



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Office of
Community Engagement

Environmental
Resource Center

2012

*Engaging and Empowering
for a Better Environment*

Trudy Fisher



Supported by President Bill Clinton's Executive Order 12898, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is providing opportunities for communities to be fully and meaningfully engaged in the agency's business processes. By promoting transparency in all phases of work, we help foster a collective vision that benefits the people who live within our great state. I am pleased to report MDEQ's 2012 accomplishments within this booklet, which exceed the goals that were first set forth in 2010. No other measurement indicates a greater willingness by MDEQ to be engaged and open to the changes that will help improve the lives of all.

Our desire is to continue this upward trend by expanding community engagement and public participation opportunities. We enhance our credibility and build trust with the people by offering technical assistance, listening sessions and partnership opportunities. We have learned that outreach efforts of this type encourage capacity-building and communication.

Here at MDEQ, the emphasis in community engagement is that of honest relationship building for the sake of enhancing lives. Steps that are utilized include the following:

1. Identifying needs
2. Listening to community leaders and stakeholders
3. Reaching out to provide engagement opportunities and encouraging understanding
4. Working together to conceptualize and prioritize actions
6. Creating a feasible plan to address challenges
7. Monitoring progress
8. Maintaining relationships

To maintain and expand this exemplary level of outreach, MDEQ has created a training committee comprised of representatives from every office. The committee has been tasked with developing environmental justice training on an agency-wide level. It is through education and a better understanding of outreach techniques that progress in this area continues.

Through diverse community representation and your continued support, we can achieve our common goals of applying a collective vision for the benefit of the people who call this state home.

Trudy D. Fisher, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

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ENVIRONMENT

CULTURE

COMMUNITY

PARTNERSHIP

JUSTICE



Office of Community Engagement

Engaging and Empowering for a Better Environment

Community engagement and collaboration are cornerstones for the protection of human health and the environment, and respect for quality of life issues. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Office of Community Engagement is dedicated to promoting and empowering potentially impacted community organizations and concerned citizens through engagement activities.

The Office of Community Engagement is a resource for people, industry, businesses and communities in Mississippi. It provides a means for working together toward prosperity through economic and social justice. We have learned that embracing this concept strengthens communities, thus fostering a sustainable environment and economy, cultivating leadership and philanthropy, and promoting respect for all.

Community engagement is defined as the process of working collaboratively with groups of people who are affiliated by geographic proximity, special interests, or similar situations with respect to issues affecting their well-being. Getting people to interact with others and operate with one goal in mind may sound easy, but engagement doesn't happen automatically. It takes time and work, and much of the right formula is deduced through trial and error.

Our goals for the upcoming year remain the same as those set in 2010:

- Increase knowledge
- Develop partnerships and
- Build trust

You are invited to join us in this journey as together we work for a better environment in which to live and raise our children.

Melissa Collier
Director, Office of Community Engagement



Melissa Collier
Director
Office of Community
Engagement

AIR

WATER

LAND



Environmental Resource Center

Helping You Minimize Waste While Maximizing Efficiency

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Resource Center is a service unit developed to protect citizens' health, safety and welfare. Conserving and improving our environment, while fostering wise economic growth, drive our mission. Through focused research, and responsible regulation, we can achieve these goals for present and future generations.

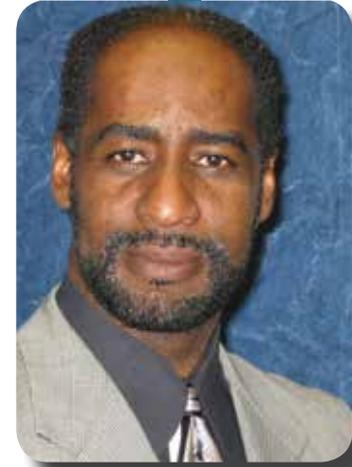
In this industry, it is not unusual for businesses to require assistance concerning non-hazardous waste permits and regulations. Whether there are questions about pollution prevention, environmental regulations and application, or if there is a need for educational information or help in filing a complaint, the Environmental Resource Center's staff provides support.

Within the suite of services offered by the Environmental Resource Center are the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, the Compliance Advisory Panel (CAP) and the Ombudsman. All three work together to keep small businesses - particularly disadvantaged and women-owned businesses - environmentally compliant.

