

ADEM Web Portal User's Guide

March 5, 2021 2021.2

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Introduction

The ADEM Web Portal (the Portal) is a centralized point of access for all the Department's externally accessible applications. These applications address specific needs in various areas of responsibility (Air, Land, and Water). The Portal's development was a result of the need to address issues such as users maintaining multiple sets of user credentials to access existing web applications, the need to more uniformly verify the identity of users requiring signature authority, and to centralize the storage of copies of record.

Access to existing ADEM web applications will eventually occur via the Portal. As each application moves to the Portal, its users will be notified of the changes.

Benefits

- One set of user credentials to access all approved ADEM applications
- A central location to manage user profile information (user information, password, challenge question answers)
- A central location to view all copies of record (i.e. submissions) you have signed spanning all your approved ADEM applications.
- One-time identity verification. For individuals requiring signatory authority, the successful completion of electronic identity
 verification will lead to the immediate ability to electronically sign documents for applications where you have been
 authorized to perform electronic signatures.

Minimum System Requirements

- Internet access
- Modern web browser. The ADEM Web Portal was developed using Microsoft Edge and Chrome. Other current browsers should support all Portal features.
- JavaScript must be enabled.

Getting Started

The ADEM Web Portal can be accessed a couple of different ways. For the sake of this document, we will focus on accessing the Portal via its homepage. The address for the Portal is:

https://prd.adem.alabama.gov/awp

For assistance with the ADEM Web Portal, please contact the ADEM Web Portal Help Desk using one of the options below:

Email Address: ademwebportal@adem.alabama.gov

Telephone: (334) 274-4190

The Portal home page is comprised of three sections (see Figure 1: ADEM Web Portal home page). An ePay section, a Sign In section, and an Announcements sections.

ePay

The ePay section of the Portal home page consists of links to electronically pay various fees to ADEM that cannot be paid via online applications.

Sign In

The Sign In section of the Portal home page will serve as the primary means of accessing the Portal and its connected applications. It is also the section that serves as the launching point to create your ADEM Web Portal account, and in cases where you have forgotten your password, make a request to reset your password. Each of the Sign In section details will be discussed more in depth later in this document.

Announcements

The announcements section will contain information related to the Portal and its connected applications.

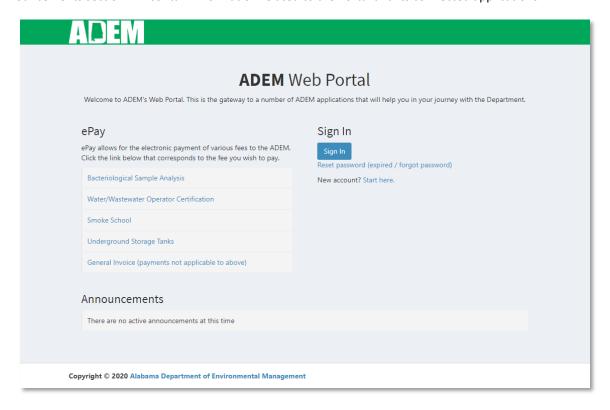


Figure 1: ADEM Web Portal home page

Web Portal Accounts

To gain access to the ADEM Web Portal and connected applications, an account is required. Accounts may not be shared and need to be created using your legal name. If it is suspected that a user account has been shared, per the terms and conditions agreed to upon creating the account, the account will be suspended. The account creation process is described below.

Create Portal Account

Registration

From the Portal home page Sign In section, use the "New Account? Start here" link.



Figure 2: New account link

Please read the Terms and Conditions. If you do not agree with the Terms and Conditions, please press the Cancel button. Otherwise, press the Continue button.

Please enter your email address, legal name, organization name, and title.

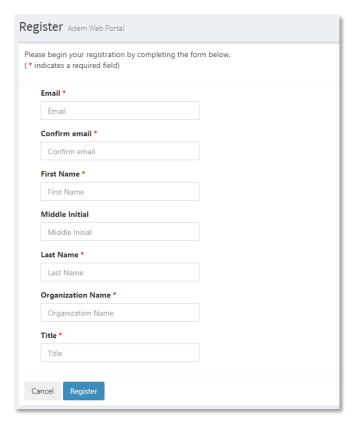


Figure 3: Registration page

Once you have entered your basic account information, press the Register button. At this point, you will be redirected to the Portal home page with a message indicating a confirmation email has been sent to your registered email address.

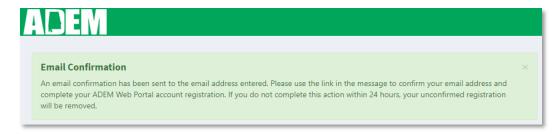


Figure 4: Email confirmation message

Potential Issues

The following issues may be encountered when registering for an ADEM Web Portal Account.

Failure to include required information: In this case, please enter the missing required information

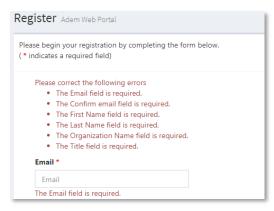


Figure 5: Registration validation error

Pending registration: This indicates there was a previous attempt to register an account with the Portal, but the registration was not completed. In this case, please either use the confirmation email previously received to complete the registration process or using the pop-up notification on the Portal Registration page, select "Re-Send Email" to have the Portal resend a confirmation email.

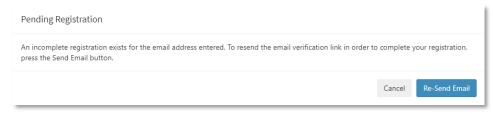


Figure 6: Pending registration

Existing account: This indicates an attempt to register a new account using the email address of an existing account. In this case, you may cancel the registration for this email address, or Login.



Figure 7: Existing account

Confirm Email

After the Registration process has been completed, you will be required to confirm your email address. With the completion of the Registration process, an email will be sent to the registration email address. The email will contain a link for use in confirming your email address and completing the account creation. Please note that the link contained in the email for use in confirming your email address expires 24 hours after issuance.

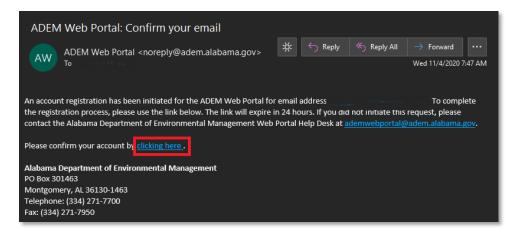


Figure 8: Confirmation email

After left-clicking on the "click here" link of the confirmation email, the Portal will open and require the entry of your organization information, the selection of five challenge questions and answers, and creation of an account password. All required fields are indicated with a red asterisk.

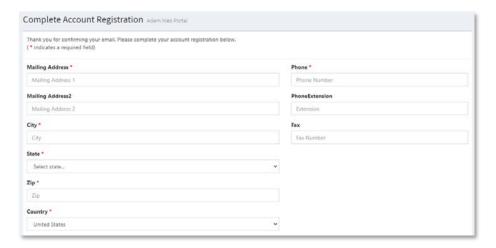


Figure 9: Complete account registration

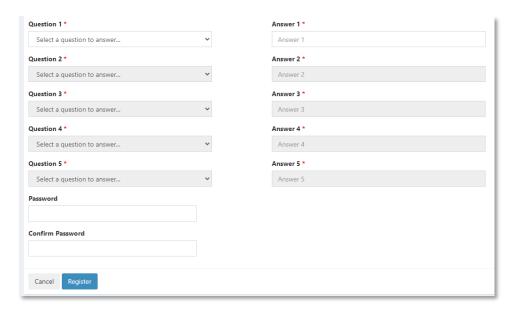


Figure 10: Complete account registration pt.2

Upon entry of the required information, pressing the Register button will complete the registration. You will be sent an email indicating the successful creation of your ADEM Web Portal account and can now log into the Portal.



Figure 11: Successful account creation

Potential Issues

The following issues may be encountered when confirming your email account for an ADEM Web Portal Account.

Invalid email confirmation link: There are a couple of reasons you would encounter the message below.

- If you have completed creating your account for the Portal, use of the email confirmation link will fail because the email address was previously confirmed.
- The email confirmation link is valid for 24 hours. Use of the link after 24 hours will result in an invalid confirmation message.
- If the link has been modified in any way, it will be interpreted to be invalid.



Figure 12: Invalid confirmation link

Failure to include required information: In this case, please enter the missing required information

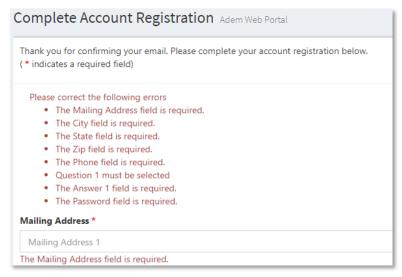


Figure 13: Complete account validation error

Challenge question answer reuse: Answers to challenge questions may not be repeated in the current set of challenge question answers. Make sure each answer is different.



