

ADEM UPDATE

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Op Plan Achievements Highlighted

A number of achievements under ADEM's Operations Plan for the 2017 fiscal year were displayed recently in the main lobby. The accomplishments were also reported to the regular meeting of the Alabama Environmental Management Commission on October 20 by Director Lance LeFleur.

The achievements include the ECOS award for the Department's n-SPECT program. The cutting edge mobile inspection application for field inspectors allows for the collection of environmental data along with quick and efficient inspections providing maximum flexibility and ease of use for ADEM employees.

The program also increases efficiency and transparency, reduces human errors, and allows for more inspections to be completed with less personnel.

ECOS presented ADEM an award at their fall meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The 2017 State Program Innovation award recognizes outstanding state initiatives that can serve as replicable models for other states.

Other electronic systems from the Op Plan that have been successful include e-DMR and the e-Maps Portal, which is a web-enabled electronic environmental reporting system for wastewater facilities to streamline the management of discharge monitoring reports and Sanitary Sewer Overflow reports. It enables facilities with an online way to submit data and allows ADEM to electronically validate information, acknowledge receipt, and upload data to the State's central wastewater database.

ADEM's e-Maps Portal provides interactive maps to locate Brownfield sites, underground storage tanks, as well as sites undergoing corrective action. The portal enables citizens to access specific information about activities in their community.

Outreach to citizens, the regulated community, and governmental outreach were also part of the 2017 Op Plan and featured on the lobby display. The Department's conferences and workshops were highlighted along with the annual Earth Day activities. In addition, ADEM hosted the EPA Region 4 Environmental Justice spring meeting involving a number of states. Attendees engaged in discussions to strengthen relationships and build alliances with the long-standing goal of achieving healthy and sustainable communities for everyone.



ADEM's Op Plan achievements were displayed in October

ADEM Employees Give Blood



The Red Cross Blood Mobile at ADEM

In November, a number of ADEM employees gave the "gift of life" at the Department's blood drive coordinated by the Red Cross. Close to 40 workers took time out to donate blood.

For their efforts, employees were given a recognition item, snacks, and beverages. This was the Department's fourth and final blood drive of 2017.

For this drive, the Red Cross brought its Blood Mobile and allowed ADEM employees sign up to donate and make appointments through their online "rapid pass" system.

Annual Surface Water Meeting Held in Montgomery



A large crowd attended ADEM's Annual Surface Water Meeting

Public water system operators, engineers, and consultants recently conferred on drinking water treatment, storage, and security at the 20th Annual ADEM Surface Water Meeting. The Department hosted the two-day event in October at the RSA Activity Center in Downtown Montgomery.

ADEM Drinking Water staff and others discussed the latest information on drinking water monitoring, corrosion control, drought management, and communications between water customers and stakeholders. The meeting helped demonstrate how the Drinking Water branch partners with public drinking water systems to ensure compliance, lessen environmental impacts, and protect public health.

Representatives from EPA Region 4, including Shanielle Campbell-Dunbar, spoke to the gathering on the second day, and Dr. Sarah Praskievicz with the University of Alabama presented a segment on the effects of climate change on surface water.

The Department also presented an update on helping public schools with a voluntary lead testing program. ADEM and the Alabama Department of Education have developed a "master plan" to determine lead levels in drinking water in public schools over the next three years. The plan calls for water samples to be analyzed by state-certified private laboratories and the results submitted to the Department of Education, ADEM, and local school systems. The results will be placed in the ADEM eFile system for Internet access by the general public.

Environmental Advocate Honored

At the December meeting of the Alabama Environmental Management Commission, long-time environmental advocate Dick Bronson was recognized for his many years of service by the EMC and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

The Commission unanimously passed a resolution honoring Mr. Bronson for being an advocate of the environment and of environmental education. The resolution noted his numerous contributions over the years as the president of Lake Watch of Lake Martin. Bronson was also instrumental in partnerships with Alabama Water Watch, Auburn University, ADEM, and local governmental organizations in establishing Lake Watch, and his efforts to protect water quality.

"The Environmental Management Commission and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management express gratitude to Dick Bronson for his contributions to a better environment and improved quality of life for the citizens of Alabama," said Commissioner Terry Richardson, reading from the proclamation during the Commission meeting.

Bronson and his wife Mary Ann attended the meeting at ADEM in Montgomery and were surprised by the recognition they received.

"I really appreciate this," said Bronson, who also spoke of his long affiliation with ADEM in both an adversarial and non-adversarial role. "We all want the same thing," Bronson said. "We just have different opinions on how to make it happen."



(L-R:) Terry Richardson, Dick and Mary Ann Bronson

Emergency Response Commission Meets in Clanton



Reginald Marshall with the AEMA makes a point at the Emergency Response Commission bi-annual meeting in Clanton on November 1.

say that it is important to coordinate with each other, and lend support to local, other state, and federal emergency response partners.

As co-chair to the Commission, ADEM is responsible for reviewing, maintaining, and serving as the data repository for documents required to be filed by various industries. These documents include Hazardous Chemical Inventory forms, Toxic Release Inventory reports, Extremely Hazardous Substance notifications, and accidental release notifications.

Data from these documents are compiled and made available by request to the public, industry, and Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC's) for use in emergency situations, to analyze release trends, and to facilitate awareness of hazardous materials in communities.

The AERC was created in 1987 by an executive order. Its purpose is to encourage and support emergency planning efforts at the state and local levels and to provide the public and LEPC's with guidance and information concerning potential chemical hazards present in their communities.

ADEM participated in a meeting of the Alabama Emergency Response Commission and Hazardous Materials Advisory Group in November in Clanton to continue studying ways to improve emergency response to hazardous material incidents and emergencies that impact the citizens or the environment in Alabama.

The AERC is comprised of representatives from numerous departments and agencies. The commission is co-chaired by the Alabama Emergency Management Agency and ADEM.

The Commission emphasizes teamwork among agencies as the key to improving response to emergencies across the state. Commission members

Calendars Assist Dry Cleaners in Alabama

For the 18th consecutive year, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management is providing free compliance calendars to dry cleaners that use perchloroethylene (PERC) as their primary cleaning solvent. The 2018 calendars provide logs for documenting the storage and use of dry cleaning chemicals and also feature monthly tips to explain compliance requirements.

The Department will provide 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 are 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 also address additional requirements for PERC usage established by EPA, and contain contact information that dry cleaner owners can use to answer questions they may have regarding environmental regulations, record-keeping, or adding new machines.



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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