



# Alabama Chapter Newsletter

## SURVEY RESPONSES AND EVENTS IN 2021

*Adam George, Alabama Chapter Chair*

It's never an easy decision to postpone events or activities that so many of our members want to take place. We, your Alabama Chapter Board, want them to take place. But, in the end, it just isn't going to happen in 2021. As you might have guessed, I'm referring to the 2021 ADEM/AWMA Regulatory Update.

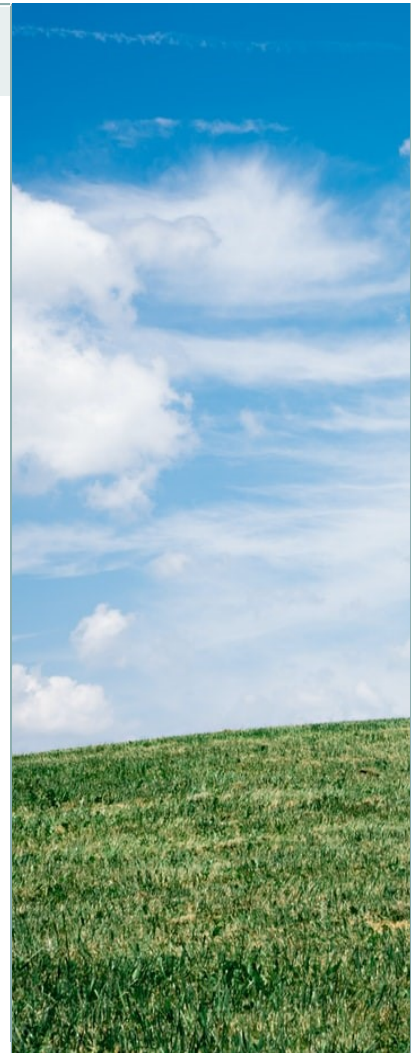
We've sent out two separate surveys this year to try to make the best decisions and plan for what our members want. In the first survey, almost an equal amount of people indicated that they joined AWMA for networking (79% indicated this was a reason) and learning (74% indicated this was a reason). One person even indicated that they joined for the beer...who knew?! As to how you want to do this, you were in almost unanimous agreement: 95% prefer conferences.

With those results, the natural response is to stick to our bi-annual schedule and move forward with the 2021 ADEM/AWMA Regulatory Update. We originally planned for this to happen in October. However, with Covid back on the rise, and with input from ADEM, as well as several industry personnel who indicated that non-work-related travel has been restricted, we decided, again, to ask our chapter members, via survey, what their preference is.

Based on the survey results, an equal number of you voted for an in-person meeting vs. a virtual meeting (42% for each). The final 16% of respondents preferred to postpone the update to next year in favor of an in-person meeting if virtual was the only option this year. Our decision to postpone is because the majority of presentations would be virtual, and the majority of respondents to the second survey either wanted an in-person update or to postpone until we could have an in-person update. But, we are keeping an eye on any potential changes in regulations that will be of interest to our members, and if need be, will hold a virtual webinar to discuss these topics. Thank you for understanding and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2022!

## BISCUITS BASEBALL NETWORKING EVENT

We appreciate everyone attended the Biscuits versus the Mississippi Braves game at the Riverwalk Stadium in Montgomery. It was a great night of friends, food, and baseball that thankfully did not involve zoom. Thanks to Sanders Engineering & Analytical Services, Inc. for sponsoring this event.



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### HOW CAN WE HELP?

IF THERE IS SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN AN UPCOMING NEWSLETTER OR AN EVENT YOU WOULD LOVE TO ATTEND, PLEASE LET US KNOW!



### 2021 CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP

The Alabama Chapter is happy to announce that it will be awarding up to two \$1,000 Environmental Scholarships to students attending an Alabama college or university. Eligible candidates should be undergraduate students or graduating seniors pursuing a scientific degree in an environmentally-related field. Environmental degree programs qualify, as well as any science-based degree program with additional environmental exposure, such as an environmental co-op. The deadline for scholarship submission is October 1, 2021.

The application as well as more information regarding this scholarship will be posted to the website and provided to state colleges and universities. If you know of any eligible candidates, please encourage them to apply.

[SS-AWMA.ORG/  
ALSCHOLARSHIP.HTML](http://SS-AWMA.ORG/ALSCHOLARSHIP.HTML)

## CHANGES COMING TO THE ADEM SOLID WASTE REGULATIONS

The Solid Waste Branch of the ADEM Land Division is currently in the process of updating their regulations in the ADEM Administrative Code. Changes will be included to improve the organization and clarity of existing rules by better grouping and consolidation of various regulatory components, enhance opportunities for public participation in the permitting process, clarify regulatory requirements in certain areas and continue to ensure alignment between State and federal CCR requirements. Specifically, these changes include updated language to incorporate recent statutory revisions related to alternate cover material, changes to the permit modification process to provide greater public participation for certain types of minor modifications and technical revisions to provide clarity on certain regulatory requirements. Additionally, the provisions for obtaining a permit for landfill units, composting facilities, and coal combustion residual (CCR) facilities were relocated to Chapter 5 to provide a single location for all permitting requirements.