During 2012, the Environmental Resource Center participated in conferences, workshops and programs. It provided information and assistance to customers on pollution prevention and other regulatory concerns free of charge. Confidential assistance with on-site pollution prevention was also made available to those who requested help. Outreach was achieved through mailers, speaking engagements, workshops, seminars, teleconferences, and radio and television announcements.

Understanding environmental laws and regulatory rules is the first step to ensuring a healthy and safe place for future generations. Working together, we can ensure that a safe and healthy future is secured for all.

Jesse Thompson
Acting Director, Environmental Resource Center



Jesse Thompson
*Acting Director
Environmental
Resource Center*



Networking opportunities

Contact Information

Information or assistance in public involvement is available from the Office of Community Engagement by e-mailing Melissa Collier at melissa_collier@deq.state.ms.us or calling 601.961.5171.

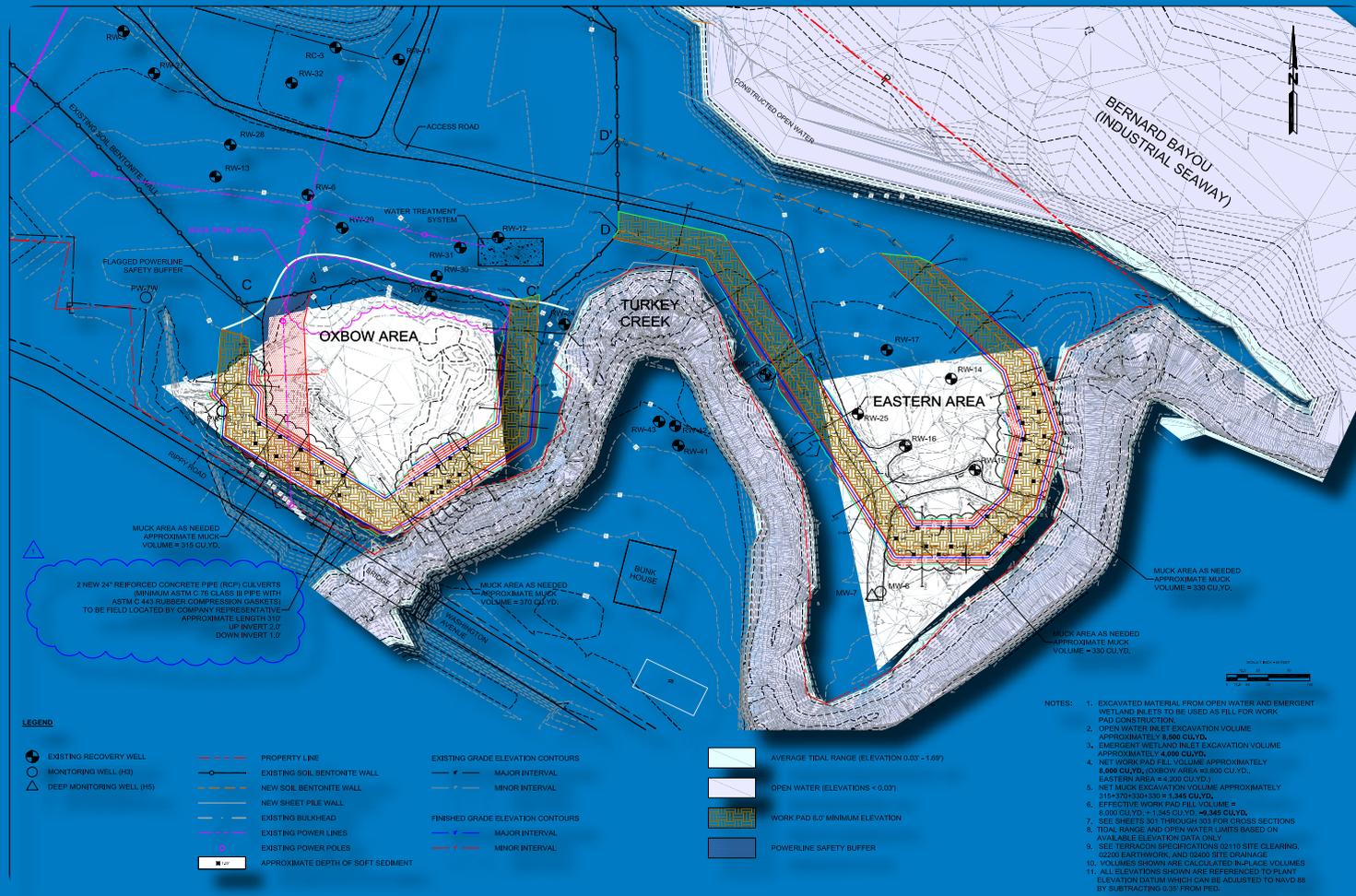
For assistance in all areas related to compliance with air, land and water regulations, you are invited to contact the Environmental Resource Center toll free at 800- 725-6112.