Figure 14: Challenge question answer validation error

Password criteria: In this case, please enter the missing required information

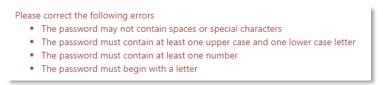


Figure 15: Password criteria validation error

Password criteria:

- Be between 8-15 alpha-numeric characters (no spaces or special characters)
- Not contain your email address
- Not contain the word password
- Contain only letters and numbers
- Contain at least one lowercase and one uppercase letter
- Contain at least one number
- Begin with a letter

Communication error: There may be times where communication issues occur. In these cases, the user will see the message "An error occurred and the account was not created. Please contact the ADEM Web Portal Help Desk at adem.alabama.gov." In this case, it is highly recommended that you contact the ADEM Web Portal Help desk for further assistance.

Login

Log in to the Portal

To log into the ADEM Web Portal, please navigate to: https://prd.adem.alabama.gov/awp

On the ADEM Web Portal home page (see Figure 1: ADEM Web Portal home page), press the Sign In button. You will be directed to the page to enter your user credentials. Once you have entered your email address and password, press the Sign In button. If valid credentials are entered, you will be directed to the External user home page.



Figure 16: Login control

Potential Issues

The following issues may be encountered when signing in to the ADEM Web Portal Account.

This ADEM Web Portal account Is locked: This could be the result of multiple failed authentication attempts, or an account could have been locked by the ADEM Web Portal Help Desk for suspicion of a user sharing credentials. For the account to be reviewed / unlocked, please contact the ADEM Web Portal Help Desk.

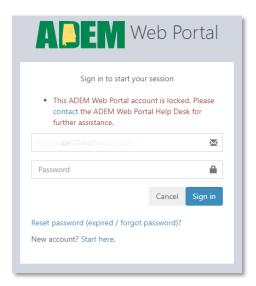


Figure 17: Portal account is locked

The authentication system is temporarily unavailable: Communications with the authentication service are temporarily unavailable.

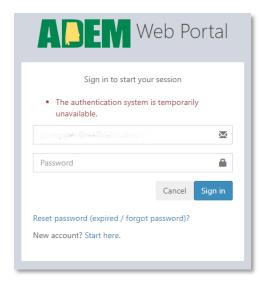


Figure 18: Authentication system unavailable

Incomplete account registration: The registration/account creation process has not been completed. Use the link (see Figure 7: Confirmation email) from the email confirmation message to complete your registration.

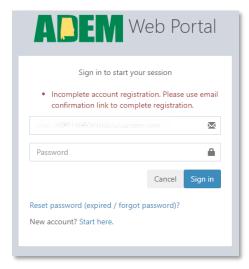


Figure 19: Incomplete account registration

Invalid login attempt. Continued failed login attempts will result in a locked account: Verify the spelling of your email address and verify the password was entered correctly. Please note: if there are three consecutive failed authentication attempts, your account will be locked.

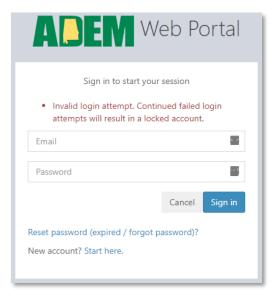


Figure 20: Invalid login attempt

Your password has expired: ADEM Web Portal passwords expire after 90 days. If you encounter this message, please use the "Reset password (expired / forgot password)?" link at the bottom of the login control.

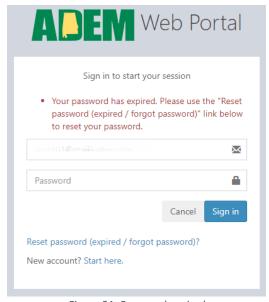


Figure 21: Password expired

Manage User Profile

To make changes to your account, first log in to the Portal (see Log in to the Portal). From the External user home page, left-click on the left-hand menu bar entry for "Account Management". Doing so will expose the menu items for modifying your profile, changing your password, and changing your challenge question answers. Please note that changes to your password, challenge question answers, and profile information will all include an email notification indicating that action has occurred.