A list of the individual changes is available at [ADEM.ALABAMA.GOV/NEWSEVENTS/PUBHEARINGS.CNT](http://ADEM.ALABAMA.GOV/NEWSEVENTS/PUBHEARINGS.CNT). A Land Division Rulemaking Public Hearing on these regulations will be held September 7, 2021 at 10:00 AM in the Main Hearing Room at ADEM.

## ALABAMA’S NATIONAL CARBON CAPTURE CENTER SUCCESSFULLY TESTS CARBON-REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY FOR CONCRETE PRODUCTION

*This article first appeared at [alabamanewscenter.com](http://alabamanewscenter.com)*

A pioneering technology that can permanently store carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in concrete blocks has gone through successful testing at the Alabama-based National Carbon Capture Center (NCCC).

CarbonBuilt and the NCCC, located next to Alabama Power’s Plant Gaston in Wilsonville, announced the completion of the multiweek test of carbon utilization and concrete production technology. The test successfully injected CO<sub>2</sub> from the flue gas streams of the NCCC’s natural gas testing system and Plant Gaston’s coal-fired generating unit into more than 5,000 concrete blocks, where the carbon is now “stored for good,” according to a news release.

Alabama Power’s parent company, Southern Company, manages and operates the NCCC for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Officials with California-based CarbonBuilt said the company’s Reversa process includes innovations to the concrete mix design and the curing process. It is based on technology developed at the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering that received the prestigious 2021 NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE.

“The Reversa formulation significantly reduces consumption of cement while enabling the increased and more flexible use of waste materials like fly ash or slag,” the news release said. “During the curing process, dilute CO<sub>2</sub> from flue gas streams is directly injected into and permanently sequestered within the concrete, with no requirement for carbon capture or purification.”

Teams from CarbonBuilt, the NCCC, UCLA and Childersburg-based Blair Block worked to test the Reversa technology under a range of conditions. The testing was successful across all metrics.

“Our approach offers utilities and other industrial plants a pathway for beneficial reuse of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions,” said Rahul Shendure, CarbonBuilt CEO. “At the same time, we offer concrete producers a way to increase operating margins significantly while reducing overall carbon emissions from production by more than 50%. This winning combination could unlock gigaton-level emissions reductions in the coming years.”

“Helping advance technologies toward commercialization is the core of our mission,” said John Northington, NCCC director and director of net-zero technologies for Southern Company. “It is exciting to work with CarbonBuilt and UCLA to test and evaluate their concrete production technology. Utilizing carbon dioxide to produce essential products like concrete will be an important solution as the world moves to reduce overall carbon emissions.”

*Continued...*

*Continued...* The NCCC is the nation's primary carbon capture research center and operates under the auspices of the DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL). The NCCC is a neutral research facility working to accelerate the commercialization of technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil-based power plants and to promote carbon utilization and direct-air capture innovations.

"DOE's Carbon Utilization Program, which is implemented by NETL, supported development of the X-Prize winning technology through cooperative agreements," said Joe Stoffa, NETL Carbon Utilization Technology manager. "More broadly, DOE's Carbon Utilization Program supports the development of technologies to transform CO<sub>2</sub> into valuable products in an efficient, economical and environmentally friendly manner."

## ADEM HAS RETURNED TO THE OFFICE

*Chris Ailor, Chief of Agriculture/Gas Unit, ADEM Air Division*

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) resumed normal telework schedules on June 1, 2021. Eligible employees can work remotely up to two selected days a week observing standard work hours. In-person meetings are an option, but electronic meetings are still encouraged. If an in-person meeting is deemed necessary, the number of attendees should be limited to no more than three visitors and coordinated with the facility regulator to determine availability. The Department continues to follow the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) guidelines for workplace safety. Additionally, ADEM personnel have resumed conducting onsite facility inspections.



FOR MORE INFORMATION [HTTPS://WWW.SS-AWMA.ORG/2021-ANNUAL-MEETING.HTML](https://www.ss-awma.org/2021-annual-meeting.html)

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would love to pass along job announcements for our membership! Job announcements sent to [alawma@gmail.com](mailto:alawma@gmail.com) will be forwarded to all active members within the week and included in our next newsletter that goes out to active and past members.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES OR JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS IN UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS, PLEASE LET US KNOW AT [ALAWMA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ALAWMA@GMAIL.COM)

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Information on the following events is available on the Event Calendar at [AWMA.org](http://AWMA.org)

September 23-24, 2021	Advancements in Vapor Intrusion and Emerging Contaminant Air Quality Issues (virtual training through AW-
October 4-8, 2021	Atmospheric Optics: Aerosols, Visibility, and the Radiative Balance, Bryce Canyon, Utah
October 19-20, 2021	Electric Power Transformation: 2021 MEGA Symposium on Policies and Technologies for Clean, Reliable, and Cost-effective Energy, Indianapolis, Indiana
December 1-2, 2021	Climate Change 2021 Virtual Conference: The Push to Carbon Neutrality, Adaptation, and Resiliency
December 8-9, 2021	46th Annual Information Exchange, location TBD
April 8-10, 2022	Leadership Training Academy, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania