



Walter Wright, Jr.
wwright@mwlaw.com
(501) 688.8839

Mississippi Environmental Personnel Moves: Chris Wells Announced as Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Interim Executive Director

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Mississippi Governor Tate Reaves has appointed Chris Wells to serve as interim Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality ("MDEQ").

Former Executive Director Gary Rikard had previously announced he was leaving the agency on January 13th.

Mr. Wells has been serving MDEQ as Chief of Staff.

The MDEQ Executive Director position is the senior agency manager.

MDEQ is overseen by a Commission on Environmental Quality which is provided the authority to formulate policy, enforce rules and regulations, receive funding, conduct studies for using the state's resources, and discharge duties, responsibilities and power as necessary. The seven members are appointed by the Governor and serve staggered, seven-year terms. Advice and consent of the Mississippi Senate is required for their appointment.