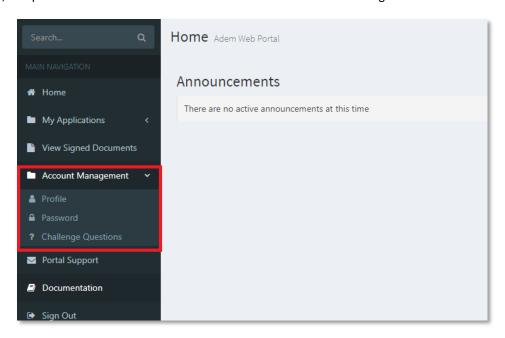


Figure 22: Account management menu

Change Password

Left-click on the "Password" menu item under the "Account Management" heading. On the Change Password page, enter your current password, followed by entering your new password, confirming your new password. On successfully changing your password, you will be returned to the External user home page and be sent an email confirmation indicating that the password for your account has been changed.

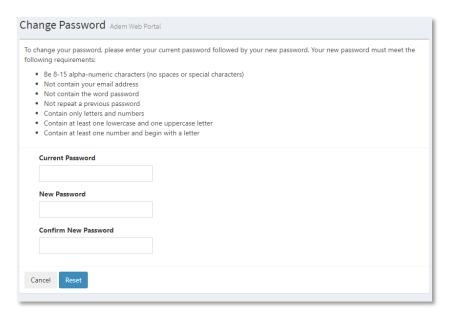


Figure 23: Change password page

Your new password must meet the password criteria of:

- Be 8-15 alpha-numeric characters (no spaces or special characters)
- Not contain your email address
- Not contain the word password
- Not repeat a previous password
- Contain only letters and numbers
- Contain at least one lowercase and one uppercase letter
- · Contain at least one number and begin with a letter

Potential Issues

Invalid current password: You have entered an incorrect Current Password. If you know your password, please enter it correctly here. Please note that the current password is used to authenticate your account before changing the password. Multiple failed authentication attempts will result in a locked account. If you are logged in and do not immediately recall your password, please log out and use the Forgot Password link located on the ADEM Web Portal home page.

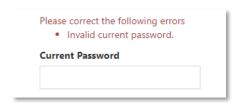


Figure 24: Invalid current password message

Password Criteria: You have not met the criteria for the new password. Please refer to the password criteria above.



Figure 25: Password validation error

Change Challenge Question Answers

Left click on the "Challenge Questions" menu item (see Figure 17: Account management menu) under the "Account Management" heading. On the Change Challenge Questions page, make a selection for each of the five challenge questions and provide an answer known only to you. Each answer must be unique.

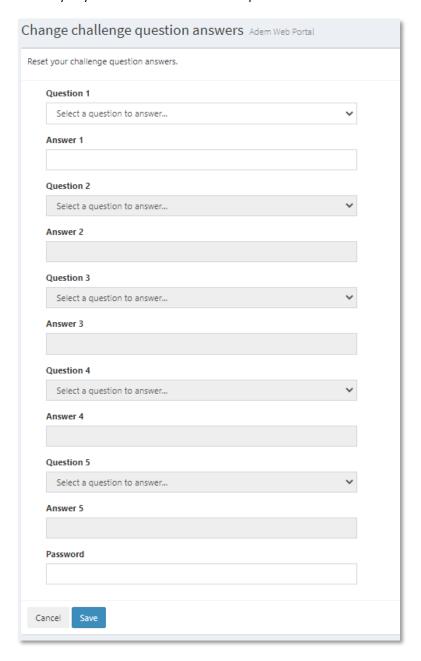


Figure 26: Change challenge question answers page

Potential Issues

Invalid password: You have entered an incorrect Password. If you know your password, please enter it correctly here. Please note that the current password is used to authenticate your account before changing the challenge question answers. Multiple failed authentication attempts will result in a locked account. If you are logged in and do not immediately recall your password, please log out and use the Forgot Password link located on the ADEM Web Portal home page.



Figure 27: Invalid password

Challenge question answer reuse: Answers to challenge questions may not be repeated in the current set of challenge question answers. Make sure each answer is different.

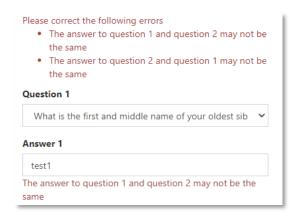


Figure 28: Challenge question reuse

View/Change Profile Information

Left click on the "Profile" menu item (see Figure 17: Account management menu) under the "Account Management" heading. When the user profile page opens, it is read-only. To enable edits, press the "Modify" button at the bottom of the page. For modifications to your account email address, please contact the ADEM Web Portal Help Desk. Please note that if you have a pending unsigned signature agreement, you cannot modify your user profile. Once the signature agreement has been accepted or rejected, you may then modify the profile information.



