

E&E at work

.....
Arkansas's Approach to Energy & Environment



2023

E&E at work

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Arkansas's Approach to Energy & Environment

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I. Message from Secretary Shane E. Khoury



"As E&E secretary, I will work to promote and encourage the environmentally sound development of our energy and mineral resources while protecting our Natural State's clean air, water, and land. I will also ensure that E&E consistently operates with integrity, transparency, and efficiency. When we work together, we diversify our strengths to protect, promote, and enhance some of Arkansas's most valuable resources so that we continue to build a prosperous future."

I am honored to serve as secretary of the Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment (E&E), and I am thankful to Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders for this exciting opportunity. From my years as chief counsel for E&E, my time at the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission, and my prior experience as a policy advisor for regulatory affairs for Governor Mike Huckabee, I understand the critical role and importance of sound energy and environmental policy within Arkansas.

As secretary, I have the responsibility and privilege to oversee and direct E&E and the entities that constitute both the environmental side (Pollution Control and Ecology Commission and the Division of Environmental Quality's Office of Air Quality, Office of Water Quality, and Office of Land Resources), as well as the energy side (Oil & Gas Commission, Geological Survey, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board, and Arkansas Energy Office). At E&E, our many duties include preserving the Natural State's outdoor beauty by protecting our air, water, and land; ensuring public health and safety while fostering and enhancing resource management and development; supporting economic development and energy security; predicting and preventing natural and manmade emergencies; and providing funding for several different programs such as home weatherization and cleaner school buses.

Because E&E serves a diverse group of stakeholders, it is important that we are transparent in our processes; render timely, well-reasoned decisions; engage with straightforward communications; provide consistency in our application of rules and regulatory requirements to ensure no surprises; and foster collaboration within E&E and with other government entities. In short, E&E will operate with integrity, transparency, and efficiency.

When I think about what Arkansas needs to be for my children, and for all future generations, the answer is simple. Arkansas needs to be a place where we all can continue to be blessed, safe, healthy, loved, successful, and secure. Our children need to have the opportunities we all have—the opportunity to hunt, fish, and enjoy the outdoors; the opportunity to choose their own path; the freedom and security

to live their values; and the opportunity to stay right here in Arkansas and accomplish their dreams and goals. The more challenging question is how we provide that future. At E&E, we will do our best to maintain balance and navigate toward a well-rounded future. Like us, our children will continue to need clean air, land, and water. They also need a strong economy and affordable and reliable energy sources to ensure economic opportunities for years to come.

Energy policy and environmental policy can, and should be, aligned. From an energy standpoint, we should continue to advance renewable and alternative energy sources while utilizing and growing our conventional energy resources. We can be more efficient, effective and better in our use of conventional energy sources, but we cannot eliminate them without jeopardizing the reliability and affordability of our growing energy needs. From an environmental standpoint, it is imperative that we consider the associated environmental impacts when utilizing or expanding our energy and natural resources and ensure that our environmental policies are sensible and practical for our modern society.

A reliable, enhancing energy sector will help expand our economy and create opportunities for all Arkansans. As our state builds new infrastructure—such as electric vehicle charging stations—and develops new technologies and job sectors, E&E will secure the well-being of current and future generations by supporting economic and energy security, safeguarding public health, promoting the sustainable development of diverse energy and natural resources, and protecting the environment. In other words, E&E will integrate lasting protection of our environment with the responsible development of resources through coherent and consistent oversight. Together we will protect, promote, and enhance our resources, diversify our strengths, and build a prosperous future.

