



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.

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Environmental News

VOL. 14 ISSUE 8

AUG / SEP 2017

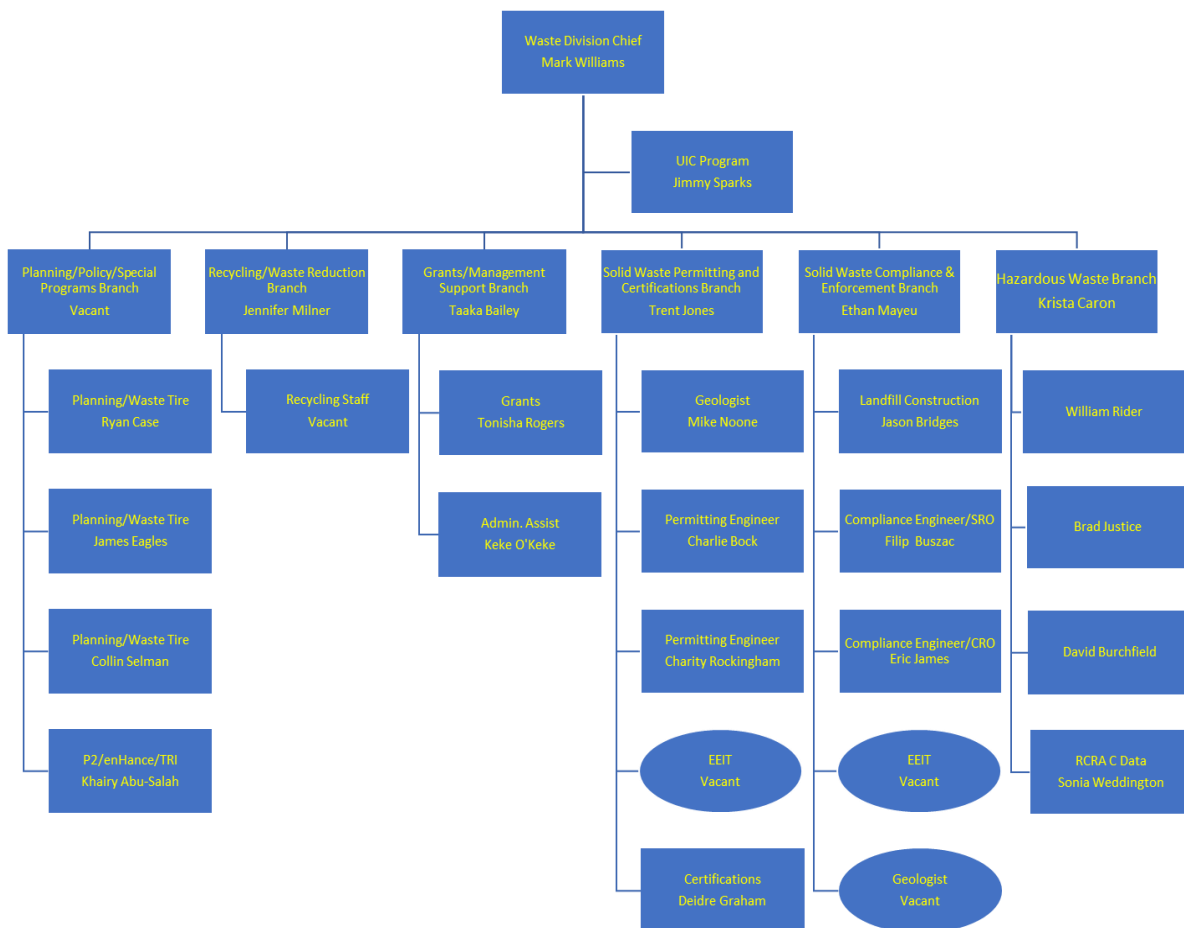
Office of Pollution Control Reorganization