You may also request access to all of MDEQ's public records by stating your needs in writing and sending or faxing them to the following:

**Freedom of Information Officer
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
P. O. Box 2261
Jackson, MS 39225
or
FAX 601.354.6356**

Be sure to include the name of the facility, project, or issue in which you are interested. Include the city and county where it is located and provide specifics on the type of information you are requesting.

If you prefer, visit MDEQ's website at www.deq.state.ms.us to submit a request for information or to learn more about the Office of Community Engagement and the Environmental Resource Center.



Cavenham Forest Industries, LLC - Gulfport, Mississippi

2012 Highlights

Cavenham Forest Industries, LLC - Gulfport, Mississippi - UPDATE

Significant achievements have been made in conjunction with the Cavenham Forest Industries, LLC site located off Creosote Road in Gulfport. Cavenham is the former site of wood-treating operations dating to 1906. While the site has been non-operational since 1987, it was contaminated with creosote, pentachlorophenol, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and petroleum products such as diesel fuel. Over the years, local communities and non-government organizations - or stakeholders - have voiced substantial health and environmental concerns including the following: Impact from flooding and current site remediation activities on Turkey Creek and Bernard Bayou Seaway, and impact to the entire Turkey Creek Watershed.

Today, as a result of expanded community engagement activities, significant progress has been realized in addressing the environmental needs at Cavenham. Consensus was achieved as interested parties worked together diligently to find solutions that would best meet the needs of all involved. Those achievements are listed here:

- All necessary permits obtained as of Jan. 3, 2013
- Human Health Risk Assessment approved by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Draft construction schedule developed
- Major construction segments being bid now
- Anticipate initial construction events to begin in February 2013, weather permitting
- EPA mandating additional sediment sampling in Bayou Bernard re: HSWA permit renewal
- EPA mandating additional sampling in Turkey Creek during construction to verify no impact
- Turkey Creek residents will continue to be employed during construction for security etc.
- Interfacing and engaging with community ongoing
- Articles in Good Deeds newspaper ongoing

The EPA agrees with the findings of Cavenham in that the overall average risks are within the acceptable range. There are no significant risks to human health in the consumption of fish tissue in Turkey Creek and Bernard Bayou. The ingestion and dermal contact of PAH, TEQ and Dioxin TEQ found in fish tissue, sediment, and surface water from Turkey Creek and Bernard Bayou do not present a significant non-cancer and/or cancer risk to human health at this time.



Local Community Stakeholders

- Turkey Creek Watershed Implementation Team (Steering Committee)
- Turkey Creek Homeowners Association
- Turkey Creek Community Initiatives
- North Gulfport Community Land Conservation
- Sierra Club
- Audubon Mississippi
- Land Trust for Mississippi Coastal
- White Civic Organization
- Mt. Pleasant UMC
- Environmental Ministry
- Center for Environmental and Economic Justice



Hercules, Inc., Hattiesburg, Mississippi

2012 Highlights

Hercules, Inc., Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi

Hercules began operations in Hattiesburg, Mississippi in 1923 under the name Hercules Powder Co. Since that time, Hercules produced over 250 chemical products, including resins and Delnav, an agricultural pesticide.

Operations ceased at the facility in 2009. Investigations during the last several years indicate that soil, sediment, surface water, sludge, and groundwater at the site are contaminated. On-site areas of potential concern include: a former industrial landfill, a wastewater treatment impoundment basin, a sludge pit disposal area, and former production areas.

While many of the former plant buildings have been demolished, Hercules continues to conduct sampling and reporting activities associated with stormwater and pre-treatment discharges.

In May 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) 3013 Order to Hercules, Inc., requiring the company to conduct on- and off-site monitoring, testing, and reporting to determine the nature and extent of any environmental contamination at and from the Hattiesburg facility. RCRA 3013, a federal law, authorizes EPA to require facilities to examine potential contamination from their operations that may endanger human health or the environment.

EPA has determined that the presence or the release of a hazardous waste on-site at Hercules may present a hazard to human health or the environment, and investigations are underway to determine if contaminants have migrated from the property.





