



The mission of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of present and future generations of Mississippians by conserving and improving our environment and fostering wise economic growth through focused research and responsible regulation.

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Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Environmental News

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MDEQ Staff Changes

Recent retirements have resulted in movement among the MDEQ staff ranks. Last month the newsletter announced the appointment of Chris Sanders as the head of the Office of Pollution Control replacing Richard Harrell. Sanders, in his new position, has selected three new division chiefs.

Tim Aultman

Tim Aultman has been named Chief of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Division (ECED) in the Office of Pollution Control. ECED is responsible for ensuring compliance with multimedia regulations and permits via inspections, submittal reviews, and complaint investigations.



“I am thankful for the opportunity to lead a division which plays such a vital role in supporting our agency’s mission of protecting the environmental resources and citizens of the great State of Mississippi. ECED is like family to me, and I appreciate the support that has been expressed specifically from the division but ultimately across the agency,” said Aultman.

Tim started with the agency in the Non-Hazardous Solid Waste Branch in May 1993. He moved to the Hazardous Waste Division, TSD Branch in 1997. In 1998, he began working as an inspector in one of the first three branches of the original Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Division. In 2000, he was promot-

ed to manager of the Management Support Branch in ECED where he worked to help roll-out the agency's current environmental database, enSite. Moving back to the regulatory side in 2006, he was selected to fill the Timber and Wood Products branch manager position where he served until this promotion. Tim was born on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, lived in Moss Point through the ninth grade, then relocated to Sumrall, Mississippi, where he graduated high school. He earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Mississippi State University and a Masters in Environmental Engineering from Ole Miss through the Jackson Engineering Graduate Program. Tim, his wife Lanise, their three sons and daughter currently reside in Raymond.

Lynn Chambers

Lynn Chambers was selected as the Chief of the Groundwater Assessment and Remediation Division (GARD) to replace Trey Hess. Lynn has worked at MDEQ for 23 years and in GARD for close to 16 years. She will continue with her duties as the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program Chief until further notice. GARD is responsible for protecting Mississippi's groundwater resources, the public health, and the environment through managing and overseeing site assessments and cleanups, and developing priorities and responsible regulations that enhance groundwater protection.

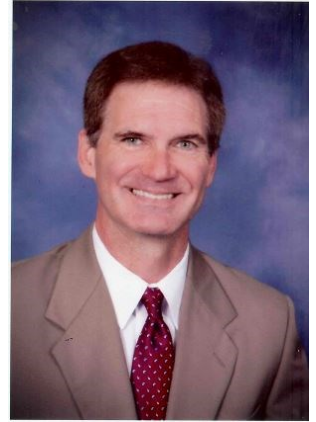


“Groundwater resources are vital to Mississippi for so much of our drinking water and various industries throughout the state. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve MDEQ and my fellow Mississippians in the oversight of our groundwater while protecting human health and the environment,” said Lynn Chambers.

Lynn has been with MDEQ since 1993. She was raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and earned a B.S. in Biological Engineering at Mississippi State University. She is a registered Professional Engineer and is also a Board Certified Environmental Engineer in Hazardous Waste.

Mark Williams

Mark Williams has been named Chief of the newly-created Waste Division. Mark is a native of Gautier, Mississippi, and has been with the agency in the solid waste programs since 1987. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering from Mississippi State University. He is also a registered Professional Engineer with the State of Mississippi and has specialty certification in solid waste management with the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. He serves on the Boards of Directors for Keep Mississippi Beautiful, the Mississippi Recycling Coalition, and the Southeast Recycling Development Council. Prior to joining MDEQ, Mark worked as a Manufacturing Engineer at the Frito-Lay, Inc. plant in Jackson and also worked as an Associate Engineer at Packard Electric Division of the General Motors Corporation in Clinton.



“It has been my great honor to serve the State of Mississippi for the past 29 years in the waste management program areas, and I am looking forward to the challenge of building on those years to continue to serve the citizens of our great state,” said Williams.

Mark will oversee the re-organizational efforts involving the agency’s solid waste programs which will consolidate the functions of the solid waste and hazardous waste programs into one division. The Waste Division will be responsible for ensuring that the state is progressing in efforts to reduce wastes, to responsibly recycle and reuse wastes, and to manage and dispose of wastes in a manner that protects the environment and public health of the citizens. These re-organizational efforts involving the waste programs will be conducted in conjunction with similar efforts for the Environmental Permits Division and the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Division.

Save the Date for the Restoration Summit!

MDEQ's Office of Oil Spill Restoration will host the first restoration summit on November 15 on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The summit will offer a comprehensive and thorough update on projects, initiatives, and funding of the restoration work related to the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The details are being finalized and will be announced in the near future.



New Restoration Newsletter

The Office of Oil Spill Restoration has launched a new, periodic newsletter, *Mississippi Restoration News*, that includes announcements and updates on projects. To receive the newsletter, fill out the email update form at www.restore.ms.

MISSISSIPPI RESTORATION REVIEW

A publication about MS Gulf Coast restoration news from Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Summer 2016

A strategic science-based approach to Making Mississippi Whole

A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR GARY RIKARD

MDEQ and our partners have been working diligently to ensure that BP is held accountable for the Deepwater Horizon disaster. As we look towards the future, we are excited about the projects that will be funded through Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, the RESTORE Act, and the Mississippi Legislature. We are excited for the work that has already been done and are looking forward to the work ahead of us. In November 2016, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality will host a Restoration Summit where our community will be able to

get together to learn about existing restoration efforts, as well as provide input on future efforts. In addition to the Restoration Summit, MDEQ will publish a newsletter that will highlight various projects and events. I am looking forward to continuing the great work that has already been done as we **MAKE MISSISSIPPI WHOLE**.

- Director Gary Rikard

Mark your calendar for the inaugural

RESTORATION SUMMIT

NOVEMBER 15 2016

www.restore.ms/restoration-summit/

NFWF HIGHLIGHT >> ROUND ISLAND

The Round Island expansion is a \$12 million project funded through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). This project is purposefully coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and leverages an additional \$12 million worth of dredge material to create 220 acres of island and marsh habitat. The newly created marsh will become habitat to many species of birds, as well as attract fish and other marine life.

The first phase of this project involves building a sand berm that will then be filled with beneficial use dredge sediments from the Pascagoula navigation channel. Round Island proper has almost been completely eroded away. In fact, the Round Island lighthouse had to be relocated to mainland Pascagoula in 2010.

This project is a collaborative effort between MDEQ, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Jackson County Port Authority, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Construction of Round Island started in March of 2016.



An aerial view of Round Island's sand berm during construction, June 2016.



WWW.RESTORE.MS



Join enHance!

MDEQ is accepting applications for the enHance program from July 1 to September 30. Check out the enHance website for information on current members, a calendar, training workshop materials, and information on how to apply.

enHance is open to all types of facilities including regulated facilities, municipalities, non-regulated businesses, schools, and other organizations committed to environmental conservation and stewardship.



enHance is a voluntary initiative to recognize environmental leaders in Mississippi. Participating organizations make a commitment to address and achieve on-going environmental improvements. More information, benefits, an application, and application instructions can be found at www.enhance.ms. Send the completed application to cmessemore@mdeq.ms.gov.

Industrial Energy Efficiency Workshop

enHance, the Mississippi Manufacturers Association (MMA), and innovateMEP Mississippi are hosting the Industrial Energy Efficiency Workshop on August 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be held at MMA's office located at 720 North President Street in Jackson. The \$25 registration fee includes lunch.

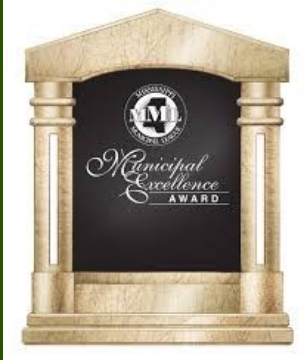
The workshop will provide information on how to evaluate energy consumption patterns and find opportunities for increasing operations' efficiency.

To register use the following link: <http://bit.ly/2byaPZL>. And, more information can be found at: <http://bit.ly/2bsMO2E>.

For questions, please contact Sumesh Arora at sarora@innovate.ms or Chris Messemore at cmessemore@mdeq.ms.gov.

MML Recognizes Two Environmental Projects

Two environmental projects that included MDEQ involvement recently received Municipal Excellence Awards at the 85th Annual Mississippi Municipal League (MML) Conference held in Biloxi.



The City of Starkville and the “The Mill at MSU Brownfield Project” received the best overall recognition. The project serves the city as the gateway to Mississippi State University and as a bridge to the community. Asbestos, underground storage tanks and other solid waste complicated this \$40 million mixed use Brownfield Redevelopment. It now includes a Conference Center, a Marriott Courtyard Hotel, and a parking garage just off the MSU campus. The Brownfield Agreement was the culmination of a multi-year, collaborative effort by public and private stakeholders to preserve the best of the National Registry of Historic Places-listed mill while creating new economic opportunities.

