

# ADEM UPDATE

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## Search for New ADEM Director Underway

The Alabama Environmental Management Commission is seeking a degreed professional with extensive managerial experience in the environmental arena to be the next director at ADEM. The Commission is looking to fill the position vacated on December 11, when Trey Glenn resigned from the state's top environmental post after serving as ADEM's Director for more than five years.

"Leaving the helm of ADEM during this exciting time without a doubt leaves me with a bittersweet feeling, but after prayer and discussion with my family we have determined that it is time for me to move on," said Glenn.

In a letter to the Commission, Glenn cited a number of accomplishments under his leadership. Some of the accomplishments mentioned include a cleaner environment, passage of the Solid Waste and Recycling Act, the clean up of scrap tire sites, illegal dumps and brownfield sites, increased transparency with files now being available online and a more efficient and fiscally sound organization.

Glenn commended the ADEM staff for their technical expertise and devotion to the department's mission.

"These professional men and women are the engine that makes this Department function," said Glenn.

On December 23, the Commission met to discuss the search process for hiring a new director. The deadline for applications will be January 29. All applications for the position will be available to the public and interviews of finalists for the position will be conducted in a public meeting.

## Governor Riley and ADEM Officials Highlight Recycling

Governor Riley and ADEM officials highlighted the importance of recycling during a tour of the City of Auburn's Recycling Center in November. The event was held to coincide with "America Recycles Day" which was officially recognized on November 15.

In addition to celebrating America Recycles Day, the officials provided a summary of the accomplishments achieved as a result of last year's passage of the Solid Wastes & Recyclable Materials Management Act. This legislation created the Alabama Recycling Fund, which provides grant funds to local municipalities to enhance recycling opportunities at the local level.

"Recycling is the ultimate win-win situation," Governor Riley said. "It helps preserve our natural resources and enhances our quality of life. It reduces the amount of waste we send to landfills and improves the health of our environment."

ADEM has awarded more than \$1 million from the Alabama Recycle Fund that will be utilized by local officials to start new recycling programs or enhance existing ones. The Department will continue to make additional awards as more money becomes available in the Alabama Recycling Fund. The creation of new recycling programs and the expansion of existing programs will support Alabama's goal of reaching a sustainable and unified statewide recycling network, and will also support efforts to achieve a statewide solid waste reduction goal.



Governor Riley tours recycling center in Auburn

## SRF Programs Reach Milestone



**Lt. Gov. Jim Folsom answers questions at SRF news conference Dec. 3**

Speaker of the House, Finance Director, and ADEM Director. These officials gathered December 3 at ADEM to commemorate the 20-year anniversary of the loan programs and to highlight their continued impact on drinking water and wastewater infrastructure systems.

Projects that strengthen compliance with environmental regulations and enhance protection of public health are eligible for consideration to receive loans under these programs. In the event a project qualifies, the engineering, inspection, and construction costs are eligible for reimbursement. The chief benefits of the SRF programs include interest rates of about two percent less than the prevailing municipal bond rate, fixed rates with a 20-year payback, and repayment does not begin until construction is complete. In addition, recipients are not required to pay any ongoing trustee expenses or rebate expenses normally associated with a bond issue.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund was begun in 1989 while the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund was initiated in 1998. The two programs have combined to provide \$1.2 billion in low interest loans to Alabama communities.

## EPA Recognizes ADEM for Chemical Safety Work in Schools

ADEM is one of only eleven organizations recently honored by EPA for promoting responsible chemical management and helping remove potentially dangerous chemicals from K-12 schools.

The Department was recognized for providing chemical removal services and chemical management guidance. According to EPA, ADEM has provided safe storage guidance; lab packing and removal of waste chemicals for proper treatment and disposal; promoted micro-scale chemistry; and promoted partnering with Alabama Science in Motion, which has supplied lab chemicals and equipment and removed unused chemicals, experimental wastes, and unneeded equipment.

ADEM's work has resulted in 8,640 pounds of waste chemicals removed from 36 Alabama schools. The Department also coordinated with Alabama Science in Motion to respond to an emergency request to assist a school (Enterprise High School) with the cleanup, removal, and disposal of chemicals after the school was damaged by a tornado. Working with EPA's Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign, the eleven organizations removed an estimated 70,000 pounds of potentially dangerous chemicals from approximately 300 schools. EPA estimates that more than 33,000 middle and high schools across the country have potentially harmful chemicals that put students and staff at risk.



**ADEM's Dennis Reese removes chemicals from a school**

## Agencies Work to Reduce Automobile Emissions Near Schools



ADEM has partnered with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama Department of Education to develop a “No Idling Campaign” aimed at reducing automobile emissions near local schools. In a show of support for the campaign, the Alabama State Board of Education adopted a Resolution recently proclaiming the benefits of the project. The No Idling Campaign will allow schools to establish an Idle Free Zone to reduce school children’s exposure to pollutants that are contained in automobile exhaust.

Children attend schools throughout Alabama with many of them riding the bus and others riding in vehicles with family members. The morning drop-off and the afternoon pick-up periods result in large numbers of vehicles being concentrated in a small area. This can result in a concentration of exhaust, or emissions, from vehicles that are left idling while waiting to drop-off or pick-up children.

In an effort to protect the health of children and ensure clean air around schools, ADEM and its partners have worked to initiate a No Idling Campaign that consists of No Idling signs being strategically posted around schools, thus creating an Idle Free Zone. In addition, an awareness campaign will be initiated to inform parents, bus drivers, and school administrators of the potential negative health impacts of leaving vehicles idling while waiting to drop-off or pick-up school children. As part of the campaign parents of school children are able to sign a No Idling Pledge to document their commitment to participating in this effort.

## Magnolia Creek Named Outstanding Alabama Water

Magnolia Creek in Baldwin County has been designated as outstanding. On December 11, the Environmental Management Commission voted unanimously to add the use classification of “Outstanding Alabama Water” to Magnolia Creek.

An OAW classification signifies a high-quality water segment that constitutes an exceptional natural resource for recreational or ecological usage.

ADEM is charged with characterizing and assessing the status of surface waters relative to their assigned designated uses. Water quality parameters supporting the OAW classification are a significant benchmark for developing future monitoring activities, providing for prevention and control of new or existing discharges, and providing the basis for upgrading additional water bodies.

Other “Outstanding Alabama Waters” include 173 miles of sections of the Cahaba and Little Cahaba Rivers; 75 miles of portions of Hatchet Creek; 42 miles of segments of the Tensaw River, and Wolf Bay.

## ADEM Employees Complete Sampling Course

Employees from the ADEM Land Division recently completed a course that provided them training on scientific sampling techniques and quality control measures. The Multi-Incremental Sampling (MIS) course focused on a method of sampling that allows regulators and the environmental community to make decisions that are legally and scientifically defensible.

The four-day course was attended by 20 employees and Chuck Ramsey of EnviroStat, Inc. served as the course instructor. The course helped the attendees learn how to design and implement a defensible sampling plan with scientific sampling techniques. In addition, attendees learned how to implement adequate quality control measures to assess the design used to achieve a desired goal.



Twenty ADEM employees participated in the four-day MIS course

## **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. The *ADEM UPDATE* is printed in limited supplies but copies are available electronically and may be accessed online through the publications link on the ADEM website at [adem.alabama.gov](http://adem.alabama.gov).



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