

# ADEM UPDATE

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## Recycling Trailers at Big Events in 2013



Recycling Trailer outside Bryant-Denny Stadium

The Alabama Crimson Tide and the Auburn Tigers each had highly successful football seasons in 2013, and ADEM's Recycling Trailers have spent a lot of time outside both home stadiums.

The trailers were at the first three Auburn games in September, outside Jordan-Hare Stadium, and in October, one of the two trailers was parked just outside Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa.

ADEM's Recycling staff coordinated the use of the trailers with the universities and other organizations to promote recycling at high-profile events in last year. Both Auburn University and the University of Alabama have their own very successful recycling programs. ADEM's recycling trailer has been used to help promote recycling and to educate the public about the benefits of recycling and to get exposure in high traffic areas near the stadiums.

The main purpose of the trailers (and highly visible collection bins) are to get the public accustomed to recycling at events, and to show people that recycling has a place in all aspects of day-to-day life, not just at home. When people see the trailers and bins around and are able to speak to ADEM about how to use them, they will hopefully get in the habit of putting their materials in the recycling bin instead of the trash. With thousands traveling to these big events, they may

take the idea of "big event" recycling back home, and demand from their city or county, the ability to recycle at local events.

Not only have the trailers visited Auburn and Alabama in 2013, but they've also made stops at various other big events, including the Alabama National Fair in Montgomery, Bayfest in Mobile, and at the National Peanut Festival in Dothan. If you have a suggestion about where the recycling trailers should visit, please contact the recycling staff in ADEM's Land Division.

## Compliance Calendars Assist Small Business Owners

For the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, ADEM has provided free compliance calendars to dry cleaners that use perchloroethylene (PERC) as their primary cleaning solvent. The 2014 calendars contain logs for documenting the storage and use of dry cleaning chemicals and also feature monthly tips to explain compliance requirements.

ADEM provided this compliance assistance tool to more than 70 dry cleaners whose use of perchloroethylene requires compliance with specific record-keeping guidelines. In the past, the calendars have proven to be a valuable asset in tracking the use of dry cleaner chemicals and in meeting regulatory obligations. The calendars feature information on refrigeration system pressure, carbon adsorbers, along with leak detection and repair logs. They serve as a compliance tool to help small businesses and can be utilized to enhance compliance efforts, which is a tremendous benefit for small businesses. The calendars contain contact information that dry cleaner owners can use to get answers to questions they may have regarding environmental regulations, record-keeping, or adding new machines.

## UST Conference Draws a Crowd



**More than 170 attended the UST Conference**

ADEM's 21<sup>st</sup> Underground Storage Tank Assessment and Remediation Conference was held in November in Montgomery at the Gordon Persons Building downtown. The conference offered valuable information to 171 environmental contractors, consultants and petroleum tank owners that were able to attend the event.

The Department works closely with these specialists to investigate, assess and remediate petroleum releases or potential problems. The conference gave ADEM officials the opportunity to update participants on UST regulations and guidelines.

ADEM presented a variety of topics at the conference regarding storage tank sites including permitting requirements, rules compliance, development of corrective action plans, monitoring and tank closure procedures. Participants also received guidance on procedures to access the Alabama Tank Trust Fund to help finance the clean-up of sites.

The Department currently oversees more than 900 Trust Fund-eligible releases statewide. ADEM reviews technical plans regarding assessment, risk evaluation and remediation of releases and evaluates cost proposals for work under the fund. ADEM project managers are assigned specific cases and are responsible for overseeing site activities to ensure regulatory compliance.

Nine invited speakers presented information relative to the conference and of interest to attendees. Topics included available technologies to minimize costs and vapor intrusion risks, the use of in-situ ozone injection, site characterization tools, directional drilling and risks posed by free product. In addition to UST related topics, updates were given on Voluntary Clean-ups, Brownfields, Air Emission issues, and NPDES permitting.

## Annual Surface Water Meeting Held at AUM

Public water system operators, consultants, and engineers recently conferred on numerous surface water issues and topics at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual ADEM Surface Water Meeting.

The Department hosted the event at Auburn University Montgomery's Taylor Center on October 21-22. ADEM environmental engineers and other presenters discussed important topics, reviewed ongoing surface water projects, presented updates on 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, water treatment plant issues, sampling/testing techniques, drinking water security, and the new "No Lead" rule.

