

MDEQ Waste Division Update

A&WMA Southern Section

2025 Annual Conference

August 29, 2025

Beau Rivage Resort & Casino

875 Beach Blvd

Biloxi, MS 39530



MDEQ Waste Division

Solid Waste
Policy Panning and Special Projects

Solid Waste
Permitting and Certification

Solid Waste
Compliance and Enforcement

UIC and Geotechnical Support

Recycling and Waste Reduction Programs

Solid Waste and Waste Tire Grant Programs

Hazardous Waste Programs

P2 Program

Solid Waste Policy, Planning and Special Programs

- ▶ Branch oversees Local Government solid waste plans, Waste Tire program, Beneficial Use, Annual Reporting, Regulation and policy development, etc).
 - ▶ Charlie Bock - Branch Manager
 - ▶ Cole Montgomery - Program Engineer
 - ▶ Emily Sanders - Program Engineer

Solid Waste Permitting and Certifications Branch

Branch oversees the permitting of all solid waste facilities, review of exemption requests and lagoon closures, and certification of landfill operators and waste tire haulers

- ▶ Charity Rockingham - Branch Manager
- ▶ Ross Williams - Permitting Manager
- ▶ Judson “Buddy” Gordy - Permitting Engineer
- ▶ Vacant - Certification Programs Coordinator (Waste Tire Hauler Program and Landfill/Rubbish Operator Programs)

Solid Waste Compliance and Enforcement Branch

Branch oversees the compliance and enforcement activities for all solid waste facilities in the state as well as resolution and enforcement on illegal dumping

- ▶ Ethan Mayeu - Branch Manager
- ▶ Jason Bridges - Construction Specialist/Disaster Debris Coordinator
- ▶ Zane Surette - North Region Compliance Engineer
- ▶ William “Nelson” Gatewood - Central Region Compliance Engineer
- ▶ Vacant - South Region Compliance Engineer

Geotechnical Program Branch

- ▶ Branch manages the UIC program, Geologic/Hydrologic Issues for Solid and Hazardous Waste Programs)
 - ▶ Vacant - Branch Manager
 - ▶ Jonathan Williams - Geologist in Training

MDEQ Solid Waste Assistance Programs

- ▶ **Recycling and Waste Reduction Branch**
 - ▶ Jennifer Wells - State Recycling Coordinator/Branch Manager
 - ▶ Thomas Sheffield - Assistant Recycling Coordinator
- ▶ **Pollution Prevention Program and enHance Environmental Stewardship Program**
 - ▶ Khairy Abu-Salah - P2 Coordinator
- ▶ **Household Medical Sharps Collection Program**
 - ▶ Bill Barnett - Program Coordinator

MDEQ Solid Waste Grants Programs

Branch administers solid waste assistance grants (SWAG), waste tire assistance grants (WTAG), and other related grant programs as well as assists with Division budgeting, travel, and other administrative tasks.

- ▶ Felisa Keyes - Branch Manager
- ▶ Jerri Lewis - Grants Manager
- ▶ Kim Grant - Grants Manager
- ▶ Vacant - Administrative Assistant

Hazardous Waste Management Branch

Branch oversees permitting, compliance, reg development for hazardous waste management in the state

- ▶ Krista Caron - Branch Manager
- ▶ Brad Justice - Compliance and Enforcement Coordinator
- ▶ **Vacant - Program Engineer**
- ▶ Leigh Tanner - Program Engineer
- ▶ Sonia Weddington - EPA ID Coordinator/Data Mgt Specialist

Waste Division Updates



HURRICANE KATRINA



Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Debris Numbers

- Over 45 million yd³ generated in MS
- 24 million yd³ generated in the three coastal counties
- 70% of debris in Jackson, Harrison, and Hancock Counties was structural debris
- 25% of all waste disposed in MS in 2005 was debris from Jackson, Harrison, and Hancock Counties

Debris Numbers

- Approximately 360 emergency sites were approved for managing Katrina debris statewide
 - 3 Coastal Counties had 52 sites
 - Remaining Counties had 274 sites
- Estimates indicate that over 100,000 white goods (refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers) were collected, baled, and recycled

Emergency Sites since 2010

- 2010 - 16
- 2011 - 46
- 2012 - 13
- 2013 - 6
- 2014 - 10
- 2015 - 3
- 2016 - 0
- 2017 - 10
- 2018 - 0
- 2019 - 14
- 2020 - 51
- 2021 - 22
- 2022 - 5
- 2023 - 9
- 2024 - 3
- 2025 - 10

Total 218 (Katrina 360)

A photograph of the Mississippi State Capitol building, featuring a large white dome and classical columns, with a Mississippi state flag flying in front. The image is partially obscured by a blue geometric graphic on the right side of the slide.

