

ADEM UPDATE

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ADEM Improves Reporting of Sanitary Sewer Overflows

The electronic reporting of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) began in February 2012, when the Alabama Department of Environmental Management began accepting online reports on a voluntary basis to test and refine the newly developed system. At this point, the system has been proven and all new municipal waste water permits issued by ADEM require the electronic reporting of SSOs.

Developing standardized electronic reporting of SSOs was a long process, but an important step in obtaining timely and accurate information for the Department. Making sure each municipal waste water system has written procedures to respond to SSOs, including notifying the public, is another vital step along with assuring that waste water systems are complying with all aspects of their permits.

The reporting process requires the systems to log into the ADEM website and complete the proper forms. Information required in the electronic reporting includes where the discharge went, whether it reached a swimming body of water, monitoring efforts, corrective actions taken, and efforts to notify the public. The online system performs a “real time” confirmation of specific data to assure the required information has been entered and all of information is immediately available to the public via the ADEM website in the eFile section.

Anyone may access the ADEM website to view details of the electronic SSO, including permit number, name of the facility, date, time, location, and the volume details. Information on the permit holder’s past SSO reports is also available with just one click, along with street maps, topographical maps, and aerial views.

Municipal waste water systems are required to immediately notify the Department, the county health department, other affected entities, and the general public of SSOs that reach a water of the state or that may impact public health. The new permit requirement means that any other interested parties will have this information also available to them.

“Improving the methods of addressing Sanitary Sewer Overflows and their potential impacts is a work in progress at the Department,” said ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. “The Department will continue to work with the municipal waste water systems, environmental organizations, and the public at large to reach consensus on workable approaches to address this important issue.”

New Member Joins Commission

On May 2, Governor Kay Ivey appointed Scott Promer to the Alabama Environmental Management Commission. Two days later, on May 4, Promer was confirmed by the State Senate and he attended his first commission meeting on June 16 in ADEM’s main hearing room.

He was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Scott Phillips, who resigned in April. Promer holds the seat on the Commission which requires certification by National Well Water Association. He earned bachelor’s degrees in biomedical science and mechanical engineering from Auburn University and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He lives in Vestavia Hills and is a program and client account manager for a civil engineering company. Promer’s term will run through September of 2020.

At the June meeting, the Commission passed a resolution commending Scott Phillips for his long years of service on the Commission including three separate terms as Chair and four and a half terms as Vice Chair. The EMC also voted unanimously for Terry



Scott Promer

Richardson to serve as the new Vice Chair.

ADEM Hosts Environmental Justice Regional Meeting



In May, ADEM Hosted the EPA Region 4 Spring E.J. Meeting

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 4 Environmental Justice 2017 Spring Meeting was hosted by ADEM on May 10-11 in Montgomery.

Representatives from EPA Region 4 and several states spent the two days engaged in meaningful discussions designed to strengthen relationships and build alliances with states across the region with the goal of achieving healthy and sustainable communities for everyone.

Topics discussed at the meeting included recent Title VI Developments at EPA, Community

Focused Exposure and Risk Screening, and health impact assessments. The future direction of community engagement was presented along with Environmental Justice research, and the priorities and strategies for the continual support of E.J. work.

Environmental Justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Participants at the E.J. Regional Meeting also heard reports and had discussions involving community solutions and the impact results from conferences like this may have in the future. It gives individual state environmental agencies the ability to make recommendations and monitor issues relevant to the needs and circumstances of minority and low-income populations, and help facilitate involvement and participation.

The meeting and outreach activities were structured to help broaden mutual awareness of E.J. topics, and keep the states connected, so together the state environmental agencies can more effectively identify and address issues impacting their communities.

Air & Waste Update Held in Montgomery

On April 12, ADEM and the Alabama Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association hosted more than 170 industry representatives and environmental consultants at the 2017 Air & Waste Regulatory Update, held at the RSA Activity Center in Downtown Montgomery. The conference was designed to update interested parties on air regulations, air quality standards, enforcement issues, along with highlighting hazardous and solid waste programs and issues.

ADEM Director Lance LeFleur presented a Departmental program overview near the beginning of the conference and ADEM's 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 discussions to exchange information and have open dialogue. Departmental staff also answered



A large crowd attended the Air & Waste Meeting

questions related to compliance issues and highlighted how ADEM administers its various air and hazardous waste programs.

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Training Underway for Water Testing in Public Schools

The Alabama Department of Education in conjunction with ADEM have developed a “Master Plan” to determine lead levels in drinking water in public schools over the next three years.

As part of the plan, water samples will be analyzed by state-certified laboratories and the results will be submitted to the Department of Education, ADEM, and local school systems. The results will also be placed in the ADEM eFile system for Internet access by the general public.

Currently, there is no federal or state law requiring testing of drinking water in schools except for those that operate their own public water system. Alabama has only two such schools.

However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has developed a technical guidance manual for reducing lead in drinking water in schools. The manual is commonly referred to as the “3T” program. The three “Ts” stand for training, testing, and telling: Training school officials to raise awareness of the potential occurrences, causes, and health effects of lead in drinking water; Testing drinking water to identify problems and take corrective action if necessary; and Telling students, parents, staff, and the communities involved about monitoring programs, potential risks, results of testing, and remediation actions.

The first training in Alabama under the new program began earlier this spring. On April 6, ADEM hosted a training session at its main offices on Coliseum Blvd in Montgomery. ADEM, with assistance from the Alabama Rural Water Association and the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, is providing training and technical assistance regarding sampling protocols under the program. The Department is also encouraging local water systems to assist the public school systems they serve in the collection of drinking water samples. More information on the program may be found at www.adem.alabama.gov/programs/water/drinkingwater.cnt.



The first training session under the Department of Education and ADEM’s “Master Plan” was held in Montgomery on April 6.

Groundwater Professionals Gather in Montgomery



Over 130 people attended ADEM’s Groundwater Conference

Approximately 1.5 million Alabamians depend on groundwater resources as their source of drinking water. Ensuring a clean, safe supply of this precious commodity is a priority for the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, along with helping drinking water systems operate at maximum efficiency.

Each year, ADEM hosts a Groundwater Conference for public drinking water utilities, municipal officials, government agencies, and environmental consultants to meet and discuss issues of importance related to groundwater availability, impacts to groundwater resources, and changing regulatory requirements.

More than 130 professionals who work to manage and protect groundwater resources attended

the 17th Annual Groundwater Conference in Montgomery on June 14 at the Gordon Persons Building where they heard presentations on a variety of topics including monitoring of groundwater conditions, modeling of aquifers, remediation strategies, and practical tools for assessing movement of groundwater.

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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