



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

VOL. 13 ISSUE 4

APR 2016

Mississippi Reaches Landmark Agreement in BP Oil Spill Disaster Case

On April 4, Governor Phil Bryant and Attorney General Jim Hood announced that the federal court in New Orleans had approved a settlement among the Gulf States, United States, and BP totaling approximately \$18.7 billion related to claims arising from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.



Credit: Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain

As a result of the settlement, an additional \$1.5 billion will come to Mississippi for natural resource damages and civil penalties under the Clean Water Act. These funds will be distributed to the state over the next 17 years and are in addition to \$659 million of early funding already received. In all, Mississippi is receiving a total of nearly \$2.174 billion in compensation.

Under the settlement, Mississippi will receive approximately \$183 million in additional Natural Resource Damage Assessment payments and approximately \$582 million in Clean Water Act penalties to be distributed via the RESTORE Act.

“This is the culmination of a years-long effort to secure rightful compensation that will allow for the restoration of our unique ecosystems and our economy on the Gulf Coast,” said Governor Phil Bryant.

Information about Mississippi's restoration efforts can be found at: www.restore.ms.

Attorney General Jim Hood added: "Under the terms of this settlement, BP must pay \$150 million of the state's \$750 million economic damages recovery to Mississippi within 90 days. My office has worked cooperatively with the Governor's Office, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and other affected state agencies to ensure that BP is held accountable for this disaster. The finalization of this settlement is part of the continuing process of restoring our environment and natural resources, as well as compensating our state and coastal communities."

"This is a final hurdle bringing us closer to accessing all of the settlement funds for projects and initiatives to restore and enhance our natural resources and our economy. Our agency has worked diligently since the spill response and in the recovery phase to strategically implement projects to help make the Mississippi Gulf Coast better than it's ever been," said Gary Rikard, Executive Director, MDEQ.

The \$1.5 billion consent decree includes:

- ▶ Approximately \$183 million in Natural Resource Damage Assessment payments, to be paid over 15 years, which will be used for environmental restoration.
- ▶ Approximately \$582 million in Clean Water Act penalties under the RESTORE Act. These funds will be paid over 15 years and used for environmental and economic restoration.
- ▶ \$750 million in economic damages paid over 17 years to be paid into the Mississippi Budget Contingency Fund, which will be available for appropriation by the Legislature.

Breakdown of \$659 Million in Early Funding Already Received:

- ▶ \$112.557 million in Natural Resource Damage Assessment Early Restoration payments.
- ▶ \$106 million in RESTORE Act payments.
- ▶ \$356 million in National Fish and Wildlife Foundation payments.
- ▶ \$75 million in response actions/clean-up payments.



DeSoto County in Attainment for Ozone Standard

MDEQ announced on April 8 that EPA has taken final action to approve the State of Mississippi's request to redesignate DeSoto County as being in attainment for the ozone standard. The entire State of Mississippi now meets all EPA air standards.

In 2012, EPA designated a portion of DeSoto County as being in nonattainment even though MDEQ's air monitoring data for the county was below EPA's ozone standard of .075 parts per million (ppm). EPA contended DeSoto County was contributing to ozone nonattainment for the Memphis Metropolitan area or "Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization."

As all air monitors in the area continued to meet EPA's ozone standard, MDEQ began the redesignation process in 2015, and worked with EPA and other stakeholders including officials in Memphis and Arkansas.

"This redesignation is important news for DeSoto County, the Memphis Metropolitan area, and the State of Mississippi. We did not believe that DeSoto County significantly contributed to nonattainment in the Memphis area. As a native of DeSoto County I am keenly aware of the effect nonattainment could have as an unfair economic impact on the county. Many people in the public and private sectors worked diligently together to get this designation changed to protect public health and the environment but also to ensure the long-term viability of economic development," said Gary Rikard, MDEQ Executive Director.

Ground level ozone is not emitted directly into the air, but is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC). This happens when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants, and other sources chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Ozone at ground level can be a harmful air pollutant because of its effects on people and the environment, and it is the main ingredient in "smog."

In 2004, MDEQ formed the DeSoto County Air Quality Action Group, comprised of cities, county agencies, industries, government agencies, and public interest groups, to increase awareness of air quality issues. The group has developed outreach materials and promotional events to encourage air pollution reduction steps to protect air quality and maintain ozone levels below the standard.



enHance Training Workshop and Awards Luncheon

The eighth annual enHance training workshop and awards luncheon were held on April 21 in Jackson. Three new members and eight renewal memberships were part of the 2016 class.



The enHance program is a voluntary stewardship program begun in 2009 that recognizes committed environmental leaders who accomplish goals beyond their legal requirements and is open to facilities, cities, counties, and other entities. Applicants can choose from three tiers: Associate, Steward, or Leader. A designation of Environmental Star for nonregulated facilities was launched in 2016.