Hercules community meeting

2012 Highlights

Hercules, Inc., Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi *continued*

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is working in partnership with EPA during this environmental investigation. The two agencies are also working together to keep the local community informed and engaged during the investigation process. Below is a brief overview of past and planned future activities.

- Phase II on-site sampling – November-December 2012
- Off-site groundwater sampling – September 2012
- Phase I sampling results presented to the community - Spring 2013
- Phase II sampling results presented to the community – Summer 2013
- Full Phase I Report – Spring/Summer 2013





Tronox, Inc. (formerly Kerr-McGee Corporation) community meeting

2012 Highlights

Kerr-McGee/ Tronox - Columbus, Mississippi

A former wood preserving facility in Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi, the site occupies approximately 90 acres and is surrounded by residential and industrial property. The facility commenced operations in 1928, manufacturing pressure treated railroad products including wooden crossties, switch ties and timbers. In 1964, the facility was purchased by Kerr-McGee from Moss American Corporation. Operations at the facility ceased in 2003, and the facility was subsequently decommissioned with the removal of all process equipment. The only operations currently carried out at the facility are associated with the groundwater recovery system, which is operated under a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Post Closure Permit issued by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

MDEQ Air Toxics Ambient Air Monitoring Project

- *What are we doing?*

The purpose is to address concerns in the community about toxic air emission conditions and reports of creosote odors and emissions continuing to occur from the old Kerr-McGee plant site through conducting air monitoring.

- *Why do we monitor the air?*

Air monitoring provides information on the concentration of pollutants in the air. This allows air pollution levels to be checked against targets and provides data that can be used for finding pollution sources, evaluating air-permit applications and identifying potential health concerns.



2012 Highlights

Kerr-McGee/ Tronox - Columbus, Mississippi *continued*

- *Where and how long will this air sampling take place?*

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Sampling

VOC sampling will take place at two locations for a full year. This monitoring effort started in January 2013. Every six days we will be collecting a 24-hour ambient air sample from each monitoring site. One monitor will collect samples at the Kerr-McGee site and the other will collect samples at the Stokes-Beard Elementary School site. Both sites are located in such a way as to measure concentrations of pollutants in the ambient air near two of the area's largest facilities.

Semi-volatile Organic Compounds (SVOC) Sampling

A separate sampler will be used to collect SVOC samples. These samples will determine if there are any creosote related emissions coming from the Kerr-McGee property. This sampler will operate in the same location as the VOC sampler for a period of three months starting in April of 2013. After operating for three months at this location, we will move the monitor to another location on the Kerr-McGee property and collect samples for an additional three months. These will also be 24-hour samples that are collected every six days.

- *When will the results be known?*

The full period of sampling will be needed to best characterize air quality for the pollutants being monitored and to determine if there are any issues. Our goal is to make information available as soon as possible.





2012 Highlights

Minority Business Leaders Forum

The tragedy of the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill presents a unique opportunity for the State of Mississippi as well as the coastal business community. The opportunity comes in the form of both economic and natural resource recovery and restoration projects funded by administrative and civil penalties from responsible parties. As Mississippi's Trustee for natural resources and Governor-appointed leader of Mississippi's recovery from the Oil Spill, Trudy D. Fisher, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) executive director, recognized the potential economic development impact these projects could have on the coastal region. The potential for economic development culminated in the first Minority Business Leaders Forum.

In 2012, MDEQ began discussions with the Biloxi based Center for Environmental and Economic Justice (CEEJ) to ensure that minority businesses are positioned to take advantage of opportunities arising from the Oil Spill. MDEQ and CEEJ forged a partnership formed on the belief that a new approach to reaching the minority business community was needed. The new outreach approach was to create a grassroots initiative, beginning with a small group on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The first meeting of this group established the Minority Business Leaders Forum held in January of 2013.

Remarkably, the Forum attracted 46 attendees. The initial goals of the first Minority Business Leaders Forum were to: Recognize the value of minority business leaders; provide educational information on Oil Spill recovery and restoration activities; inform leaders that business opportunities are expected to become available in the coastal region; and involve leaders in a "think tank" for developing best communication practices to minority businesses.

Information shared included the types of recovery and restoration projects being considered and an announcement of upcoming first engagement opportunities. The Forum attendee roster was used to begin development of a minority business directory for the three coastal counties with the intent of developing a directory for larger businesses seeking minority sub-contractors.

