FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MDEQ enHANCE PROGRAM RECOGNIZES ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

(Jackson, Miss.) – The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) recently accepted ten new members into its enHance program. enHance is a voluntary stewardship program begun in 2009 that recognizes committed environmental leaders who accomplish goals beyond their legal requirements. enHance is open to facilities, cities, counties, and other entities who are interested in the program, and applicants can choose from three tiers: Associate, Steward, or Leader.

“We are very excited about this program that rewards members for their leadership in protecting Mississippi’s environment. We had an outstanding first two classes of members, and we look forward to including this next group into the program. There are many facilities in Mississippi doing good work and achieving standards beyond their permit requirements. We believe they should be recognized for their leadership,” said Trudy Fisher, MDEQ Executive Director. “In addition, successful participation in this program will result in the reduction of waste and the conservation of resources leading to long term economic benefits and continuous environmental enhancement.”

enHance’s 2011 class:

Leaders
14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus Air Force Base (Columbus)
The Cooper Tire Company (Tupelo)
Custom Engineered Wheels (Tupelo)
Flexsteel Commercial Seating Division (Starkville)
Nissan North America, Inc. Canton Manufacturing Plant (Canton)
Southern Natural Gas Company - Onward Compressor Station (Cary)

Membership Level Change (from Steward to Leader)
Leaf River Cellulose, LLC (New Augusta)

Stewards
The City of Ridgeland
Zeon Chemicals L.P. (Hattiesburg)

Associate
U.S. Government Printing Office (Stennis Space Center)

Current enHance members:
Leaders -- Baxter International (Cleveland), Caterpillar High Performance Extrusions (Oxford), Eka Chemicals (Columbus), Haworth (Bruce), Hunter Douglas (Tupelo), International Paper (Redwood), Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) (Gulfport), Nucor/General Recycling (Flowood), and Southern Natural Gas - Pickens Station (Pickens).

Stewards -- Columbus Brick (Columbus), DTE Petcoke (Vicksburg), Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding (Gulfport), Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems (Ocean Springs), and Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding (Pascagoula).

Associates -- GDF Suez Choctaw Gas Generation (Ackerman), GDF Suez Red Hills Power Plant (Ackerman), and Gulf States Manufacturers - a Nucor Company (Starkville).

Information about the program is available at: http://www.deq.state.ms.us/enhance.

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