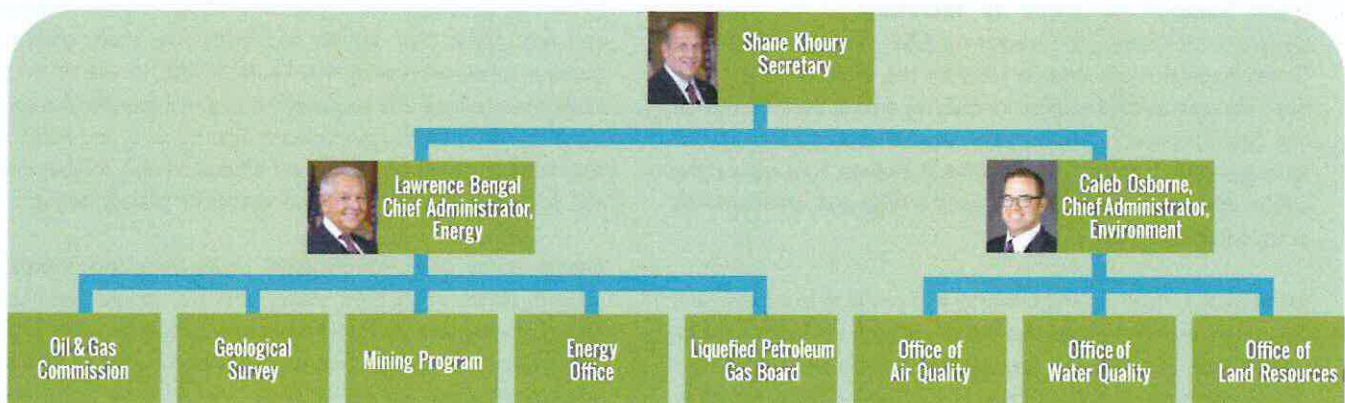
Sincerely,

Shane E. Khoury
Secretary

II. Department Overview

“The mission of the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment is to provide effective and efficient energy and environmental solutions informed by science. The Department promotes responsible management of resources and protects the environment for the benefit of all Arkansans.”

The Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment (E&E) was established in 2019, following the passage of Act 910, for the purpose of providing effective and efficient energy and environmental solutions that are informed by science. E&E promotes and supports the quality of our environment and of our economy through the efficient use of energy and the responsible management of air, land, and water resources.



E&E is comprised of the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Chief Administrator of the Environment, the Office of the Chief Administrator of Energy, the Office of Chief Counsel (OCC), and the Office of Operations (OOO). Additionally, E&E includes the following statutorily created entities: the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (PC&EC), the Arkansas Oil & Gas Commission (OGC), the Arkansas Geological Survey (GS), and the Arkansas Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board (LPGB).

E&E hosts nine (9) Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Panels. In accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 25-43-603, the E&E Secretary is appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Arkansas Senate.

E&E Administrative & Advisory Groups

9

BOARDS COMMISSIONS COMMITTEES & PANELS

- Created by law or have reporting requirements to the legislature or to the Governor
- Controlled or maintained by an E&E entity
- Authorized to make a binding decision on behalf of the state

4

ADMINISTRATIVE Powers to administer regulatory programs

- Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board
- Oil and Gas Commission
- Pollution Control & Ecology Commission
- Geological Survey (Commission)

5

ADVISORY Powers to advise and make recommendations

- Advisory Committee on Petroleum Storage Tanks
- Marketing Board for Recyclables & Compliance Advisory Panel
- Nutrient Water Quality Advisory Board
- Solid Waste Licensing Committee
- Wastewater Licensing Committee

III. Shared Services

As a result of transformation, four (4) separate entities now share valuable services, eliminating duplicative processes.

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS (OOO)

OOO, headed by E&E's Chief of Staff, is comprised of Administrative Services (including fiscal, fleet, and facilities), Communications, Human Resources, and Information Technology.

