

# ADEM UPDATE

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## Air & Waste Update Held in Montgomery

On September 24, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the Alabama Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) hosted approximately 200 industry representatives and environmental consultants at the 2015 Air & Waste Regulatory Update, held at the RSA Activity Center in Downtown Montgomery.

The one-day conference was designed to update interested parties on recent changes in air regulations along with highlighting hazardous and solid waste programs and issues.

The ADEM Air and Land Divisions were both involved in the event and gave

presentations on a number of topics including permitting, compliance, enforcement, and new regulations. The Department strives to ensure that regulated facilities understand the conditions of their permits, which enhances compliance with federal and state regulations.

ADEM officials provided presentations and hosted panel discussions to exchange information and discuss important issues. Departmental staff also answered questions related to compliance issues and highlighted how ADEM administers its various air and hazardous waste programs.

Those in attendance were presented information on air-related topics such as emissions, air quality standards, source testing and electronic test submittal. The land-related presentations included an overview of solid waste disposal, new federal Underground Storage Tank (UST) regulations, and upcoming changes in hazardous waste rules.

The co-sponsor of the conference, the Air & Waste Management Association (Alabama Chapter) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional organization that works to enhance knowledge and expertise by providing a neutral forum for information exchange, professional development, networking opportunities, public education, and outreach.

The Association has 100 chapters worldwide and strives to promote environmental responsibility and to increase the effectiveness of organizations to make critical decisions that benefit society by offering a series of conferences, workshops, and webinars.



The Air & Waste Update on September 24 was hosted by ADEM and the Alabama Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association.

## ADEM Ahead of Electronic Reporting Requirements

eGov Portal



On September 24, the EPA Administrator signed the final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule for publication in the Federal Register. EPA intends for this rule to replace most paper-based Clean Water Act (CWA) NPDES permitting and compliance monitoring reporting requirements with electronic

reporting. EPA expects the rule to improve transparency, save money, and reduce burdens associated with paper reporting. The final rule requires that NPDES regulated entities electronically submit the various permit and compliance monitoring information instead of using paper reports. These include: discharge monitoring reports (DMRs), Notices of Intent to discharge in compliance with a general permit; and program reports.

Even before the EPA first proposed the NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule in July 2013, ADEM had made great strides to increase the electronic reporting opportunities for NPDES permittees and to increase their participation in the use of these electronic reporting systems. ADEM's electronic discharge monitoring reporting (eDMR) system, electronic sanitary sewer overflow (eSSO) reporting system, and electronic Notice of Intent (eNOI) system were all in full production before EPA's proposed rule. These early efforts position the Department to be in compliance with all Phase 1 state requirements immediately upon the rule's promulgation, which is expected to occur in mid-October.

The Department is also ahead of the game in complying with state Phase 2 requirements since it already has functioning eSSO and eNOI systems in place. Phase 1 requirements for NPDES permittees require them to begin electronically submitting their DMRs to the state within one year of the effective date of the rule. ADEM has been putting forth significant efforts to increase its NPDES permittees' rate of participation in the eDMR system. ADEM set a participation rate goal of 80-percent for fiscal year 2015, and exceeded the goal in June 2015. As a result, 84-percent of its NPDES permittees (the current participation rate) will meet the Phase 1 requirement to submit electronic DMRs immediately upon the rule's promulgation.

## Wetland Monitoring Workgroup Meets in Montgomery



**The Wetland Monitoring Program Workgroup toured the Tupelo Swamp and Cypress Nature Park near Downtown Montgomery in August.**

Safeguarding Alabama's wetlands has long been a priority for the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and numerous stakeholders in the state. To that end, ADEM hosted a three-day gathering of the Wetland Monitoring Program Workgroup in late August in Montgomery.

The goal of the Wetland Monitoring Program Workgroup gathering was to discuss and identify areas of potential collaboration, use of common methods, sharing data, and coordinating future monitoring efforts for wetlands monitoring.

Lisa Huff and Bonnie Coleman of ADEM's Field Operations in

Montgomery organized and hosted the workgroup gathering with multiple personnel who have experience with wetlands from state and federal agencies. A total of 20 individuals attended the gathering, consisting of ten different state and federal agencies. Presentations were also given by a representative of the U.S. Geological Survey and by Dr. Rona Donahoe from the University of Alabama.

Topics discussed during the three-day event included existing maps of wetland monitoring locations, inventory of GIS datasets and tools, and sampling methods and indicators used to meet program objectives. The gathering also included a tour of the Cypress Nature Park and Tupelo Swamp near Downtown Montgomery.

## ADEM & Alabama State Port Authority Partner to Reduce Diesel Emissions



The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has partnered with the Alabama State Port Authority in Mobile to reduce diesel emissions by using funding under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act. ADEM has been awarded funds for the State Clean Diesel Program and has chosen to apply those funds in areas that show the highest air pollutant levels.

The ASPA utilizes a fleet of diesel locomotives to transport materials, and has agreed to partner with ADEM to install automatic shut-down and start-up systems on several locomotives in order to reduce diesel emissions. The Port Authority will expend approximately \$46,000, and the grant from ADEM will add \$31,000 to retrofit four of ASPA's diesel locomotives with idle control systems that have been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These units will help reduce emissions by reducing the amount of time the locomotives spend idling.

"We are pleased to partner with ADEM to further the Port Authority's ongoing objectives to reduce emissions at the Port of Mobile," said James K. Lyons, chief executive for the Alabama State Port Authority.

The automatic shut-down and start-up technology grant will upgrade four locomotives on the Port Authority's Terminal Railway. Three of the railroad's locomotives already carry similar technology.

## Public Hearing Held for Triennial Review

In July, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management held a public hearing to allow concerned citizens, environmental groups, and other interested parties an opportunity to provide comments or suggestions regarding Alabama's water quality standards. The public hearing, which was held at the ADEM Central Office building in Montgomery, was part of the Department's *Triennial Review of Alabama's Water Quality Standards*. ADEM conducts the Triennial Review at least once every three years as a formal review of the designated uses of Alabama's vast surface water resources and the water quality standards that protect those waters. As part of the triennial review process, ADEM holds a public comment period as well as a public hearing to give interested persons the opportunity to submit comments on the existing water quality standards rules.

The Department will review all comments and data submitted during the triennial review process and make decisions based on scientific knowledge, experience, and best professional judgment in its efforts to protect Alabama's water quality.

## Brownfields Conference Held in Montgomery

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management held its Second Annual Brownfields Redevelopment Conference on July 15 in Downtown Montgomery. The event was attended by developers, environmental consultants, local government leaders, and other stakeholders.

ADEM designed the one-day workshop with many brief sessions, including the regulatory aspects of brownfields redevelopment and successful case studies. The conference also gave participants the opportunity to network with both public and private sector professionals.

Brownfields are defined as rural or urban industrial sites that are abandoned or underused because of real or perceived contamination. Numerous cities and counties in Alabama face the challenges of putting these idle properties back into use. The Brownfields Program is a valuable community resource that, through redevelopment and reuse, can bring important economic benefits to an area and also serve as the centerpiece in comprehensive redevelopment strategies.



# 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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