

ADEM UPDATE

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Energy Management Initiative Helps Utilities



The Dauphin Island WWTP has benefitted from ADEM's Energy Management Initiative

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is helping utilities preserve resources and obtain significant cost savings by reducing their energy use for wastewater plant operation.

Led by the Permits and Services Division, ADEM's Energy Management Initiative develops custom energy-efficiency recommendations for municipal wastewater plants to conserve energy, save money, improve compliance, and streamline operations.

The program has been in place for three years and has helped 28 facilities across the state. It is an innovative approach to energy management giving cities, counties, and private companies a financial incentive to implement energy saving measures.

Understanding total energy consumption is vital to utilities and produces long term financial

savings. By reducing energy usage, facilities can reduce operating costs, improve treatment plant performance, and invest the savings into future upgrades.

In addition to financial savings, the program provides numerous environmental benefits. It has helped reduce discharges to air and water. The Energy Management Initiative has yielded reductions of nearly 6,800 tons per year in greenhouse gas emissions and the elimination of more than 926,000 pounds per year of nitrogen into Alabama's rivers.

At the Alabama Environmental Management Commission meeting on August 19, ADEM Director Lance LeFleur presented a report on the program to the Commission.

"The reductions in energy usage have provided monthly cost savings to utilities, and these savings go on year after year," said LeFleur. "This program fit well with the Department's strategy of obtaining compliance with environmental permit conditions."

The Energy Management Initiative is completely voluntary and there are no financial costs for utilities to obtain a detailed energy assessment to begin the process. The program also utilizes a partnership between ADEM and the individual wastewater treatment plants, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA).

Expanding on this initiative, ADEM is now working on a U.S. Department of Energy grant project along with the University of Memphis, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and ADECA to assess an additional 12 wastewater utilities in Alabama over the next two years. Under this project ADEM and ADECA will develop a template for other utilities to follow so they can achieve improved energy efficiency.



Dallas County's WWTP runs more efficiently due to the EMI

Lester Remembered as Dedicated Public Servant

A long-time member of the Alabama Environmental Management Commission, Dr. John Lester, passed away in July in his hometown of Enterprise. He was 79 years old.

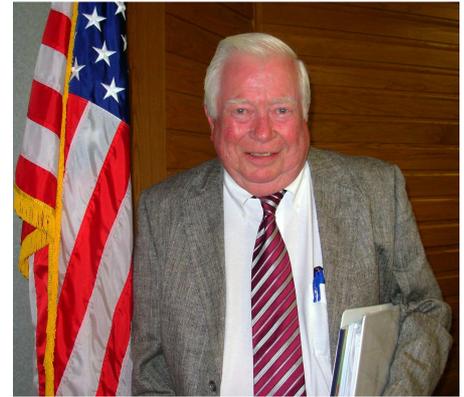
Dr. Lester served for 18 years on the Commission - many of those years as the Chair - before stepping down in 2012.

He was a 1962 graduate of Auburn University and served as president of the senior class of the veterinary school. Dr. Lester practiced veterinary medicine in Enterprise for 47 years.

He was the first president of the Enterprise City Council where he served for 24 years. Among his many honors: he was chosen as the Enterprise "Man of the Year" in 1978, President of the Chamber of Commerce, United Way and Heart Association chairman, and in 2008 he was placed on the American Veterinary Medical Association Honor Roll for his more than 40 years of membership in the association.

Dr. Lester also served in the United States Air Force Reserves. The *Southeast Sun* in Enterprise called him a "compassionate servant leader."

At the August 19 Commission meeting, the EMC unanimously passed a resolution that stated: "Whereas, John Howard Lester, DVM, was a dedicated public servant among his many areas of public service was the Environmental Management Commission of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. And whereas Dr. Lester was the longest-serving member in the history of the Commission, having served in the chemist/veterinarian position from October 1994 until November 2013. And whereas Dr. Lester served admirably in leadership positions of Chair and Vice Chair and was conscientious about his obligations as a Commissioner to the people of Alabama and the environment and will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by his fellow Commissioners. Therefore, be it resolved that the Commission expresses appreciation for Dr. Lester's contributions and friendship and offers its sympathy for his loss to his family."



Dr. John Lester

Cyber Security Measures in Place at ADEM



ADEM recently underwent an extensive review and external audit on its cyber security measures in regards to computer systems and activities.

The audit was part of a review of the State of Alabama's security programs coordinating ADEM's cyber security review with the security staff in the Information Systems Division of the State Finance Department. It included a security audit of servers, clients, and the Microsoft Active

Directory by the primary system vendor, Microsoft. In addition, the review involved the purchase of a license for state-of-the-art software to perform continuous internal and perimeter network scanning operations to quickly identify any emerging system vulnerabilities or weaknesses.

The review was completed in May and ADEM's information systems were found to be secure.

"Although our systems were found to be secure," said LeFleur, "Cyber security is ever evolving so there is always room for improvement to maintain defenses against present threats. While positioning to defend against future threats, the Department will continue to utilize its multi-vendor, multi-platform and product approach on firewall usage and will implement recommendations received as a result of the recently completed review."

The Department's IT Section has contributed heavily to ADEM's success in providing improved computer-based services to the public. The process has improved efficiency and is an important resource that must be protected. ADEM has to interface with numerous state and federal systems, as well as the Internet, individual members of the regulated universe, and everyday citizens to continue providing services to safeguard the environment.

LeFleur called the exercise (review and audit) a prudent "ounce of prevention" in the continuing challenge of cyber security.

ADEM Works with Partners to Reduce Diesel Emissions



Four of ADEM's Diesel Retrofit Projects involved trains

More than \$2.49 million has been made available in the last 13 years for grant projects and programs to reduce air pollution in Alabama. The funds have been allocated by ADEM to 11 partners for various projects from 2002-2015. Each project has uniquely served to reduce air pollution and to encourage efforts to promote cleaner air.

The Department has partnered with municipalities, companies, school systems, and other state agencies in Diesel Retrofit Projects to improve air quality through the reduction in diesel emissions, which lower carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and particulate matter. The individual projects were primarily chosen for areas of Alabama that were exceeding, or were close to exceeding, the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

The Diesel Retrofit Projects have been implemented from Mobile to Fort Payne with six taking place in the Greater Birmingham area. The projects involved school buses, trains, as well as on-road and off-road vehicles. Many of the projects included the installation of retrofit devices such as diesel oxidation catalysts on vehicles and anti-idling devices installed on trains to reduce particulate emissions.

The partnerships not only assisted in achieving improvements in air quality but also allowed contractors, vendors, and employers involved in the diesel retrofit industry to retain their current staff and create new jobs.

State Public Information Officers Meet in Montgomery

In July, ADEM staff attended a meeting of Public Information Officers representing numerous state agencies at the Alabama Forestry Commission in Downtown Montgomery. The State's PIO's meet quarterly to discuss ideas, media issues, and programs that often overlap between two or more state agencies.

More than 25 representatives from various state departments attended and made presentations regarding activities being implemented in their agencies in regards to media events, publications, and new initiatives.

The meeting was specifically scheduled to hear a report from Michael Knight with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. He told the gathering that working together and communicating effectively on a state, regional, and national level is very important in crisis situations.

"There are no more isolated incidents," said Knight. "With the way the media landscape has changed and the prevalence of social media it is more important than ever to share information."

The PIO's also discussed hurricane preparedness and the hazards associated with severe storms, evacuation routes and maintaining open lines of communication. Many state agencies from Emergency Management, to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, and ADEM respond to hurricanes and tropical storms.



Michael Knight addresses Alabama's PIOs at their July meeting.

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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