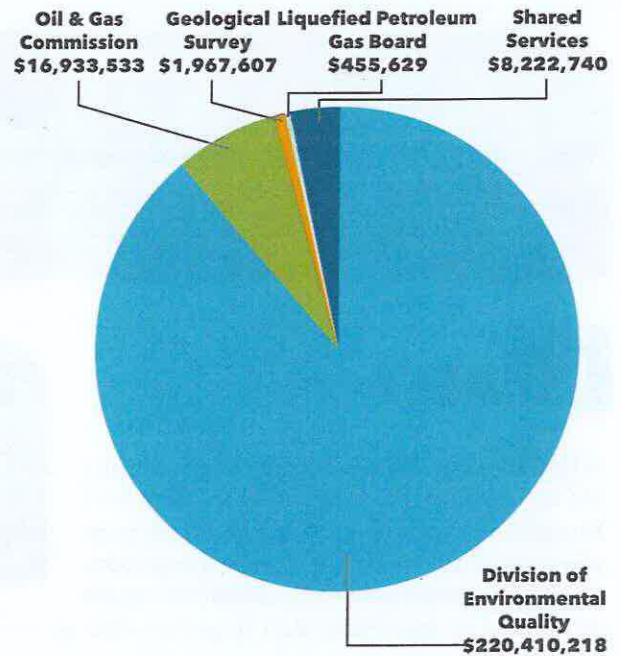
E&E receives minimal funding through Arkansas general revenue (state tax money). As indicated by the illustrated chart, much of E&E's operating revenue is based on funding through federal grant programs and fees and costs related to regulatory work. E&E's foremost goal is to use resources wisely and ensure that it operates in a cost-effective manner.

The 122,000-square-foot E&E headquarters building located in North Little Rock maintains a gold-level certification from Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), helping to reduce operational and energy costs and increase productivity.

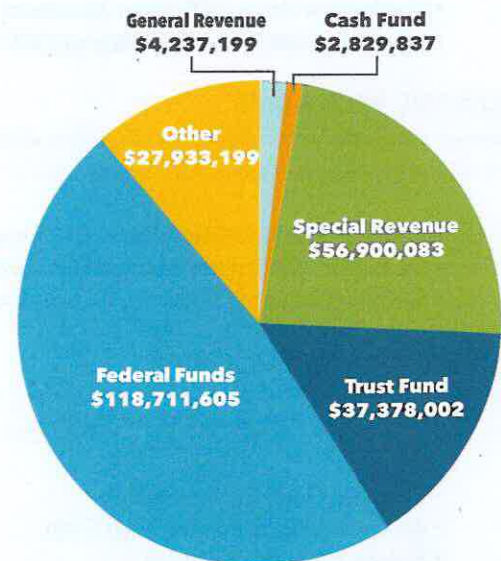
OFFICE OF CHIEF COUNSEL (OCC)

OCC, headed by E&E's Chief Counsel, oversees legal and policy matters for E&E; supervises all attorneys, administrative law judges, and support staff within the OCC; manages legislative affairs for E&E; and serves as a liaison to the Office of the Governor for E&E.

E&E FY23 Budget by Division



E&E FY23 Budget by Fund Source (TOTAL)



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IV. Division of Energy & Mineral Resources

DEMR includes AEO, OGC, LPGB, GS, the Mining Program, and Emergency Management. The Chief Administrator of Energy reports to the E&E Secretary.



i. AEO

Arkansas Energy Office provides technical assistance and information on energy resources and disruptions through the Energy Resources Council, information on alternative fuels for transportation; state energy codes; energy efficiency outreach and education; training and certifications for energy specialists. In addition, AEO administers energy-related grants and other financial assistance programs to help Arkansas businesses, communities, and residents understand energy issues.



ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Federal assistance programs administered by AEO aids thousands of Arkansas low-income families by assisting with energy efficiency upgrades as well as with heating, cooling, water and wastewater costs through:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Incentive programs administered by AEO allow eligible applicants to make energy efficiency improvements in lighting, HVAC, water systems, and provide grant assistance for renewable energy generation and alternative transportation systems through:

- Arkansas Energy Performance Contracting (AEPC)
- Level 2 Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Rebate Program
- Sustainable Energy Efficiency Buildings Act (SEEBA) Program

