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ADEM Requests Federal Resources To Address REEF Issues

MONTGOMERY –The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has requested federal resources be utilized to achieve a resolution to the issues surrounding the REEF facility in Sylacauga. ADEM officials met with representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the facility earlier this week to discuss the use of federal resources.

In response to citizens' complaints, ADEM has conducted numerous inspections of the REEF facility, conducted monitoring activities at the site, initiated enforcement actions against REEF, and is currently pursuing legal remedies through the court system. ADEM has exhausted all remedies available through its administrative enforcement processes and has utilized all available state financial resources to achieve a resolution of this issue.

“We have effectively utilized our state resources and worked with local officials to utilize their resources in an effort to try and achieve a resolution to the REEF issue,” said ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. “We are now continuing that process by seeking federal resources to address the issues at this facility.”

ADEM and EPA on-scene coordinators arrived at the site on Tuesday to begin the assessment process and that process continues at this time. In addition, a Unified Command Center has been established at the site with representatives from ADEM, EPA, and the Talladega County Emergency Management Agency.

Open lines of communication have been established with State and local elected officials, including the Talladega County Commission and the City of Sylacauga, to ensure effective communication occurs throughout the response process.

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