An update on the Area Wide Optimization Program and AWOP awards were 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. Presentations were also given by representatives from the state's Office of Water Resources, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the University of North Carolina's Environmental Finance Center.



**ADEM Held its Surface Water Meeting at AUM**

## Air Conference Held in Montgomery



### Air Regulatory Conference held October 3 in Montgomery

Those in attendance were presented information on topics such as the impact of federal regulations on major and minor sources of air emissions, general issues associated with air permits, air permit fees, air monitoring, air quality standards, and air quality modeling. Presentations were also given by representatives from the Jefferson County Department of Health, Honda Manufacturing America, and the City of Huntsville's Department of Natural Resources. The event was co-sponsored by ADEM and the Alabama Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA), with ADEM Director Lance LeFleur providing an update on ADEM efforts and A&WMA Chairman Larry Spann giving the opening remarks for the one-day event.

In October, ADEM hosted more than 250 industry representatives and environmental consultants at the Alabama Air Regulatory Update, held at the RSA Activity Center in Downtown Montgomery.

The event is a compliance assistance effort to update interested parties on recent changes in ADEM and EPA air regulations along with highlighting air quality issues. The ADEM Air Division strives to make sure regulated facilities understand the conditions of their air permits, which enhances compliance with federal and state air regulations. ADEM officials provided presentations and met with attendees individually to exchange information and discuss important issues. ADEM staff also answered questions related to compliance issues and highlighted how the Department administers its various air programs.

Those in attendance were presented information on

## Protecting Alabama's High Quality Waters

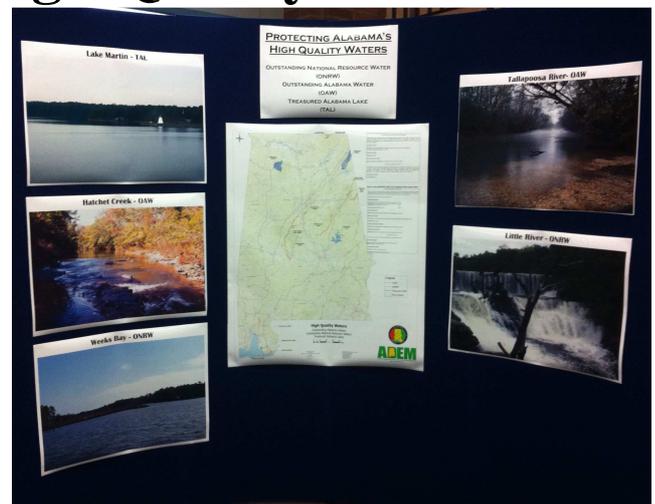
Alabama has long been recognized for its abundant water resources. ADEM is faced with the tremendous challenge of monitoring and accurately reporting on the condition of more than 77,000 miles of streams and rivers, 481,757 acres of publicly-owned lakes and reservoirs, 610 square miles of estuaries, and 50 miles of coastal shoreline.

The federal Clean Water Act directs ADEM to monitor and report on the condition of Alabama's surface waters. The Department's assessment and listing methodology establishes a process, consistent with EPA guidance, to assess the status of waters relative to their designated uses.

Recently ADEM's lobby board featured "Protecting Alabama's High Quality Waters." The display featured photos and a detailed map of the state's classifications and designations of high quality waters, both current and proposed. It included photos of Outstanding Alabama

Waters (OAW), which include segments of Hatcher Creek and the Tallapoosa River. Little River and Weeks Bay, which are designated as Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW), along with Alabama's only Treasured Alabama Lake (TAL), Lake Martin. OAW is considered a designated use, whereas, ONRW and TAL are considered special designations. The map also included a number of proposed changes to these classifications and designations. These proposed changes were initiated with a public comment period on October 27 and a public hearing was held on December 18. Among the proposed changes are the addition of the OAW use classification to segments of Shoal Creek in Cleburne County along with Estill Fork and Hurricane Creek in Jackson County.

Designated uses describe the best uses reasonably expected of surface waters. The uses include such activities as recreation, public water supply, agricultural/industrial water supply, and habitat for fish and wildlife. These high quality waters are protected or require a thorough evaluation of discharges from new or expanded point sources of pollutants.



Alabama's High Quality Waters featured on lobby board

# 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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