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

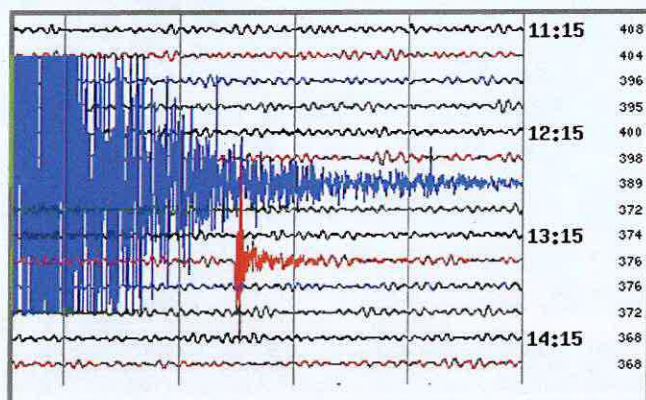
AEO works to increase Arkansas energy consumers' awareness of energy saving opportunities, motivate individuals to reduce energy consumption, and offer training opportunities through partnerships with stakeholders such as utility companies and industry leaders, through:

- Arkansas Clean Cities Coalition
- Arkansas Energy Conservation Code
- Energy Efficiency Arkansas

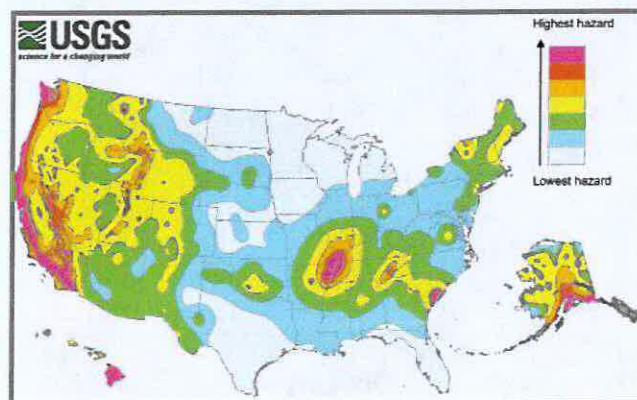


The mission of the **Geological Survey** is to serve the people of Arkansas by providing geological information, studies, and mapping necessary to develop environmentally sound and orderly development of the state's mineral, fossil fuel, water resources, planning information, and awareness of geologic hazards affecting public safety and the environment.

The **GS** staff conducts studies, provides staff expertise, prepares publications, and conducts education/outreach presentations on karst topography (sinkholes), landslides, and other geohazards affecting diverse areas of Arkansas. In addition, portions of Arkansas are located within the New Madrid Fault Zone, which is seismically active. The GS operates a statewide permanent and temporary broadband seismic network to detect and monitor earthquakes and works with Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) as a subject matter expert on earthquake disaster preparedness.



Seismograph of an Arkansas Earthquake



Arkansas is part of the New Madrid Earthquake Zone



GS Arkansas seismometer installation

Geologic Studies and Mapping

GS collects geologic data, maintains geologic map coverage of the state, and conducts geologic studies, as necessary, to assist state and local government agencies, the general public, and industry. The geologic information, collected and maintained in the GS geological library, is used for exploration and development of the State's mineral resources and as a framework for numerous environmental studies. The geological library is the repository of Arkansas's geologic and mineral information collected for more than 150 years and is available in a digital data system that provides for the storage, preservation, and archiving of data, samples, and publications to ensure that this data is preserved for the future use.

The GS publishes guides pertaining to minerals, rocks, and fossils. The State Park Series and the Roadside Geology Guide Series are especially popular with the public.