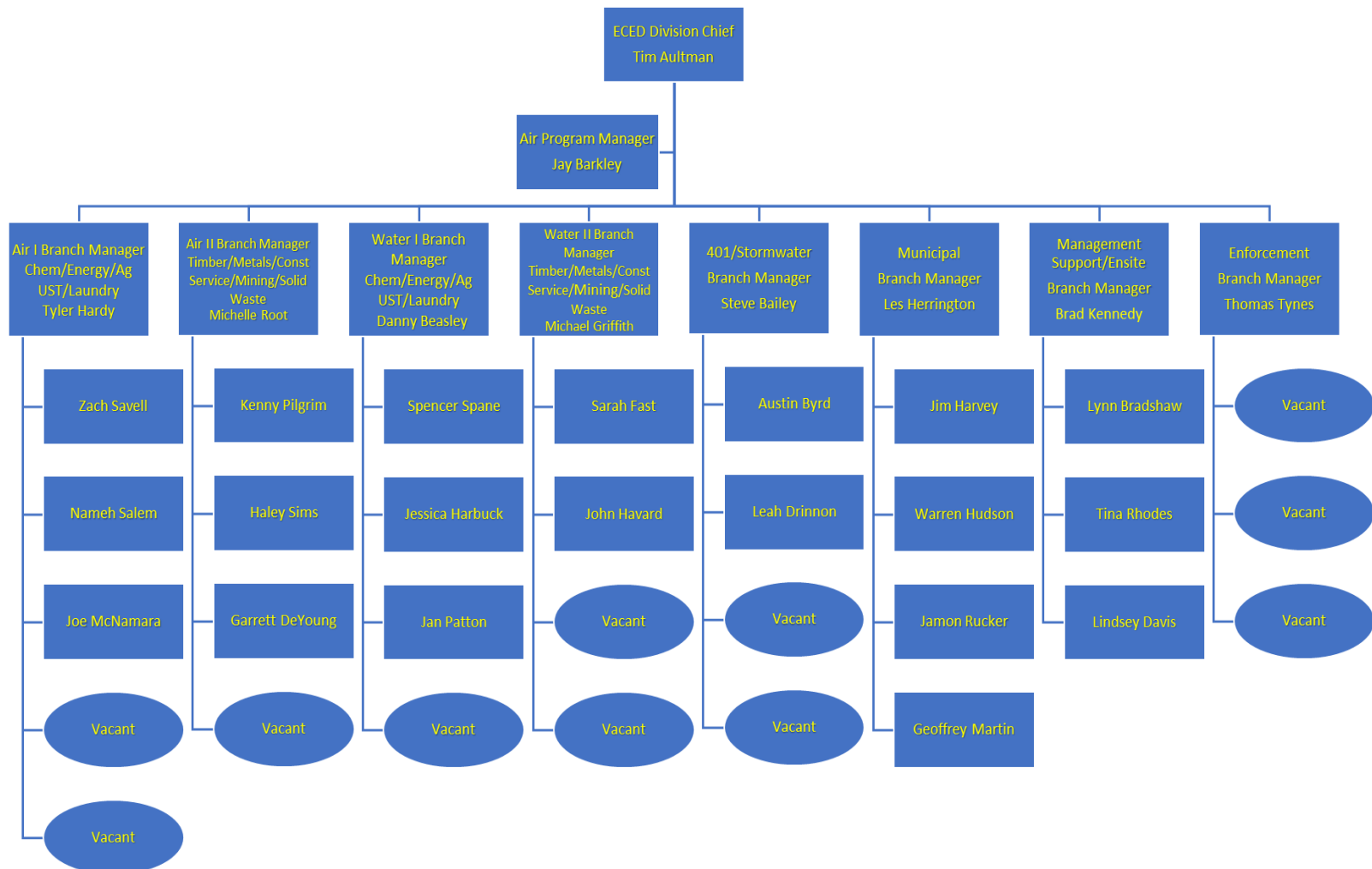
The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) Office of Pollution Control (OPC) is in the process of reorganizing its structure to better serve facilities in the state, increase efficiency, and to increase the expertise of its staff. Last month's newsletter included information on the strategy behind the initiative being implemented September 1.

