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ADEM Hosts Groundwater Conference

MONTGOMERY – 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.

Approximately 125 professionals who work to manage and protect groundwater resources attended the June 4 conference in Montgomery where they heard presentations on a variety of topics including real-time monitoring of stream conditions, recent trends in quantifying groundwater recharge, water level surveys, and the incorporation of modeling in the assessment of underground plumes. In addition, this year's conference provided information about regulatory requirements placed on drinking water systems as part of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and updates regarding groundwater levels following last year's drought. ADEM also utilized the conference to encourage drinking water systems to prepare for storm events and to take security measures to address circumstances that could possibly disrupt, or compromise, the safety and reliability of Alabama's drinking water supplies.

“We want to provide the best training, education, and outreach possible and to lend our technical expertise to water systems and stakeholders who have a vested interest in protecting Alabama's groundwater resources,” said ADEM Director Trey Glenn. “This conference enables us to accomplish this goal. It also gives us the opportunity to answer questions and address concerns that assist local drinking water systems in serving their customers more effectively.”

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