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ADEM Celebrates 40th Year of Clean Water Act

MONTGOMERY– The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, which went into effect on October 18, 1972. Congress established the Clean Water Act in 1972 with the goal of protecting America’s waterways.

The Clean Water Act has been the cornerstone of efforts nationwide to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters” and has supported efforts to ensure public health protection by improving water quality for all Americans. In carrying out the Act ADEM, along with environmental agencies in other states, administers regulations designed to protect water quality and safeguard public health.

“For 40 years, Americans and Alabamians have relied on the Clean Water Act to keep our lakes, rivers, streams, and coastal waters safe for fishing, swimming, recreation, and as a safe source of drinking water,” said ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. “It’s the guideline that helps us to preserve our vast water resources and we are pleased to commemorate this landmark anniversary.”

ADEM endeavors to ensure water resources are protected through a science-based permitting process and a vigorous inspection process. The Department routinely collects and analyzes water quality data from Alabama’s 77,000 miles of waterways to support its decision making processes.

The Clean Water Act’s 40th anniversary affords ADEM a unique opportunity to focus attention on the importance of swimmable, drinkable, and fishable waters for today’s citizens and for future generations. Additional information is available at the ADEM website (www.adem.alabama.gov) and citizens are encouraged to become more interested in understanding water-related issues.

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