2025 Mississippi Legislative Session

- ▶ Quiet year for solid waste
 - ▶ Proposed bills
 - ▶ Raise illegal dumping fines
 - ▶ PFAS testing and restrictions on land application of biosolids
 - ▶ Died in committee



Revisions to the Mississippi Nonhazardous Solid Waste Management Regulations

- Adopted in 1993, content last updated in 2005 and incorporated into the State Administrative Procedures Act Rules in 2013.
- Appears in the State Code as:
Title 11, Part 4, Chapter 1
- Earlier this year entered into a contract for technical assistance with [LaBella Associates](#)



Revisions to the Mississippi Nonhazardous Solid Waste Management Regulations

- Primary changes:
 - Rubbish (C&D) Sites
 - Categories
 - Financial assurance
 - Surveys
 - Closure/post-closure updates
 - Designs, Deed notations
 - Coal Combustion Residuals Rule

Revisions to the Mississippi Nonhazardous Solid Waste Management Regulations

- Other Changes:
 - Exemption Clarifications (Wastewater, Ag wastes, slag)
 - Siting Criteria (surface water, drinking water sources, property line, residences, floodplains and geologic buffers)
 - Permit procedures (emergency authorizations, short term project permits, R, D & D Permits).



Revisions to the Mississippi Nonhazardous Solid Waste Management Regulations

- Other Changes:
 - Storage/Transfer (closure, leachate mgt, recycling facilities, reporting)
 - Processing/Composting (New Categories and modified permit reqts)
 - Land Application (short term projects, 503 parameters)



A large graphic on the left side of the slide features a white recycling symbol (three chasing arrows forming a triangle) on a dark blue background. The background of the entire slide is composed of various shades of blue and white geometric shapes, creating a modern, abstract design.

Recycling Update

- ▶ The Federal Government through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provided \$275 million for Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grants.
 - ▶ Largest investment in recycling in 30 years.
 - ▶ Mississippi was awarded over \$592,000
 - ▶ 3 phase project
 - ▶ Recycling study - status and economic impacts
 - ▶ Evaluation and stakeholder engagement
 - ▶ Implementation of strategies to increase programs and access, develop markets, improve education, etc.
 - ▶ Results will also help guide state resources

A large graphic on the left side of the slide features a white recycling symbol (three chasing arrows forming a triangle) on a dark blue background. The background of the entire slide is composed of various shades of blue geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, creating a modern, abstract design.

Recycling Update

- ▶ Where we are:
 - ▶ Hired contract assistance to develop and conduct the study - Burns, McDonnell
 - ▶ EPA R4 recently approved project QAPP
 - ▶ Goal to complete study by early 2026
- ▶ EPA has announced additional funding
 - ▶ City and County eligibility

RCRA

- ▶ Recently received final approval from EPA on our 2022 rules adoptions
 - ▶ Due to adopt some more recent changes
 - ▶ E-manifest, etc.
- ▶ Monitoring Federal funding uncertainties





Grants Programs

- ▶ Assistance programs
 - ▶ Solid Waste - \$1 per ton fee on solid waste disposal
 - ▶ Waste Tires - \$1 per new tire at wholesale
 - ▶ In **Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025**, MDEQ awarded over **\$7.5 million** to local governments for approximately **250 projects** related to solid waste management, planning, and waste tire programs.
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Project Type	# of Grants	Amount Awarded
Bulky Waste Collection Programs	24	\$720,000
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Programs	44	\$1.9 million
Prevention and Education Programs	7	\$16,500
Electronic Waste Collection Program	2	\$10,000
Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Programs	54	\$920,000
Recycling Programs	6	\$256,000
Solid Waste Enforcement Officer Programs	55	\$1 million
Waste Tire Cleanup and Collection Programs	57	\$2.7 million
Solid Waste Management Plan Updates	2	\$51,500



Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)

- ▶ MDEQ is planning to adopt the CCR rule by reference
- ▶ MDEQ will seek EPA approval to implement a CCR permitting program
- ▶ MDEQ was awarded EPA STAG funding (**\$205,882**) to offset costs associated with the rule adoption process
- ▶ In process of applying for additional funding (**\$498,083**)
 - ▶ Work plan under review



On the Horizon

- ▶ PFAS/PFOA
 - ▶ EPA Strategic Roadmap
 - ▶ EPA updated the Interim Guidance on the Destruction and Disposal of PFAS and Materials Containing PFAS in 2024
 - ▶ Included disposal/management hierarchy based on relative potential to release PFAS to the environment
- ▶ Biosolids (PFAS/PFOA)
 - ▶ Draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for PFOA and PFOS comment period ended on August 14, 2025.
- ▶ Lithium Ion Batteries
- ▶ Solar Panels
 - ▶ End of life management and disposal

For more information:

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