New members for 2016:

Steward—PACCAR (Columbus)

Associate—Keith Huber Corporation (Gulfport)

Environmental Star—Watkins and Eager PLLC (Jackson)

Renewing members for 2016:

Leader—Anel Corporation (Winona)

Leader—Hol-Mac Corporation; Plants 1, 2, and 3 (Bay Springs)

Steward—Haworth, Inc. (Bruce)

Steward—Southwire Company, LLC (Starkville)

Associate—Airbus Helicopters (Columbus)

Associate—Natchez Water Works

MDEQ Executive Director Gary Rikard with:

Top: James McNair, Hol-Mac Plant 1

Middle: Joey Massey, Hol-Mac Plant 2

Bottom: Brandon Peninger, Anel Corporation



Top: Jimmy Burge,
Hol-Mac Plant 3

Middle: Sandy Wright
and Eugenia Bassillio,
Haworth, Inc.

Bottom: Jason Dar-
nell, PACCAR



Top: Amy Vickery and Larry Holmes, Southwire Company

Middle: Joe Beasley, Airbus Helicopters, Inc.

Bottom: Bryan Hall and Will McMillian, Keith Huber Corporation



Top: James Williams, Jr., and Michael Stewart, Natchez Water Works

Middle: Betty Ruth Fox and Laura McCarthy, Watkins and Eager PLLC



Construction Completed at Chemfax Superfund Site

The EPA recently announced that the construction of all cleanup actions at the Chemfax, Inc. Superfund Site in Gulfport are complete. The site, which occupies 11 acres just south of I-10 at the intersection of Creosote Road and Three Rivers Road, was placed on EPA's National Priorities List in 2012.

Site contaminants included benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and naphthalene, and impacted groundwater. In 1999, EPA addressed immediate threats at the site in its first cleanup action. Drums, storage tanks, tank contents, asbestos and approximately 3,400 cubic yards of contaminated soils were removed. Most of the processing lines, tank farms, bulk storage areas, buildings and structures were also dismantled at that time.

In April 2014, field activities began for the Remedial Action at the site, with excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils, to address long-term risks. Significant challenges during this work included funding delays and higher volumes of contaminated soils than expected. Construction activities were completed in December 2015, with a total of 109,211 tons of contaminated soils and sediment disposed of off-site. EPA and MDEQ conducted a joint inspection on January 12, 2016, and the installation of groundwater monitoring wells was completed January 29. A final Remedial Action report will be finalized in the summer of 2016.



Site visit on January 12: Jay Ferris (Earth Consulting Group), Corey Milton (Singley Construction), Brian Farrier (EPA), Laura Sanchez (Earth Consulting Group), Craig Farmer (MDOT), and Trey Hess (MDEQ).



MRC Designates Environmental Heroes

The Mississippi Recycling Coalition (MRC) announced in April the recipients of the 2015 Environmental Hero Awards. Each year MRC seeks nominations of organizations, businesses, agencies, schools, and local governments that have excelled in their recycling and environmental program efforts. The nominees are evaluated based on the promotion of recycling, the duration and extent of their recycling programs, overall environmental stewardship, and how recycling has improved community waste handling and environmental practices in the previous year.

The 2015 award recipients were:

► **DeSoto County** -- *Local Government Recycler of the Year.*

DeSoto County was recognized for its implementation and continued promotion and growth of the county's recycling program.

► **Hinds Community College** -- *Educational Institution Recycler of the Year.* Hinds Community College has a long history of promoting and providing recycling services that spans the past 20 years.

► **Uncle Ben's** -- *Business and Industry Recycler of the Year.*

The Greenville Uncle Ben's facility is a division of Mars, Inc., a national food company that employs a company-wide Zero Landfill Initiative.

► **Camp Shelby** -- *State and Federal Government Recycler of the Year.* The Camp Shelby Recycle Center is a part of the Mississippi Army National Guard's Qualified Recycle Program.

► **Keep the Reservoir Beautiful** -- *Non-Profit Recycler of the Year.* Keep the Reservoir Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep Mississippi Beautiful, works to promote waste reduction, recycling, composting, litter prevention and beautification in the area of the Ross Barnett Reservoir

The Mississippi Recycling Coalition is a consortium of recycling companies, local governments, state agencies, and other interested organizations. MRC promotes and encourages responsible solid waste management through various methods such as source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting programs. For more information on the MRC and the MRC Environmental Hero Awards, please visit the MRC web page at <http://www.msrecycles.org/>.



Staff Change

Keith Head has been named Chief of the Air Quality Management Branch within MDEQ's Air Division. The Air Division is responsible for ensuring that air quality within Mississippi is protective of public health and welfare. Keith will serve a key planning role in maintaining Mississippi's compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

"I am honored to be given this opportunity to further our efforts to protect air quality in Mississippi," said Keith Head.

