



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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Oil Spill Restoration Meetings

There are two public meetings to be held in September related to ongoing restoration after the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

First, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) has released a proposed update to its 2013 Comprehensive Plan that provides important additional strategic guidance for the Council to follow as it makes decisions on funding future projects and activities. The Council will host a series of public meetings across the Gulf Coast, including one in Long Beach, to discuss the draft Comprehensive Plan Update and seek public comments. Public comments will be accepted from August 23 to October 7, 2016.

The Long Beach meeting will be held on Monday, September 26, beginning with an open house at 5:00 p.m., and the public meeting commences at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Fleming Education Center Auditorium on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast: 730 East Beach Boulevard, Long Beach, 39560.

Second, the *Deepwater Horizon* Trustee Council will hold a public meeting on September 28 in New Orleans. During this meeting, there will be updates on the work of the Trustee Council and each Trustee Implementation Group (TIG): Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Open Ocean, and Region-wide. That meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 28, with an open house from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with the public meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. The location is the Storyville Room of the Renaissance New Orleans Pere Marquette French Quarter Area Hotel located at 817 Common Street, New Orleans, 70112.



Mississippi Gulf Coast photo
courtesy of the Mississippi
Development Authority

MDEQ RESTORE Act: Public Input Opportunity

MDEQ is in the process of developing the initial Mississippi State Expenditure Plan for the expenditure of funds under the Oil Spill Impact Component (Bucket 3) of the RESTORE Act. In November 2015, Department of Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, as Chair of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, approved Mississippi's Planning State Expenditure Plan. This plan establishes a multi-phase, integrated, and transparent process to identify potential projects for funding.

Under Phase I: Establishing a Foundation, MDEQ was tasked with identifying the AIMS, or goals, of Mississippi's initial SEP (MSEP). The RESTORE Act says that a state's SEP should be complementary to, and consistent with, the RESTORE Council's Comprehensive Plan. Therefore, the AIMS of the MSEP would be identified as one or more of the goals identified in the Initial Comprehensive Plan. As part of Phase I, MDEQ met with various stakeholder groups to gather input on what the designed AIMS of this MSEP should be. The majority responded that the focus should be on two of the goals identified in the Initial Comprehensive Plan: Restore Water Quality and Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy.

Under Phase II: Project Contribution, Benefit, and Coordination, the CONTRIBUTIONS and BENEFITS a project should make in order to be included on this MSEP will be identified. A CONTRIBUTION is defined as an action that a project can take to meet the prioritized AIMS. A BENEFIT is the outcome of a contribution. MDEQ is utilizing an online community engagement platform called *MetroQuest* to collect input on what CONTRIBUTIONS and BENEFITS a project should make in order to be included in the MSEP. *MetroQuest* will be used to gather information to appropriately filter projects out of the Mississippi Restoration Project Portal according to stakeholder priorities.

MDEQ is looking for input during this planning process. To learn more and to provide input, visit www.restore.ms or click [here](#). The deadline is September 30, 2016.

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 Review*, 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

The enHance program, along with the Mississippi Manufacturers Association, innovateMEP, and CAVS Extension, is sponsoring an Industrial Energy Efficiency Workshop on September 28. It will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center located at 1815 Popp's Ferry Road in Biloxi. There is a \$25 cost that includes lunch.

Targeted sectors for the workshop are industrial manufacturers and seafood processors.

Click [here](#) to register.

For more information, contact Dr. Sumesh Arora at saro-ra@innovate.ms.



Fall Deadline for Solid Waste Assistance Grants

The deadline for Mississippi local governments to apply for the Fall round of the MDEQ competitive solid waste assistance grants (SWAG) is October 1, 2016. The competitive SWAG funds are available for municipalities, counties, regional solid waste management authorities and other multi-county entities.

Eligible local governments may apply to MDEQ for the solid waste assistance grants for various types of solid waste projects and programs including: clean-up of unauthorized dumps, establishment of a collection programs for white goods or other bulky wastes, support for recycling and waste reduction programs, public education campaigns on solid waste and recycling, salary support for local solid waste enforcement officers, household hazardous waste collection programs; and other activities that support proper management and recycling of solid wastes.

For more information, visit the MDEQ website at:

www.deq.state.ms.us/solidwaste and click on “Grants Information” in the left hand column or contact Ms. Aveleka Moore at 601-961-5171.

MDEQ Partners with Local Governments to Sponsor Fall HHW Collection Events

Collection events for household hazardous wastes (HHW) have been scheduled for several communities this fall. Solid Waste Assistance Grants awarded by MDEQ to these communities provide funding for the collection events that provide citizens 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 to remove these hazardous materials from the municipal solid waste stream so that these wastes are not disposed in local landfills.



Local governments hosting Fall HHW events include the following communities:

- **Hancock County** October 1, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at Coast Electric Power Association on Highway 603 in Kiln. For more info call 228-467-9048.
- **DeSoto County** - October 22, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Southwest Corner Parking Lot at the Landers Center at Venture Drive and Turman Drive in Southaven. For more info call 662-469-8152

These dates may be subject to change and other communities may be hosting events that are not included above. Local governments may apply for grant assistance 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 Ms. Aveleka Moore at 601-961-5171.





Register for the MRC State Recycling Conference

The Mississippi Recycling Coalition (MRC) is hosting Mississippi's largest annual recycling meeting on November 1 and 2 at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi.

The conference draws representatives from local governments, state and federal agencies, universities and colleges, businesses, and non-profit organizations as well as recycling and solid waste professionals for two days of informative sessions and networking opportunities.

Conference topics will include:

- Why Measurement Matters
- Expanding Community Recycling Efforts
- Updates from the Southeastern Recycling Development Council and EPA Region 4
- Special Materials Recycling
- Public Outreach and Education
- Institutional Recycling
- Organics Recycling

In addition, MRC is offering a pre-conference Material Recovery Workshop the morning of November 1 led by the Recycling Partnership, on "Addressing Contamination in Your Recycling Stream." Plans are also being made to offer a local area tour.

Registration, lodging, and additional program information are available on the conference webpage of the MRC website. Conference updates and other recycling news and information are available on MRC's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MSRecycles/>) and on Twitter ([@MSRecycles](#)).

For more information, please contact Jennifer Milner at 601-961-5739 or jmilner@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 MDEQ, 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 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 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 cost for other items.



Myers Selected as Association President

Dusty Myers, Chief of the Dam Safety Division, was recently selected as President of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) for 2016 to 2017.



ASDSO is a national non-profit organization with approximately 3,000 members including state dam safety programs, federal dam safety professionals, dam owners and operators, engineering consultants, emergency managers, manufacturers, suppliers, academia, contractors, and others interested in improving dam safety. The association works to improve the condition and safety of dams through education, support for state dam safety programs, and by fostering a unified dam safety community.

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.



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

Connect with MDEQ

MDEQ Social Media



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Picture of the Month

Butterflies at the Tennes-
see-Tombigbee Waterway
in Lowndes County.

Taken by Robbie Wilbur.

