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## ADEQ News Release

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News Release

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ADEQ DIRECTOR, GOVERNOR ISSUE STATEMENT ON FORMER ADEQ DIRECTOR'S PASSING

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Director Becky Keogh and Gov. Asa

Hutchinson issued statements on today's passing of long-time ADEQ Director Randall Mathis.

"The ADEQ family was saddened today to learn of former director Randall Mathis's passing," said Director Keogh, who previously served as a deputy director from 1996 to 2006. Mathis served as director from 1989 to 2000.

"Randall cared about the environment and his employees," Director Keogh said. "He put Arkansas on the map nationally helping advance states' viewpoints on environmental policy."

Gov. Asa Hutchinson said "Randall Mathis exemplified a public servant. He was dedicated, knowledgeable and loved the state of Arkansas. He will be missed."

Keogh recalled Mathis as a "down-to-earth man" who enjoyed singing and telling a good joke. "He was popular with employees, who loved that he made a habit of eating lunch with them most days. He sought to bring together diverse groups on a wide variety of issues. He was able to build bridges between industry and environmentalists – a skill sharpened by his time as a county judge," Keogh said.

Mathis rose through the ranks at ADEQ, serving as the chief of the Solid Waste Division and deputy director before being appointed director by Gov. Bill Clinton. "He was truly an innovator in the Solid Waste field and he helped create the agency's Business Assistance Program after seeing the need to provide more information on environmental permitting and processes, particularly to small businesses," Keogh said.

Mathis served as Director under three governors, including Clinton, Jim Guy Tucker and Mike Huckabee. He served on the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission, ADEQ's appellate body, from 2001 to 2004.

30

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