Figure 29: User profile pending signature agreement

Also, if there is a valid signed signature agreement for your account, modifying your user profile will require you to sign a new electronic signature agreement. The reason for this is that the signature agreement contains information from your profile and must be up to date.

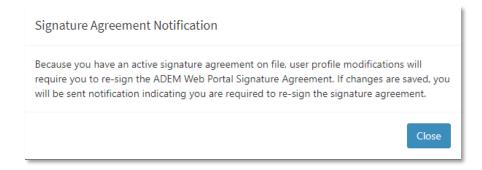


Figure 30: Requirement to re-sign signature agreement

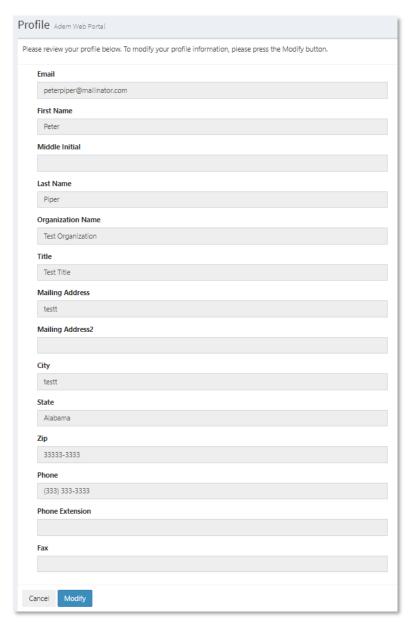


Figure 31: User profile

Potential Issues

Failure to include required information: In this case, please enter the missing required information



Figure 32: User profile validation error

Identity Proofing

Identity proofing is a means of verifying that an individual is who they say they are. Because the Portal and its connected applications rely on electronic signatures for signing and submitting environmental reporting, EPA requires that those seeking signatory authority must first have their identities verified. This is done via identity proofing. If the Portal or its connected applications require identity proofing, the application will direct you to the necessary location.

There are two forms of identity proofing, electronic and paper. Electronic identity proofing is a real-time form of identity verification performed in the Portal. Paper identity proofing involves the printing of a paper signature agreement from within the Portal, signing and returning the document to ADEM via mail service. Paper based identity proofing is a significantly slower process of identity verification.

Both forms of identity proofing result in the user having to sign a signature agreement agreeing to the terms for accepting the electronic signature credential issued by ADEM to sign electronic documents.

The two forms of identity proofing are further explained below:

Electronic Identity Proofing

With electronic identity proofing, a user is directed to a Portal webpage where personally identifiable information is entered for the purpose of verifying identity. This information includes the user's legal name, home address, telephone number, date of birth, and the last 4 digits of the user's Social Security number. Please see the steps below.

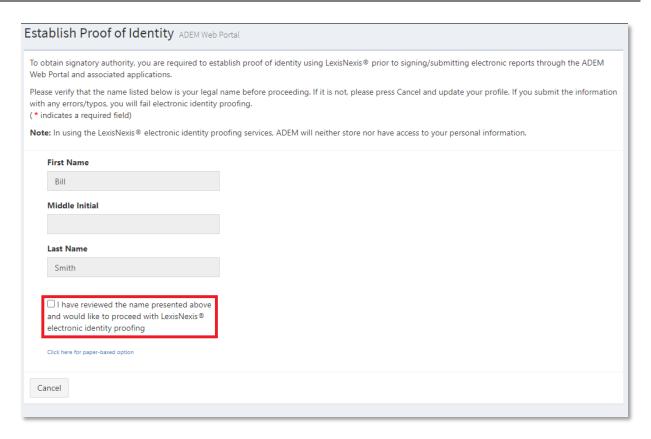


Figure 33 Establish Proof of Identity

- 1. On the "Establish Proof of Identity" page, acknowledge you have reviewed your name as it appears and that it is your legal name.
- 2. Enter your home address, telephone number, date of birth, and last 4 digits of your Social Security number. When finished entering your information, press the Submit button.