Following are organization charts of the Waste Division, Environmental Permits Division, and the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Division to demonstrate the new structure, the placement of managers, and where staff have moved. A Frequently Asked Questions section follows the charts.

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Frequently Asked Questions Related to OPC Reorganization

What OPC Divisions are affected by this reorganization?

The Environmental Permits Division (EPD), the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Division (ECED), and the newly-created Waste Division in OPC have been the focus of the reorganizational efforts. Other Divisions of OPC, including the Groundwater Assessment and Remediation Division (GARD), the Air Division, the Surface Water Division, and the Field Services Division were not included in this recent reorganizational focus. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Emergency Response and Preparedness Division was created this year.

Are there significant changes for the regulated community?

The most significant change will be that the MDEQ permitting and compliance contacts for various facilities in the state are likely to change. This change in contacts will be based on the types of environmental permits that a facility may have for air, water, and waste management.

The Waste Division was created to consolidate all of the agency's efforts related to the management of hazardous and nonhazardous solid wastes. The work areas that were consolidated include policy and planning, permitting and compliance/enforcement for both solid and hazardous wastes, pollution prevention, recycling and waste reduction, and special programs such as the waste tire, lead acid battery, grants assistance, and enHance programs. If a facility has a solid or hazardous waste management permit or is a hazardous waste generator, the facility's permitting and compliance contacts will be with one or more of the branches in the Waste Division.

The Air and Water permitting and compliance and enforcement activities will remain in EPD and ECED. The branches within EPD and ECED have been reorganized into single media branches for air and water permitting and compliance. However, the work of these air and water branches has been assigned to the branches by facility types. This structure will help the regulated community more readily identify their applicable branch and help maintain specialized expertise within MDEQ.

The branches in EPD and ECED will closely mirror each other. The Air I and Water I Branches are responsible for the associated permits for facilities that were formerly housed in the Chemical Branch, Energy & Transportation Branch, and the Agricultural Branch. The Air II and Water II Branches are responsible for the former Timber & Wood Products Branch, Service Branch, Metals Branch, Construction Branch, Mining Operations, Air Permitting for Municipal facilities, and the associated air and water permits for sites needing waste permits. The Municipal Branch will still be responsible for

water permits for municipal and most domestic wastewater facilities. The 401 Water Quality Certification and Stormwater programs were also combined to include responsibilities for all Stormwater (Baseline General Permit, Construction General Permit, MS4, and Mining General Permits) and the 401 Program. In addition, an Enforcement Branch was created in ECED to manage and coordinate formal enforcement actions related to air and water violations.

In the new structure, the regulated community will have contacts that specialize in each media area so MDEQ will be better able to provide guidance on the various air, water, and waste management issues that a facility may face.

Who will be my new point of contact? For old projects? For new projects?

MDEQ has been working for the past two months to transition facilities into the new structure.

New permitting actions are now being assigned to staff in the restructured branches. Most in-house permitting actions have been reassigned to new staff or will soon be reassigned. There may be a few instances where staff in the old structure maintain involvement with a permit action. The managers of the new branches are overseeing all the permitting work and can provide our regulated facilities with a status update of any permit action.

New compliance actions are also being assigned to staff in the restructured branches. However, for continuity's sake, previously scheduled inspections and most ongoing enforcement actions will remain assigned to the facility's former MDEQ compliance engineer until these matters are completed and resolved.

How does a facility learn that point of contact?

The best way for a facility to determine the new point of contact is to utilize the MDEQ organizational chart and contact the appropriate branch manager if needed. The MDEQ organizational chart will be posted on the MDEQ website beginning September 1, and will be updated periodically. All MDEQ main office staff may be reached by telephone through the MDEQ switchboard number: 601-961-5171, or access the staff directory here.