The City of Columbus received an award for the “14th Avenue Ditch Improvement Project.” This \$1.4 million project with 13 partners, including MDEQ’s Groundwater Assessment and Remediation Division (GARD) and EPA Region 4’s Superfund Program, improved traffic and drainage along a busy city roadway. The project was approximately 1,800 feet long and added a turn lane to a city road and concrete drainage ditches and road shoulder. The ditch was a silt-filled hazard to drivers and also residents due to poor drainage. A new roadway, drainage ditch and road-shoulder are the result of the partners’ work for the city. With all of these resources, this 14th Avenue project can serve as a cornerstone to the revitalization of this area.

Thanks to MML for use of their information.

EPA Hazardous Waste Guidance

EPA recently published solvent management and disposal guidance entitled *Solvents in the Workplace – How to Determine If They Are Hazardous Waste*. Solvents are used across a broad spectrum of industrial manufacturing and commercial sectors from chemical manufacturing to dry cleaners. Once a solvent utilized in a commercial or industrial process has reached the end of its useful life and can no longer be used, it must be discarded. This new guidance is designed to assist industry with determining if spent solvents and unused solvents must be managed as hazardous waste. The guidance also includes recycling and reuse management techniques, which may reduce waste management costs, as well as a question and answer section.

This user-friendly, mobile device-navigable guidance for solvents is now available on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/guide-how-determine-if-solvents-workplace-are-hazardous-waste>.

For technical questions related to the guidance contact Jim O'Leary with EPA at oleary.jim@epa.gov or MDEQ's Krista Caron at kcaron@mdeq.ms.gov.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The next Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, will be October 22 nationwide. More information can be found at this link: http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html.

The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. In addition, taking advantage of this opportunity keeps prescription medication out of the household waste stream and from being flushed down toilets.



Save the Date and Your E-Waste!

The Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership is partnering with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Keep Jackson Beautiful, and Magnolia Data Solutions to host the Fall Electronics Waste Collection Day at the Mississippi Farmers Market located at 929 High Street in Jackson. The event will be held Friday, September 23, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Acceptable electronics include: computers, desktop copiers, computer components, fax machines, radios, televisions, cell phones, desk phones, VCR players, DVD players, electronic games, monitors, keyboards, printers, laptops, scanners, and stereos.

There is a \$2 fee for LCD monitors, a \$5 fee for computer monitors, and \$15 fee for “tube” televisions, but no other cost for other items.



NetDMR and NPDES e-reporting rule

On October 22, 2015, EPA promulgated the NPDES e-reporting rule that mandates the electronic submittal of all Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) after December 21, 2016. All permittees required to submit DMRs must comply with this rule.

If you have completed all required sampling in compliance with your permit before the above deadline, you may submit your DMRs via mail or you may submit your data using the NetDMR system. **After** the December 2016 deadline, all DMRs must be submitted electronically using NetDMR.

Several NetDMR training classes have been scheduled to help with the transition to electronic reporting. Visit MDEQ's website at <http://www.deq.state.ms.us/> for a complete list of classes and registration information. If you are unable to attend a class, a training video is also available on our website.

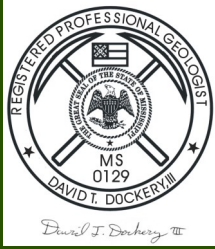
For questions or additional information, Send an email to netdmr-help@mdeq.ms.gov.

A&WMA Southern Section Annual Meeting in September

The Mississippi Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association will host the Southern Section Annual Meeting and Technical Conference from September 20 to 23 at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi.

For more information, the conference agenda, and to register, please go to: <http://www.ss-awma.org/annual-meeting.html>.





The Influence of Geology on the History of Jones County as Portrayed in *Free State of Jones*

David T. Dockery III, RPG, Office of Geology

Jim Kelly, Historical Consultant, *Free State of Jones*

On December 18, 2013, historian Jim Kelly came to the Office of Geology to discuss the influence of geology on the history of Jones County. Kelly was one of eleven historical consultants for the recent movie *Free State of Jones*. Matthew McConaughey (Figure 1) stars in the movie playing the role of Newton Knight, who fought at the Battle of Corinth before deserting with others to his home in Jones County. In 1864, Newt Knight rebelled against the Confederate government with a coalition of freed slaves and former Confederate soldiers and created a “Free State of Jones.”

Part of Knight’s disillusionment with the Confederate cause was a newly-enacted Mississippi law that exempted fighting-age men of wealthy slave-owning families from the draft, or to use a phrase from the period: “a rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight.”



Figure 1. Left, Matthew McConaughey (left) and director Gary Ross. Right, James Kelly (left) and Gary Ross at the grave of Newt Knight in Jones County.