Inside View of a Well Completion Control Trailer



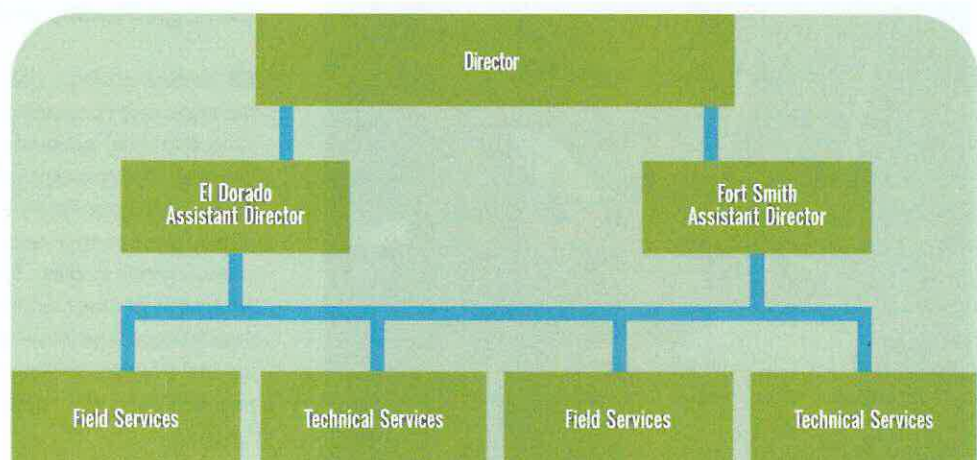
Natural gas pipeline transporting produced natural gas to consumers



Drilling rig developing the state's crude oil, natural gas, and brine resources



The mission of the **Oil and Gas Commission** is to prevent waste and encourage conservation of the Arkansas oil, natural gas, and brine resources, to protect the correlative rights associated with those resources, and to respect the environment during the production, extraction, and transportation of those resources.



OGC serves the citizens of Arkansas and the regulated community with an efficient, effective, scientific, and technical based regulatory framework to support economic development for Arkansas.

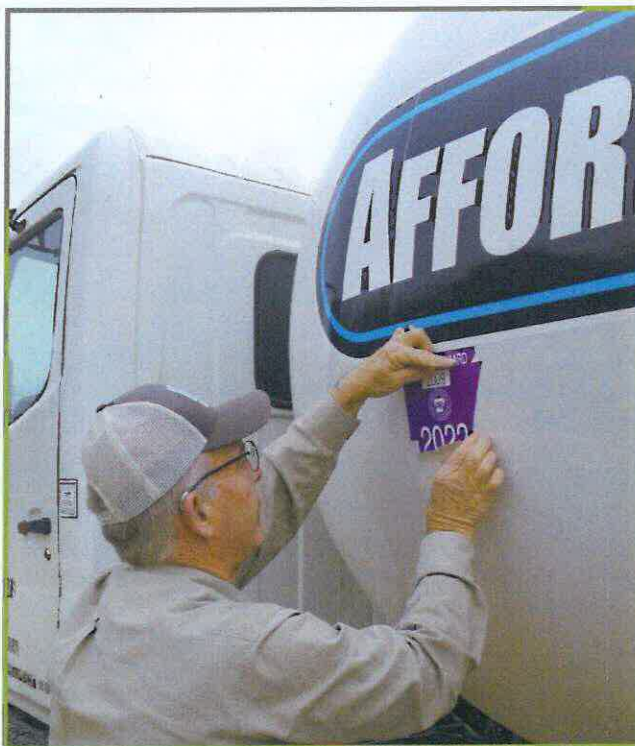
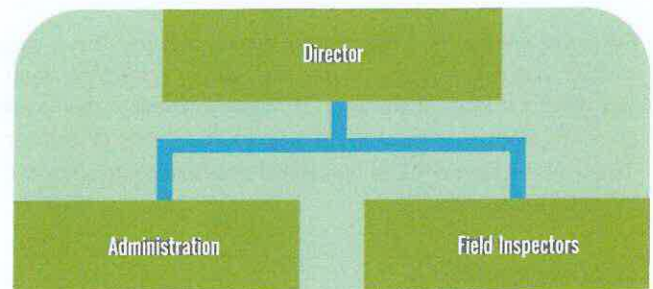
OGC administers a regulatory program encompassing the drilling, production, underground storage of natural gas, and transportation of crude oil, natural gas, and brine resources throughout the state. The OGC regulatory program also includes administration of the EPA Underground Injection Control Program for operation of Class II and Class V (Bromine related) injection wells utilized for enhanced oil recovery, brine field re-pressurization, and disposal of drilling and production wastes. In addition, OGC administers the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) for certain natural gas lines and the Arkansas Abandoned and Orphaned Well Plugging Program used to plug old abandoned oil and gas wells when operators no longer exist (insolvent/bankrupt).