Future plans for the Minority Business Leaders Forum include larger scale minority business outreach meetings in the coastal counties designed to educate existing and potential business owners on the types of opportunities arising from the Oil Spill. The meetings would also provide practical tools to help businesses obtain the necessary registrations and certifications to give them a competitive advantage in the marketplace.



2012 Listing of Annual Activities

MDEQ's Office of Community Engagement provided oversight and resources to ensure that transparency and meaningful involvement are incorporated throughout the business process. This list presents key activities accomplished throughout 2012.

JANUARY

- January 9 - Conference call with EPA Air Division - Doug Neely
- January 9 - Conference call concerning Air Monitoring in Grenada and Columbus with Tennie White, Sherri Jones, Steve Jamison, and EPA
- January 12 - Kuhlman Electric Corporation Community Meeting
- January 23-25 - RCRA Training
- January 24 - Meeting to Discuss Sharkey County/Rolling Fork issue
- January 28 - Meeting with Mobile-Bouie Community

FEBRUARY

- February 2 - Meeting with Ms. DeBorah Williams, officials and key residents in Cary
- February 6 - Legislative Team Meeting
- February 7 - Inline Forest Products Discussion
- February 9 - Meeting with Vernice Miller-Travis and Bruce Engelbert to discuss Region IV, EPA report on EJ
- February 14 - Meeting with Center for Economic and Environmental Justice
- February 15 - Plan EJ 2014 - Strategy 5 Meeting
- February 16 - Regional EJ Conference Planning Meeting
- February 22 - Region IV State EJ Coordinators Teleconference
- February 23 - Region IV EJ Conference Programming Sub-Committee Meeting/Conference call
- February 29 - Hearing before State Senate Appropriations Committee

MARCH

- March 1 - Hearing with House Appropriations Committee
- March 1 - Gulfport Community Meeting- CARE Grant, the pedestrian walkway, KCS railroad info, retro-fitting diesel trucks
- March 6 - EPA technical meeting about Cavenham in Gulfport
- March 6 - Public meeting on Inline Forest Products in Hattiesburg
- March 13-14 - EPA/State Environmental and Children's Health Recognition Ceremony
- March 15 - Monthly All States EJ Conference Call
- March 22 - Follow-up Discussion with Deborah Williams
- March 22 - Meet with Meredith Anderson at Hercules
- March 22 - Meet with Mrs. Sandra Jordan – Palmers Crossing Community activist
- March 22 - Information sharing event – Cavenham- Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, Gulfport
- March 27 - Training committee
- March 29 - Hercules 3013 - Phase I - Field Decisions

APRIL

- April 3 - Regional EJ Conference Planning Committee Meeting
- April 4 - Superfund at Work in Mississippi-RA Start Event
- April 5 - Draft CIP-Columbus, MS review
- April 9-12 - National Environmental Policy Act Training
- April 20 - EJ communities of the Gulf Coast (conference call)
- April 20 - Hercules Hattiesburg - DNAPL Discovery Discussion
- April 24 - Funding for the Columbus, MS- Air Toxins Monitoring Study
- April 25 - Vietnamese/CEEJ Meetings - Pre-meeting

MAY

- May 1 - Red Panther Clarksdale CAG meeting-Chamber of Commerce
- May 3 - NRDA Meeting with Thao Vu
- May 3 - CEEJ Train the Trainer
- May 10 - Meeting with Mrs. Barnes Watts of Lil' Tekno Learning Center, Hattiesburg
- May 15 - Regional EJ Conference Planning Committee Meeting
- May 17 - Hercules - Phase II of RCRA Enforcement Order 3013
- May 24 - Meeting with City of Hattiesburg Officials concerning Water Impoundment Basin at Hercules

JUNE

- June 4 - EPA/MDEQ/Hercules Call
- June 6 - MS Water Environment Association's 55th Annual Technical Conference
- June 7 - Gulf Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group State Planning Call
- June 11-16 - Public Participation training
- June 11 - Meeting with City of Hattiesburg to discuss Davis Timber
- June 19 - City of Hattiesburg meeting about Lagoon
- June 21 - EPA's review of the Mississippi Title V Program Evaluation
- June 22 - Project visioning session with the Vietnamese community
- June 25 - Clarksdale, MS CAG meeting
- June 27 - Superfund in Mississippi at Mississippi Municipal League Conference, Biloxi, MS
- June 27 - Region IV State EJ Coordinators Teleconference

