

# ADEM UPDATE

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## Hanceville is State's First Solar WWTP



Hanceville's WWTP becomes first in Alabama to use solar power

With the assistance of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Hanceville Wastewater Treatment Plant has become the first solar facility of its kind in the state.

Designed by Goodwyn Mills and Cawood under the direction of the Hanceville Water and Sewer Board, the solar array at the Hanceville WWTP was completed in July of 2018 and now is yielding significant energy savings at the facility. The solar installation was funded by an ADEM State Revolving Fund loan and a grant from the Tennessee Valley Authority, and will help the plant achieve ongoing energy savings for years to come.

The green energy facility consists of 504 Silfab solar panels arranged in seven arrays with dedicated inverters. Located within the fence line of the wastewater

treatment plant, the solar facility has the electrical generating capacity of 170-Kilowatts.

Since 2014, Hanceville has worked closely with ADEM to optimize its WWTP operation to conserve energy and improve effluent quality well beyond Hanceville's permit requirements. Hanceville has reduced its energy usage by 32-percent in the last five years and Hanceville has reduced its annual energy costs by \$19,000.

The Hanceville wastewater system treats approximately 0.7 million gallons per day of municipal wastewater. In addition to saving energy and reducing its energy demand, Hanceville has also implemented a nutrient reduction strategy as part of its WWTP optimization program. By optimizing its plant beyond permit requirements, Hanceville has lowered the amount of total nitrogen being discharged to the receiving stream by 25.5 tons per year. As a result, Hanceville's efforts are year helping to improve water quality in the Black Warrior River watershed.

## Kitchens Named Water Division Chief

Jeffery W. Kitchens has been named Chief of the Water Division, taking the place of Glenda Dean who recently retired. In this new role, Mr. Kitchens is responsible for the majority of ADEM's water regulatory programs, including those under the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Prior to being named Water Division Chief, Kitchens was the Chief of the Stormwater Management Branch in the Water Division. In that capacity, he was responsible for NPDES permitting of mining activities, construction stormwater, and municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4). He was also responsible for compliance and enforcement for the mining and MS4 entities.

During his 25-year ADEM career, Mr. Kitchens has worked in progressively challenging roles as a hazardous waste permitting and corrective action project manager, supervisor of the Industrial Minerals Section in the Air Division, and Branch Manager for permitting, corrective action, compliance, and enforcement activities under RCRA and CERCLA programs. Kitchens graduated from Auburn in 1993 with a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering.



Jeffrey W. Kitchens

## Soccer Complex Upgraded with Recycled Tires

The Emory Folmar Soccer Complex in Montgomery has recently received a unique upgrade, thanks to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

A new sidewalk along the sides of the soccer fields was installed that helps both players and coaches. The project consisted of pouring a rubberized recycled tire material at the complex funded through ADEM's Scrap Tire Marketing Program at a cost of \$71,805.

The program was established with the express purpose of demonstrating scrap tire derived products and applications, and their suitability for substitution of new raw materials. The concept is not new, as scrap tires have been used in such applications for decades. Widespread use however, has been limited by factors including developers, consumers, and construction firms being unaware of the myriad of applications available.

The program aims to increase utilization in Alabama. To date, the program has provided more than \$8 million for the implementation of projects. These projects have not only provided environmental and economic benefits in their application, but have improved communities and public facilities, with the Emory Folmar Soccer Complex in Montgomery being the latest example.



(L-R) Galen Thackston, ADEM's Adam Rhodes, and Jason Montgomery on the new recycled tire area at the Emory Folmar Soccer Complex

## Students Get Career and Technology Tour



Students listen as part of innovative learning program

The Verizon Innovative Learning program at Tuskegee University is a partnership for entrepreneurship and tech innovation for minority males. The two-year program gives students access to high-level technology and entrepreneurship skills. The program includes hands-on, interactive instruction and mentors. It utilizes a two-prong approach that includes field trips and visits to locations to introduce the students to careers that require science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management hosted close to one hundred students from various public and private schools across the state on July 9. The students ranged in age from 11 to 14-years-old and were on an enrichment field trip as part of an innovative learning program at Tuskegee University.

The tour and outreach sessions that were part of the field trip to ADEM included presentations on the Department's computer based systems, Brownfields, emergency response, and ADEM's web-based innovations.

ADEM employees had six stations set up for the students in the tour of the Department's facilities, which lasted from 9:30 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. Each station or demonstration lasted approximately 15 minutes and more than 25 ADEM employees participated in the career and technology sessions.

## Back to School Event Big Success



**For the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year, ADEM employees volunteered at the Health Fair**

to the children in an effort to promote a cleaner environment. In addition, the children were provided with encouragement to pursue careers in environmental fields such as science and engineering.

Other than the numerous “back to school” giveaways of school supplies, the Health Fair focused on health awareness and disease prevention for students and parents with free health screenings and educational information to increase awareness of available health services and resources.

More than a thousand school children from around the River Region attended Community Health Fair & School Supply Giveaway on July 27 in Montgomery. The event was held from 8 a.m. until noon at Health Services Inc.’s location at 1845 Cherry Street and was free to the public.

It was sponsored by the City of Montgomery, the Alabama Department of Environment Management, and the Alabama Department of Public Health. Over a dozen ADEM employees participated in the fair for the third straight consecutive year, helping to give away educational items and providing the children a hands-on learning experience.

Over 1,000 backpacks and school supplies were given away to the children in attendance. ADEM personnel offered items such as rulers and coloring books to

## Various Topics Discussed at Supervisors Meeting

In June, ADEM’s supervisors had a meeting in the main hearing room to discuss a variety of subjects on interest in the Department for the summer and beyond. Director Lance LeFleur conducted the meeting that touched on leadership, budget issues, ADEM performance on a national scale and future endeavors under the strategic plan and annual operations plan. LeFleur encouraged the supervisors to lead by example, set high standards, get positive results, and recognize employees who make each division, section or branch successful.

Despite being last in the country in funding, ADEM has been ranked in the top ten by EPA’s Office of Inspector General. In fact, ADEM’s enforcement of the Clean Air Act obtained the highest average performance in the country. Other programs ranked high by the Inspector General included selected programs under the Clean Water Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) placing the overall performance and level of consistency by ADEM in these two programs in the top four of all states.

Supervisors were reminded that state employees will receive a two-percent (COLA) cost-of-living-adjustment raise in October and that the Department will be transitioning soon from filenet to Laserfiche.



**ADEM’s supervisors discussed multiple topics in June**

# 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](http://adem.alabama.gov).



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