Keith has been with the agency, in the Air Emissions Inventory Branch, since 1999. Among his other duties, he has managed the Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants since 2009. He was raised in Savannah, Georgia, and earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Ole Miss. Keith, his wife Heather, their son and two daughters currently reside in Flowood.

Ole Miss Students at MDEQ

MDEQ Executive Director Gary Rikard (l) and Air Division Chief Dallas Baker (r) met recently with a group of Ole Miss School of Engineering students about the field of engineering and leadership. The students are enrolled in this semester's Chancellor's Leadership Class.



A&WMA Workshop on April 28

The Mississippi Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA), MDEQ, and Trinity Consultants will host the fourth annual Air Quality Workshop focusing on federal and Mississippi air quality regulatory permitting and compliance requirements on April 28 in Ridgeland. For more information email Maya Rao at mrao@trinityconsultants.com and use the link below to register:



AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION

MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER
SOUTHERN SECTION

<http://www.trinityconsultants.com/training/158399/mississippi-workshop-whats-happening-now-in-air>.

Brownfields Discussion

Trey Hess, Chief of the Groundwater Assessment and Remediation Division, recently discussed Brownfields for a Continuing Legal Education session hosted by the Mississippi Bar's Section of Natural Resources, Environment and Energy Law. More information about Brownfields can be found at: [http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/pdf/GARD_57-91-1/\\$File/57-91-1.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/pdf/GARD_57-91-1/$File/57-91-1.pdf?OpenElement).



MDEQ Partners with Local Governments to Sponsor Spring 2016 HHW Collection Events



MDEQ is providing Solid Waste Assistance Grants and technical assistance to a number of local governments to sponsor upcoming collection events for household hazardous wastes (HHW). These collection events provide citizens with local options to properly and safely dispose of aerosols, corrosives, pesticides, herbicides, paints, used oil, batteries, automotive fluids, electronic wastes and other household hazardous materials. The events help remove these hazardous materials from the municipal solid waste stream so that these wastes are not disposed of in local landfills.

Local governments that are planning to host HHW event for which MDEQ is aware include the following communities:

Harrison County – Saturday, May 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Mississippi Power Plant Watson on Lorraine Road in Gulfport.

Madison County/Ridgeland – Saturday, May 14, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Holmes Community College Campus in Ridgeland.

The information listed above represents the best available information at the time of publication; however, these dates may be subject to change and other communities may be host events. Contact local city or county officials for more details on these events. Interested local governments may apply to conduct HHW events by submitting a solid waste assistance grant application to MDEQ by October 1 or April 1 of each funding year. For more information on these solid waste assistance grants, contact Denise Rodgers or Aveleka Moore at 601-961-5171.



Adopt-A-Stream Workshop

The Mississippi Wildlife Federation along with MDEQ will hold a two-day Adopt-A-Stream workshop at Percy Quin State Park near McComb on June 14 to 15, 2016.

Adopt-A-Stream is a program that promotes environmental stewardship through training workshops, outdoor field activities and by introducing participants to watershed action projects.

The two-day program provides an in-depth study of watersheds, as well as hands-on training in chemical and biological parameters important to a healthy stream.

In addition, the workshop will:

- ▶ Increase awareness of nonpoint source pollution
- ▶ Introduce surveying and mapping of your watershed
- ▶ Increase watershed protection awareness and possible actions that can be taken to help your watershed. A new model of *It Begins at Home* with ideas about projects such as:

*Storm Drain Marking

*Stream Clean-ups

*Recycling

*Advocacy and More

Who Should Participate?

Educators, land managers, advocacy groups, Scout troop leaders, Envirothon Team advisors, watershed team leaders, environmental educators, concerned citizens and others. For teachers, two CEU credits are available.

Registration Information

Registration will be available on the Mississippi Wildlife Federation/Adopt-A-Stream website; www.mswildlife.org/AAS/ or by contacting Debra Veeder, Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator at (601)605-1790 or dveeder@mswf.org for a registration form.

For any questions or additional information, please contact Kayra Johnson, Data Administration Branch, at 601-961-5106 or via email at Kayra.Johnson@deg.state.ms.us.

NetDMR Classroom Training

These classes provide an overview of NetDMR, including registration, data entry, and importing of data. Each class will include a hands-on training exercise that will allow permittees to register and submit a Discharge Monitoring Report.