JULY

- July 11 - Plan EJ 2014 - Strategy 5 Monthly Meeting
- July 19 - Monthly All States EJ Conference Call
- July 25 - Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice Conference Programming Subcommittee Meeting
- July 26 - Mississippi CARES Advisory Committee Meeting
- July 27 - MDEQ/Hercules/Arcadis meeting with City of Hattiesburg, Elected Officials
- July 30 - Mississippi's Numeric Nutrient Criteria - Stakeholder Update

AUGUST

- August 2 - EJ and Air Permitting Training discussion with Dr. Yomi and others
- August 10 - Discussion of Air Monitoring/Air Quality in Hattiesburg, MS- with Tennie White, Steve Jamison, and EPA representatives
- August 21 - Meeting with DeBorah Williams KSA Consulting Group, Inc.- Sharkey County
- August 27 - Meeting: Preparation for Hurricane Isaac

SEPTEMBER

- September 6 - Empowering Communities for a Healthy Mississippi Conference Planning
- September 10 - Hattiesburg City Meeting at Train Depot
- September 13 - Cotton Gins Public Hearing- Sharkey County
- September 20 - Hercules Hattiesburg Air Sampling / Vapor Intrusion Discussion
- September 26 - GoCoast 2020 Commission Meeting, Gulfport

OCTOBER

- October 12 - Discussion of Informational Open House-Hercules
- October 17 - Hercules Impoundment Basin Community Informational Open House, Hattiesburg
- October 19 - Bishop Black and Sandra Taylor- Meeting about Grant for Environmental Education
- October 24 - Region IV State EJ Coordinators Teleconference
- October 26 - MDEQ Environmental Resource Center at the Mississippi Children Museum
- October 29 - Hattiesburg EPA/MDEQ – Vapor Intrusion Call/WebEX

NOVEMBER

- November 1 - Gulf EJ Symptoms Committee Working Group
- November 1 - Meeting with CCAP- Crystal Springs library
- November 13 - NCL Evidentiary Hearing
- November 15 - America Recycles Day
- November 16 - Hercules Impoundment Basin Test Run, Hattiesburg
- November 27- EPA Planning Meeting with Basin Management and NPS
- November 28 - MS's Numeric Nutrient Criteria - Stakeholder Update

DECEMBER

- December 5 - Empowering Communities for a Healthy Mississippi Curriculum Planning Meeting
- December 6 - Region IV State EJ Coordinators Teleconference
- December 11 - Attended the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council 1st public meeting in Mobile, Ala
- December 17 - Joint Symptoms and Solutions Working Group Call

MDEQ Small Business Environmental Assistance (SBEAP) provides small business owners free technical, non-regulatory, and confidential assistance on air quality and environmental compliance issues. The program develops and makes available materials, conducts workshops, trainings, and provides on site technical assistance for regulated sources. The Small Business Ombudsman, SBEAP, and Compliance Advisory Panel work together to help Mississippi small businesses understand environmental laws and regulatory rules. Conferences attended:

- Mississippi Business Expo - April
- Mississippi Manufacture Association Conference - June
- Mississippi Association of Supervisory Conference – June
- Mississippi Municipal League Conference - June
- Air & Waste Management Conference - October
- MS Association of Realtors - December

MDEQ's Diversity Initiative Program staff members participated in Career Day Outreach to the HBCUs to create an awareness of the agency's diversity initiative program and to assist in increasing diversity in the agency's applicant pool.

- Mississippi Valley State University - February
- Jackson State University - February

Disadvantaged and Women Owned Business Enterprise (DBE/WBE) outreach creates an awareness of the availability of and accessibility to the agency's minority contract opportunities. Outreach efforts included the following:

- SBA 8A Conference - October
- MS Access Forum - November
- Minority Certification Mail Outs - June

The Environmental Resource Center outreach creates awareness and provides assistance and information concerning air pollution, water pollution, solid waste and hazardous waste issues, as well as non-hazardous waste permits and regulations.

- Children Environmental Health Awareness Month
- Over 3,000 Environmental Health Month calendars mailed out
- Partnership with Mississippi Children's Museum for Environmental Health Awareness Outreach Activities and Park in the Dark
- Mailed Mississippi Dry Cleaners Compliance information to 79 participants
- Mailed over 900 Energy Efficiency for Churches workshop brochures



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
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2012