Successful Electronic Identity Proofing

If identity proofing is successful, you will be directed to the "Electronic Signature Agreement" page. This page provides you with an opportunity to review the electronic signature agreement prior to signing the document (use "View Unsigned Electronic Signature Agreement"). To complete the electronic identity proofing process, you will electronically sign the signature agreement by entering the answer to one of your randomly selected challenge questions and entry of your password.

Note: If you do not recall the answers to your challenge questions, please press Cancel and return to the ADEM Web Portal to reset the question/answer set. For information on changing your challenge questions, please <u>click</u> <u>here</u>. On completion of updating your challenge questions, please go back through your original application to start the identity proofing process again. You will be returned to this page.

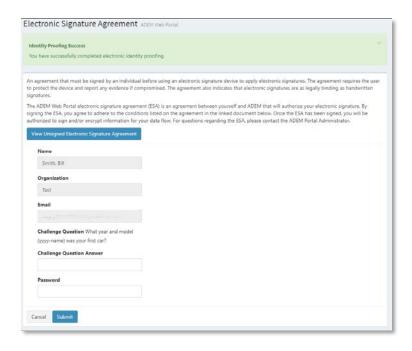


Figure 34

Upon successfully signing the electronic signature agreement, you will be directed to a page that contains information related to the signed document and a link to view/retrieve the signed document. That completes a successful electronic identity proofing. Pressing the Return button will return the user to the application that directed them to identity proofing.

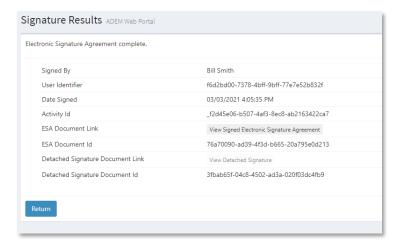


Figure 35

Unsuccessful Electronic Identity Proofing

If your identity cannot be electronically verified, you will be directed to the "Paper Signature Agreement" page. This page provides you with an opportunity to review the signature agreement **prior** to printing and signing the official document (use "View Unsigned Signature Agreement" as seen in figure 36). Please do not print and return this document. It lacks the code that uniquely ties the document to your account. To retrieve the document with the code, please continue.

To retrieve the document that must be signed and returned to ADEM, select the "acknowledge that you will not be able to electronically sign documents until the signature agreement has been received and processed by ADEM" checkbox. After that acknowledgement, provide the answer to one of your randomly selected challenge questions and enter your password (figure 37). If the credentials entered are correct, you will be directed to

print, sign, and return the signature agreement to ADEM via mail or delivery service. To retrieve and print the document, press the "View/Print Signature Agreement" button (figure 38). The document contains the necessary unique identifier and address information.

Please sign and mail the document to the address included on the document. The user account will not be able to electronically sign reports or submissions until this document has been received and processed by ADEM.

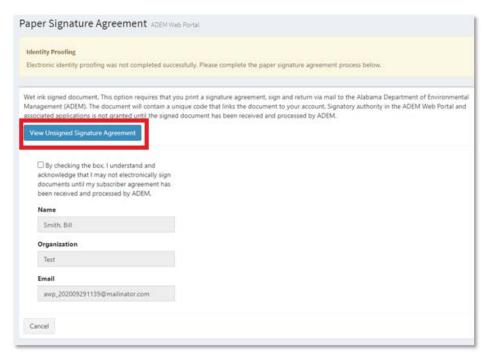


Figure 36

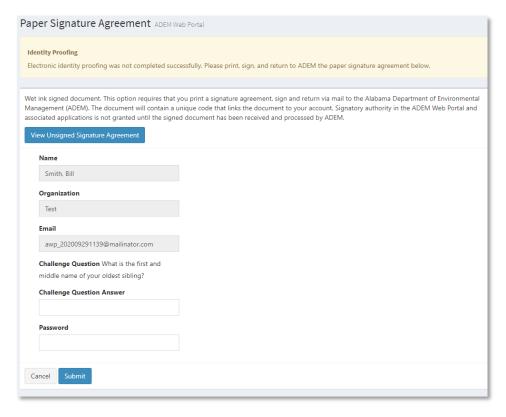


Figure 37

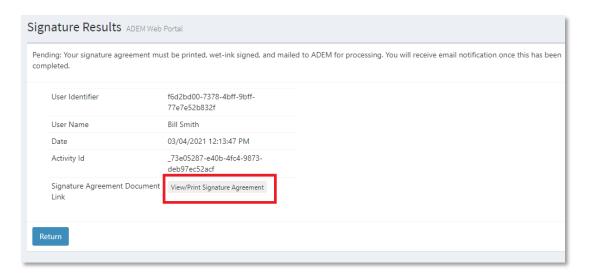


Figure 38

Paper Identity Proofing

Paper identity proofing can be selected by the user or as the result of failing electronic identity proofing. It should be noted that paper identity proofing is a much slower means of identity proofing and an attempt to electronically identity proof should first be pursued.