Class sizes are limited and registration is required. To register, please click one of the links below:

Class # 45—Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: May 11, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 46—Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: May 11, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 47 —Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: June 1, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 48 —Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: June 1, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 49 —Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: June 22 , 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 50 —Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: June 22, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 51 —Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: July 20 , 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 52 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: July 20, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 53 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: July 27, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 54–Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: July 27, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 55 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: August 17, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 56 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: August 17, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 57 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: August 24, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 58 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: August 24, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 59 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: September 7, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: Itawamba Community College- Belden Campus [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 60 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: September 7, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: Itawamba Community College- Belden Campus [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 61–Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: September 21, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 62–Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: September 21, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 63 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: October 12, 2016, 8:30-11:30am
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 64 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: October 12, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 65 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: October 27, 2016, 8:30-11:30am
Location: MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi Room
A102 [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 66 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: October 27, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm
Location: MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi
Room A102 [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 67–Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: November 2, 2016, 8:30-11:30am
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 68 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: November 2, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

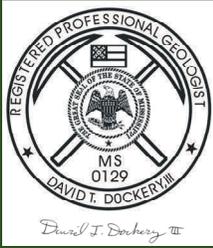
Class # 69 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: December 6, 2016, 8:30-11:30am
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 70–Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: December 6, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 71 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: December 7, 2016, 8:30-11:30am
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 72 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: December 7, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Kayra Johnson, Data Administration Branch, at 601-961-5106 or via email at Kayra_Johnson@deq.state.ms.us.



Paleontological Research Institution Studying Ancient Molluscan Diversity at MDEQ

David T. Dockery III, RPG, Office of Geology

What does MDEQ's Office of Geology have that the Paleontological Research Institution in Ithaca, New York, does not?—Molluscan fossils from the upper Hatchetigbee Formation. A diverse molluscan fauna is present in the upper Hatchetigbee Formation at its type locality at Hatchetigbee Bluff on the Tombigbee River in Washington County, Alabama (Figure 1). This section is often overlooked by those collecting fossils closer to the river level at the base of the bluff where fossiliferous beds are dominated by the clam *Venericardia (Venericor) hatcheplata* and a few gastropod species.

The Office of Geology's fossil collections date to the beginning of the agency's bulletin series in 1907 and contain everything from large mastodon bones to fossil seashells and microscopic tests of one-celled marine animals called Foraminifera. These collections include specimens from neighboring states and are studied by paleontologists worldwide. They are useful in the study of the history of life on earth and in correlating and mapping geologic formations.



Figure 1. Steve Tracy (left) and David Ward (right) examining a concretionary boulder from the shell-hash deposit of the upper Hatchetigbee Formation at its type locality at Hatchetigbee Bluff on the Tombigbee River in Washington County, Alabama.

The Paleontological Research Institution (PRI) was founded by Gilbert D. Harris, a Cornell University Professor and the fourth state geologist of Louisiana, in 1932. Harris and subsequent director Katherine Palmer collected and published fossils from the Gulf Coast states including Mississippi. Today, the institution's collections contain nearly three million specimens (one of the 10 largest in the U.S.), some of which are exhibited in an 8,000-square-foot museum.

PRI post doc student Carlie Pietsch visited MDEQ's North West Street office from March 30 to April 1, 2016, to identify and measure the upper Hatchetigbee Formation mollusks in the Office of Geology collections (Figure 2). She brought with her type specimens from the PRI collection that the Office of Geology wished to photograph—part of a working relationship the office has maintained since 1977 with the publication of Bulletin 120 on fossil mollusks of the Moodys Branch Formation in Mississippi. Type specimens figured in this bulletin and in Bulletin 122 were placed in the PRI collections. This cooperative relationship was so important that the University Press of Mississippi requested PRI Director and Cornell University Professor Warren Allmon to review/endorse *The Geology of Mississippi*. This endorsement appears on the book's back cover. Books are available at the Office of Geology Publication Sales Office on the first floor of the 700 North State Street Building in Jackson.



Figure 2. Post doc student Carlie Pietsch studying fossil mollusks from the upper Hatchetigbee Formation at MDEQ Office of Geology's North West Street Office.

Just Geology

A compilation of articles from the Office of Geology for this newsletter covering the years 2014 and 2015 is available at this link:

[http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/pdf/Geology_JustGeology2014-2015/\\$File/JustGeology2014-2015.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/pdf/Geology_JustGeology2014-2015/$File/JustGeology2014-2015.pdf?OpenElement).



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JUST GEOLOGY
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Figure 6. Top: *Calyptrophorus stamineus* (Conrad, 1856) from the Moodys Branch Formation (38 million years old) in pile borings at the construction site of the Museum of Mississippi History in Jackson, Mississippi. Web images: Bottom left: Living relative from the Japan and South China Sea, *Tibia martinii* Marrat, 1877. Bottom right: Living relative from the North Indian Ocean and Red Sea, *Tibia insulaechorab* Roding, 1798.

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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**Mississippi Department of Environmental
Quality**

Post Office Box 2261

Jackson, Mississippi 39225

601-961-5171

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PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Yazoo River at Redwood.

Taken by Shawn Clark,
Surface Water Division.