Kelly was researching whether the weathered bedrock geology in Jones County that limited plantation agriculture was a factor on the geopolitical situation in Knight's time. As provided by the Office of Geology, the state's agricultural wealth at the time resided largely in three geologic belts: (1) the Black Belt overlying Cretaceous Chalk in northeastern Mississippi, (2) the Jackson Prairie overlying the Yazoo Clay across central Mississippi, and (3) the Loess Belt bordering the Mississippi River and its alluvial plain in western Mississippi. As shown in the 1860 Geologic Map of Mississippi by State Geologist Eugene Hilgard (Figure 2), Jones County lies above the Grand Gulf Group, which develops soil more suited to forests and timber than plantation agriculture.

While geology is the foundation for the environment and natural resources, it can also influence larger social and political issues.

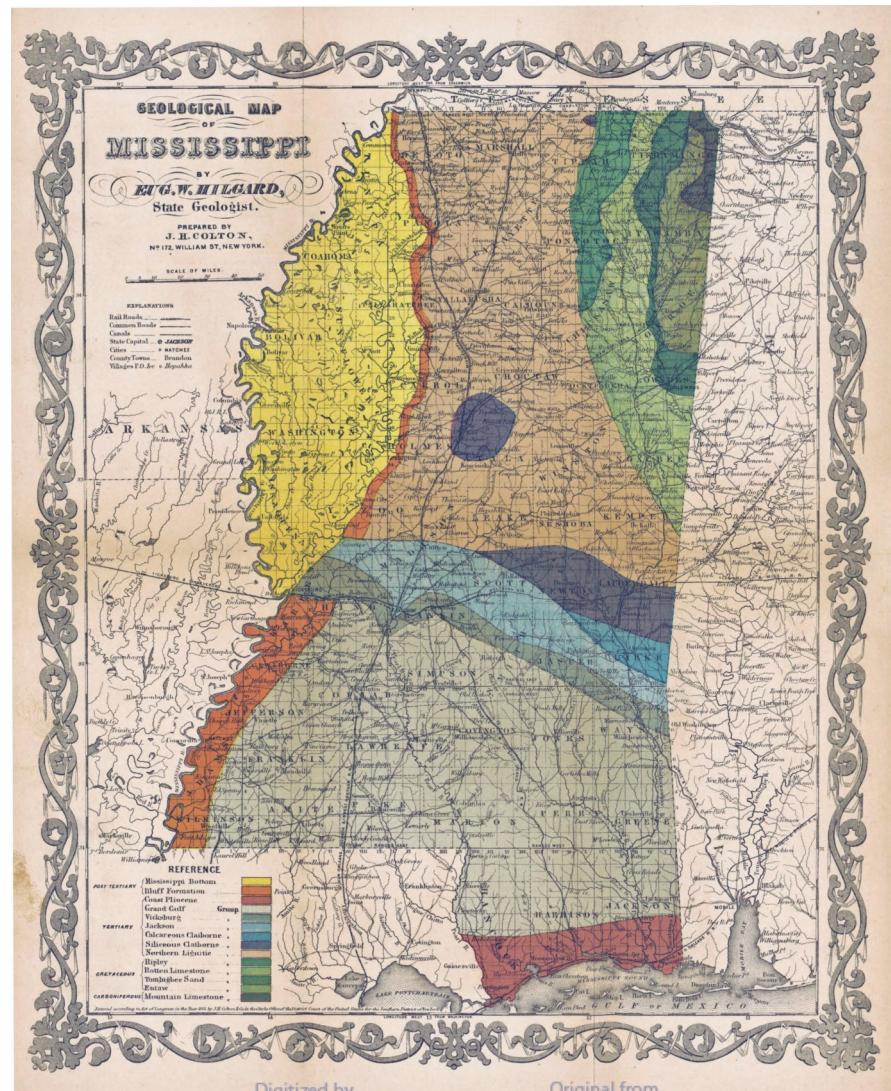


Figure 2. Hilgard's 1860 Geologic Map of Mississippi.



MDEQ ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION LINKS

- Draft permits currently at public notice, <http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/publicnotice.aspx>
- Permits and certificates issued in the last 90 days, http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_permits.aspx
- General permit coverages issued in the last 90 days, http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_gnp_issued.aspx
- Notices of Intent for coverage under a Statewide General permit received by the Environmental Permits Division, http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_gnp_notice.aspx
- List of the 401 Water Quality Certifications currently at public notice, http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_wqc_public_notice.aspx
- List of the compliance inspections recently conducted, http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_eced_tasks.aspx
- Orders issued by the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality, http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_orders.aspx

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PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Big Black River at Bovina

Taken by Shawn Clark,
Surface Water Division