Paper identity proofing can be accessed by the user from the initial "Establish Proof of Identity" page. Above the Cancel button is a link to be paper identity proofing.

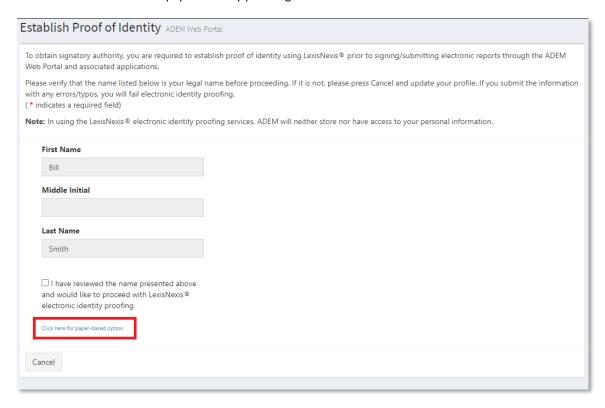


Figure 39

The Paper Signature Agreement page provides you with an opportunity to review the signature agreement **prior** to printing and signing the official document (use "View Unsigned Signature Agreement" as seen in figure 40). Please do not print and return this document. It lacks the code that uniquely ties the document to your account. To retrieve the document with the code, please continue.

To retrieve the document that must be signed and returned to ADEM, select the "acknowledge that you will not be able to electronically sign documents until the signature agreement has been received and processed by ADEM" checkbox. After that acknowledgement, provide the answer to one of your randomly selected challenge questions and enter your password (figure 41). If the credentials entered are correct, you will be directed to print, sign, and return the signature agreement to ADEM via mail or delivery service. To retrieve and print the document, press the "View/Print Signature Agreement" button (figure 42). The document contains the necessary unique identifier and address information.

Please sign and mail the document to the address included on the document. The user account will not be able to electronically sign reports or submissions until this document has been received and processed by ADEM.

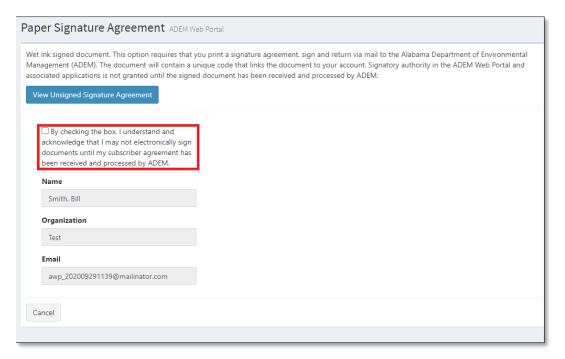


Figure 40

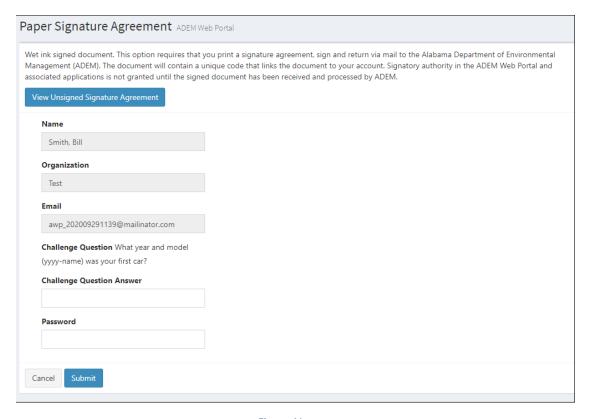


Figure 41

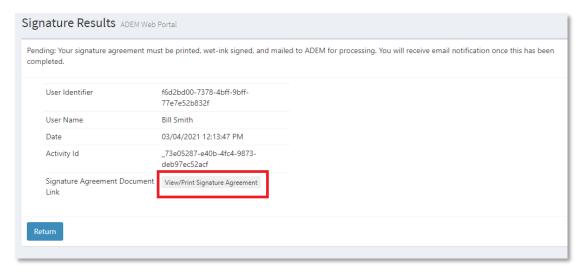


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