included presentations on the importance of cooperative partnerships, installation of best management practices, education and outreach, and the development of

watershed management plans to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Adam Saslow with SRA International served as the keynote luncheon speaker. His "Trash Free Waters" presentation focused on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to reduce the amount of trash and litter that enters streams and rivers, bays, beaches and coastlines, and ultimately the world's oceans. Saslow pointed out to participants that EPA cannot solve this problem alone. They need assistance from citizens, businesses, municipalities, researchers, and many others to keep trash out of America's waters.

ADEM Director Lance LeFleur opened the conference and ADEM staff presented updates on various initiatives, including Class V permitting requirements and the Department's 2015 statewide water quality monitoring strategy.

A number of organizations and agencies participated in the conference including the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Department of Public Health, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Alabama Water Watch, the University of Alabama and Auburn University.

ADEM UPDATE Available Online

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management publishes the *ADEM UPDATE* quarterly to inform Alabamians on the latest news and activities of the Department. As a cost-savings measure, the *ADEM UPDATE* is no longer printed. It is distributed electronically and available online through the publications link on the ADEM website at adem.alabama.gov.



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