Will an organizational chart be on MDEQ's website?

Yes, MDEQ has added an organizational chart to the agency's website, and that chart will be updated periodically. A chart is also available in this newsletter on pages one and two.

Will there be a set period of time in transition or will it all happen on September 1? In other words, will the existing staff be able to answer questions and direct communication for a period of time?

It is recommended that facilities contact the managers and staff of the newly-assigned branches beginning September 1. If a facility does not know who that contact person is, facilities may contact the formerly assigned staff or branch managers who will be able to direct them to the new contact.

Are there things that a facility needs to do differently?

Not at this time. Permit applications and compliance reports will still be submitted to the same address. If the facility knows the new point of contact, correspondence should be addressed to that person. If a facility does not know the MDEQ contact, a safe default is to address mail to the Division Chief of EPD, ECED, or the Waste Division, and the Division Chief will route the information to the appropriate staff.

Have submittal requirements changed?

Submittal requirements are generally dictated by the facility's permits or by state regulations, so the reorganization did not impact those requirements.

Will there be different compliance inspectors for various media?

Yes, each media (air, water, and waste) will have its own compliance inspectors. Where possible, and to the extent practical, inspectors will coordinate with other MDEQ media inspectors to conduct inspections on the same day minimizing the burden on the regulated community.

Will there be changes in the frequency of compliance inspections?

There are currently no planned increases or decreases in the frequency of inspections as part of this reorganizational effort.

Will enforcement and inspections of solid waste and hazardous waste issues stay in ECED or go to the Waste Division?

The Waste Division will handle all solid waste and hazardous waste inspections and associated compliance and enforcement actions.

enHance Application Period Opens!

MDEQ is accepting applications for the enHance program until September 30 from organizations across the state. The [enHance website](#) provides information on current enHance members, the enHance program calendar, training workshop materials, and information on how to apply.

The enHance program is open to all types of organizations including manufacturers and other industries, municipalities, businesses, schools, and other organizations committed to environmental conservation and stewardship. The program is a voluntary initiative to recognize environmental leaders in Mississippi. Participating organizations make a commitment to address and achieve ongoing environmental improvements at their facilities. More information, benefits of the program, an application, and application instructions can be found at www.enhance.ms.



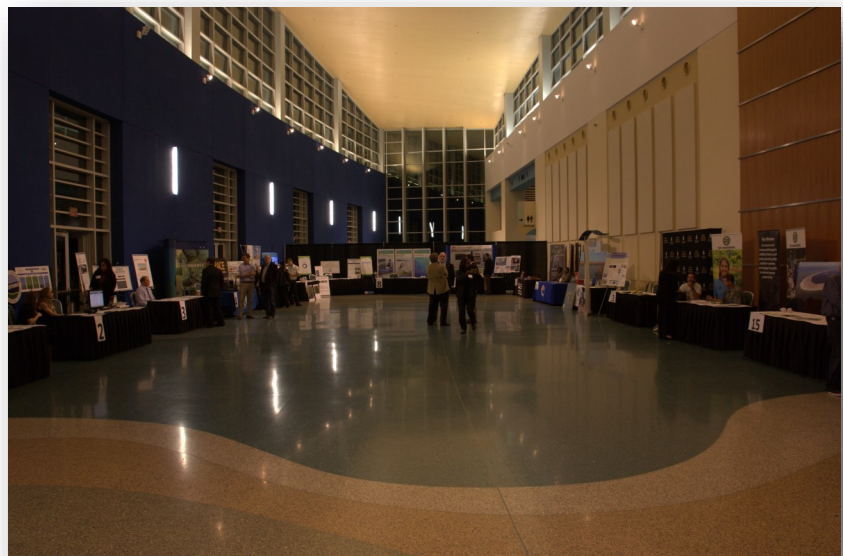
Save the Date!

