

ADEM UPDATE

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Millions in Low Interest Loans and Grants Being Provided for Energy Efficiency Upgrades

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is providing more than \$8.8 million in low interest loans and grants to support energy efficiency upgrades for five utilities in North Alabama.

The majority of the funds, approximately \$6.6 million, will originate from the ADEM Clean Water/Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Programs while the remaining \$2.2 million will come from a clean air agreement signed between the Tennessee Valley Authority, the State of Alabama, and other entities.

The funds will be used for energy efficiency upgrades at several drinking water plants and one wastewater treatment plant. The installation of the new, energy-efficient equipment at the facilities will result in a significant reduction in operational energy costs, and a total energy savings of approximately \$131,000 annually. Once completed, the upgrades are expected to reduce energy consumption at all the plants by an estimated 1.57 million kilowatt hours-per-year.

In addition, the projects scheduled to be implemented Albertville, Decatur, Huntsville, Russellville, and Sheffield will result in an overall emissions reduction of approximately 20 tons per year of sulfur dioxide.

ADEM Decatur Branch Chief Ed Poolos made five check presentations in November and December of 2012, and noted that the projects are a “win-win” for the environment and the citizens of North Alabama.

“Our main goal at ADEM is to safeguard the environment and when an entity is trying to take steps to provide cleaner and safer drinking water, or to improve wastewater treatment, that’s something we are glad to support,” said Poolos. “These grants and loans will help these facilities operate in a more energy efficient manner which will save money, reduce air emissions, and conserve natural resources.”



ADEM's Ed Poolos (left) presents check to the Russellville Water & Sewer Board



Sheffield Utilities receives check from ADEM's Ed Poolos (right)

The ADEM Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Programs provide financial assistance to local communities to ensure citizens have access to clean, safe drinking water and to support the proper collection and treatment of wastewater. The program enables local communities to support population growth and economic development without jeopardizing water quality.

Records Commission Presents Award to ADEM



Mark Anderson & Director Lance LeFleur receive award from Steve Murray

For the past four years, the Alabama Records Commission has conducted an annual awards program to recognize state agencies, publicly supported colleges and universities, local governments, and local historical entities that make special accomplishments in records management and preservation.

Recently, the Commission presented ADEM with its 2011 Governor's Award for an "Outstanding Records Management Program." The Department was recognized for the operation of FileNet, eFile, archiving files, scanning documents, and processing records requests that fall under the guidelines of Records Management.

Steve Murray, Director of the Alabama Records Commission, presented the award to ADEM Director Lance LeFleur and Mark Anderson at a recent celebration. Murray said the Commission was especially impressed with ADEM's

work in digitizing records so the records would be readily available to the both the ADEM staff and the public.

The Alabama Records Commission was established by the Alabama Public Records Law in order to better assist the State in determining what records should be preserved for historical interest and what records should be destroyed. While they do not hold hearings or decide cases about open records violations, they do possess some historical power in shaping what records are preserved and permitting the destruction of current records.

Annual Surface Water Meeting Held in Montgomery

Public water system operators, engineers, and consultants recently conferred on drinking water treatment, storage, and security at the 15th Annual ADEM Surface Water Meeting. The Department hosted the two-day event on October 1-2 at Auburn University Montgomery's Taylor Center.

ADEM environmental engineers and other presenters discussed important topics, reviewed ongoing surface water projects, presented updates on various regulations for drinking water systems, and provided updates on operator certification. The meeting helped demonstrate how the ADEM drinking water regulations meet federal requirements and how the Department partners with public drinking water systems to ensure compliance, lessen environmental impacts, and safeguard public health. Participants at the meeting were presented with the latest information on water conservation, drought management, water treatment plant issues, sampling/testing techniques, and drinking water security.

"Providing drinking water professionals with the latest information on treatment, monitoring, and security will pay dividends in the future and will ensure continued compliance for our public water systems," said ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. "It will also help to ensure Alabama citizens continue to receive clean, safe drinking water from their local drinking water authority."

Area Wide Optimization Program awards were also presented at the meeting. AWOP is a voluntary program designed to help surface water treatment plants perform at peak efficiency and exceed federal drinking water standards for health and safety. The optimization process helps drinking water systems to maximize public health protection against a broad range of health risks from waterborne contaminants.



ADEM held its 15th Annual Surface Water Meeting in October

Phil Davis Takes Over as ADEM Land Division Chief

In September, Phil Davis was named Chief of the Land Division, taking the place of Gerald Hardy who recently retired. In this role, Mr. Davis is responsible for the Department's efforts related to solid waste, hazardous waste, remediation programs, brownfields redevelopment, CERCLA, RCRA, and underground storage tanks.

Mr. Davis graduated from Auburn University in 1988 with a degree in Civil Engineering and started his career with ADEM that same year. He has previously worked in the Water Division and the Air Division.

In 2002, he joined the Land Division as Chief of the Industrial Hazardous Waste Branch and the management of the Solid Waste Program and Scrap Tire Program were added to his responsibilities in 2006. Following passage of the Solid Wastes and Recyclable Materials Management Act in 2008, Mr. Davis' duties focused solely on solid waste management, including the oversight of recycling activities and scrap tire efforts. For the past four years, he has served as the Chief of the Solid Waste Branch.



Phil Davis

Water Quality Branch Receives EPA Award



Lance LeFleur & Lynn Sisk with EPA Award

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management picked up another award this fall when the ADEM Water Quality Branch was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with the receipt of the prestigious "Excellence in Public Participation Award."

The award was provided as a result of the outstanding work, and commitment, to facilitating public participation in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program and the Water Quality Standards Program. Water Division Chief Glenda Dean, along with Lynn Sisk, Jennifer Haslbauer, and Daniel Saliba met with EPA officials in September to accept the award.

At the Alabama Environmental Management Commission meeting in October, ADEM Director Lance LeFleur congratulated the Water Quality Branch for its most-recent honor. "We are very pleased to see our hard-working staff get this kind of recognition," said LeFleur.

"This speaks volumes about the kind of people we have working here and their commitment to serving the citizens of Alabama."

ADEM's Scott Ramsey Receives Award

Recently, Scott Ramsey of ADEM's Water Division was presented with Alabama's first George C. Askew Award during his Certified Public Manager graduation at the State Capitol. Mr. Ramsey was selected for the award based on his CPM project on Mandatory Electronic Discharge Monitoring Reporting. The American Academy of Certified Public Managers created the Askew Award to acknowledge the efforts of those who have "demonstrated exemplary work" in the completion of their CPM projects, which are a vital component of each participant's training.

Ramsey's award-winning project was innovative in its approach, demonstrating an improvement in quality, and illustrating cost savings as the result of the implementation of the project.

ADEM Water Division Chief Glenda Dean said that Ramsey's project evaluated the cost and time savings of implementing a mandatory electronic discharge monitoring reporting system, and his analysis showed an actual cost savings of \$208,000 per year, a total realized cost savings of \$372,000 annually, and an implied time savings of one full time employee per year.

"We are very proud of Scott and this recognition," said Dean.

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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