

I am pleased to announce the formation of the Office of Land Resources (OLR) at ADEQ. The OLR was created in order to help us better fulfill our mission of protecting, enhancing, and restoring the priceless land assets in the Natural State. As part of the general reorganization of the Department, OLR combines the former divisions of solid waste, hazardous waste, mining, and regulated storage tanks under one roof. While each of these former divisions will retain its individual identity and strengths, sharing common resources and staff will help streamline our processes. Further, the merger will help provide greater opportunities for us to work closely with the regulated community and the public to foster the state's goals of industry growth, while ensuring environmental protection.

The OLR is divided into four separate sections:

- a. Regulated Wastes Program;
- b. Petroleum Tanks Program and Enforcement;
- c. Mining Program and Administration; and
- d. Compliance and Emergency Response Programs

As Senior Manager, OLR-Regulated Waste Program, Tammie Hynum has accepted the challenge of managing the permitting, licensing, removal, and remediation aspects of the former Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Divisions. Employed by ADEQ since 1990, Ms. Hynum has served in many capacities, including Hazardous Waste Inspector, Hazardous Waste Inspector Supervisor, and Branch Manager for the Waste Program areas. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Toxicology from Northeast Louisiana University and has completed a Master of Science studies in Environmental Engineer and Wetland Delineation. In the Regulated Waste Program, Ms. Hynum will oversee all regulated waste permits, licensing, and remediation, as well as administration of the RATFA and Post-Closure Trust Funds. She is looking forward to continued success in working with the facilities that handle hazardous waste, as well as developing new relationships with the Solid Waste Management Districts and regulated facilities.

Mr. Joe Hoover has accepted the position of Senior Manager, OLR-Petroleum Tank Program and Enforcement. In this capacity, he is responsible for managing certain aspects of the former Regulated Storage Tank division, including registration, licensing, operator certification, remediation, and administration of the Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund. Mr. Hoover will also supervise all enforcement actions for the OLR. He has been with ADEQ since 1990 and has had various positions, including Regulated Storage Tanks Division Chief, from 2004 – 2015 and several roles with ADEQ's Hazardous Waste Division between 1990 and 2004. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology. Mr. Hoover looks forward to continuing his work with the 'Tanks' community and working towards new solutions to enforcement issues that arise within the OLR.

James F. Stephens, Senior Manager, OLR-Mining Program and Administration, as well as ADEQ's Chief Geologist, will continue to oversee all permitting and remediation of mining sites in the

state, including quarry mining, coal mining, and in-stream gravel mining. Mr. Stephens has also agreed to take on some of the administrative aspects of the OLR, including fiscal oversight. With the large number of trust funds and professional service contracts related to the land program, Mr. Stephens has the experience to provide an additional level of scrutiny to ensure that ADEQ remains a good steward of public funds. Mr. Stephens has a B.S. and M.S. in Geology from the University of Arkansas, and is a registered Professional Geologist in Arkansas. Mr. Stephens has been managing the Mining Program at ADEQ since 2001. Prior to that position, he was an Enforcement Administrator and Non-Coal Mining Inspector with the Mining Program. His expertise in mining and in overseeing large contracts is an asset to the OLR.

The fourth component of OLR is its Compliance and Emergency Response Programs. The position of Senior Manager is currently vacant, but we hope to fill it soon. At this point, the program is being quite effectively managed by Branch Managers Penny Wilson and Scott McWilliams. Ms. Wilson is responsible for Emergency Response, Site Assessment, and all Hazardous Waste Compliance. Ms. Wilson graduated from the University of Arkansas at Monticello in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in Health & Physical Education. She has been employed at ADEQ since 1991, bringing 29 years of experience in working with hazardous wastes. During her tenure at ADEQ, she has been a Hazardous Waste Inspector, Inspector Supervisor, and the Enforcement & Inspection Branch Manager.

Mr. Scott McWilliams is responsible for supervising all compliance within what were formerly the divisions of Regulated Storage Tanks, Mining, and Solid Waste. Scott McWilliams is a graduate of the University Central Arkansas. He has worked for ADEQ since 1996, concentrating his efforts in the field of Solid Waste. Mr. McWilliams has worked as a Field Inspector, Enforcement Coordinator, and Enforcement Branch Manager, before accepting this newest position. Both he and Ms. Wilson are excited at the new opportunities, and we are lucky to have them in these positions.