The [Mississippi Restoration Summit](#) is scheduled for November 14, 2017, and will be held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi. More information will confirmed soon.

To receive updates about the summit and other news about Mississippi's restoration efforts, join the email list [here](#).



Exhibit hall from 2016 summit.





New Commissioner Appointed

Governor Phil Bryant has appointed Jamie Planck Martin of Flora to the Commission on Environmental Quality for a four-year term beginning July 1, 2017. She replaces Ted Kendall IV.

Jamie is currently an attorney with Taggart, Rimes & Graham, PLLC, in Ridgeland. She also practiced with large firms in Atlanta, Georgia, and Boston, Massachusetts, and was a partner in the state's largest law firm. Jamie also maintained her own law practice and consulting firm for several years, and participated in the management and operation of several businesses.

Jamie is the owner of Providence Hill Farm, located just outside Flora, home of the nationally-recognized Providence Hill Farm Sporting Club, which offers sporting clays, skeet, trap, pistol and long range shooting, archery, and bass fishing. An avid horseback rider, Jamie has been State Champion of Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee, and Champion at many of the largest national horse shows. Providence Hill Farm's equestrian facility is host to Mississippi College's Equestrian Program, and Jamie serves as an advisor.

Jamie received the *Mississippi Business Journal's* "Top 40 Under 40" Award and was selected to participate in "Leadership Mississippi," a leadership program sponsored by the Mississippi Economic Council. Jamie has also received the Mississippi Business Journal's "Top 50 Business Women" Award, was inducted into the "International Who's Who of Professionals" and was selected to participate in "Leadership Jackson," a leadership program sponsored by the MetroJackson Chamber of Commerce.

She graduated *magna cum laude* from Sweet Briar College and received her law degree from Vanderbilt School of Law.

The Commission on Environmental Quality is empowered to formulate department policy, enforce rules and regulations, receive funding, conduct studies for using the state's resources, and discharge duties, responsibilities, and powers as necessary. Seven members, serving staggered, seven-year terms are appointed by the Governor.

Surface Water Division Outreach

Donetta McCullum and Caitlyn Atkins of MDEQ's Surface Water Division, along with summer interns, participated in St. Andrews Water Week in Jackson in July. Donetta used the EnviroScape Model to simulate stormwater runoff and pollution prevention. Caitlyn and the interns demonstrated the Stream Table model to explain streambank erosion and deposition in a dynamic setting.



Registration for MRC State Recycling Conference Now Open!

The Mississippi Recycling Coalition (MRC) invites you to Mississippi's largest annual recycling meeting to be held Wednesday, October 25, 2017, at Holmes Community College in Ridgeland from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the McGowan Workforce Training Center.

The MRC State Recycling 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 to participate in informative sessions and networking opportunities.

This year, we're headed to Ridgeland, one of Mississippi's most decorated communities for its great shopping, beautiful green spaces, and long-standing commitment to growing recycling.

In addition to the conference, MRC invites you to attend the 20th Anniversary Celebration reception to be held the evening prior to the conference on Tuesday, October 24, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Anjou Restaurant located in the Township of Ridgeland. We hope you will join us as we celebrate MRC's 20 years of service to the State of Mississippi by meeting up with old and new friends alike to enjoy fun, food, fellowship and live entertainment from Chris Gill!

Registration, lodging, and additional program information is available on the conference [webpage](#) of the MRC [website](#). Also, be sure to like MRC on [Facebook](#) and follow on [Twitter](#) for conference updates and other recycling news and information.





MDEQ Environmental Action Links

- Draft permits currently at public notice, <http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/publicnotice.aspx>
- Environmental Permits Division Scheduled Public Hearings, <http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/publichearingheader.aspx>
- Geology Permit Application Public Notice, http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/geology_public_notice.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



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Quality

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Picture of the Month

Pine savannah
pitcher plants in
Jackson County.

Taken by Chris
Wells, Chief of
Staff.

