

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Reorganization: Update



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Some aspects of the reorganization of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality ("ADEQ") were discussed in the January 26th Advisory Committee on Petroleum Storage Tanks meeting ("Advisory Committee").

Advisory Committee Member Danny Murdaugh of Pollution Management, Inc. passed along some anecdotal information from the meeting.

As previously noted, <http://www.mitchellwilliamslaw.com/arkansas-department-of-environmental-quality-reorganization-director-becky-keoghs-arkansas-environmental-federation-keynote-speech-describes-restructuring>, ADEQ Director Becky Keogh had indicated in a speech to the Arkansas Environmental Federation that the media or regulatory programs at the agency would be divided into three offices that include:

- Office of Water
- Office of Air
- Office of Land

Former Regulation Storage Tank Division Chief Joe Hoover indicated at the Advisory Committee meeting that the Office of Land Resources would include the following former agency Divisions:

- Regulation Storage Tank
- Solid Waste Management
- Hazardous Waste
- Mining

Danny Murdaugh stated that Mr. Hoover appeared to also indicate that inspectors and emergency response personnel from the previously referenced Divisions would be combined into a "Compliance Group". In other words, a former Regulated Storage Tank Division inspector might also address landfills (typically inspected by Solid Waste Management Division personnel) and vice versa.

Similar combinations may involve waste program permitting/remediation and enforcement.