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ADEM Providing Sheffield Utilities with Low Interest Loans and Grant Funds

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has announced it is providing Sheffield Utilities with almost \$230,000 in low interest loans and grant funds to support energy efficiency upgrades at one of their drinking water treatment plants. The majority of the funds, \$140,000, will originate from a clean air agreement signed between the Tennessee Valley Authority, the State of Alabama, and other entities while the remaining \$88,000 will originate from ADEM's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

The funds will be used to support the installation of new, energy efficient pumps to assist with the distribution of clean, safe drinking water for the customers of Sheffield Utilities. These energy efficient pumps will result in significantly reduced operational energy costs and an energy savings of approximately \$8,000 per year. Once installed, the energy efficient pumps will reduce energy consumption by more than 78,000 kilowatt hours per year. In addition, this project is one of several projects that will be implemented in north Alabama resulting in an overall reduction of approximately 20 tons per year of sulfur dioxide.

"I am pleased that ADEM can use its financial and technical resources to support these energy efficient upgrades," said ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. "These funds will allow Sheffield Utilities to continue to provide its customers with clean, safe drinking water but will allow them to do it in an energy efficient manner which will save money, reduce air emissions, and conserve natural resources."

The ADEM Drinking Water State Revolving Fund provides financial assistance for local communities to ensure the proper treatment, storage, and distribution of drinking water for the local citizens.

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