The state has approximately 17,000 crude oil, natural gas, and brine production wells and annually produces 5 million barrels of crude oil, and 500 billion cubic feet of natural gas. The brine development industry is producing bromine and potentially lithium from the state's brine resource.

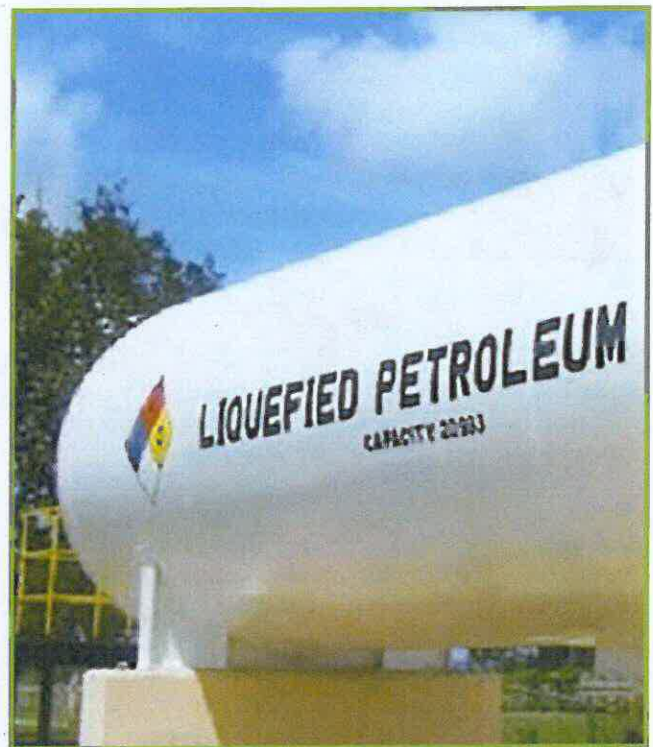
iv.LPGB

The state **Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board** administers a licensing and regulatory program that protects the general public, other users and providers of liquefied petroleum gases through enforcement of operational safety rules dealing with the manufacture, sale, installation, and use of containers and equipment in the storage, transportation, dispensing, and utilization of liquefied petroleum gases.

The board conducts inspections of containers, systems, appliances, and equipment utilized in the storage, transportation, delivery, and usage of liquefied petroleum gas in this state. The Board staff also conducts safety and educational programs for providers and dispensers of liquefied petroleum gases.



A LPGB inspector affixes a state decal to a propane delivery truck to confirm that trucks are inspected and safe to transport propane.



Propane is used for residential, commercial heating, agricultural and commercial vehicle fuel, electric power generation and recreational applications in RVs.

The Mining Program administers a state and federal regulatory program for the extraction of coal and other mineral and aggregate resources in the state. The regulatory program provides protection of the environment and waters of the state during the mining process and ensures that mined properties are reclaimed and returned to beneficial use at the completion of the mining process.

The Mining Program, headquartered in the E&E Fort Smith Regional Office, issues permits, authorizations, and inspects mineral and aggregate quarries and sand and gravel operations in the state. The Mining Program also administers the Federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Program and Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program under the U.S. Department of the Interior which issues permits, authorizations, and inspects coal mining and reclamation activity in the state.

Mineral and Aggregate Mining Program

Arkansas mineral and aggregate mining includes the mining of soils, clay, chalk, gypsum, bauxite, barite, novaculite, sand, and gravel. In 2022, there were 370 permitted mine sites made up of 251 open-cut sites and 119 quarries. Program staff conduct routine inspections of these operations to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.



COAL PROGRAM

The Coal Program conducts inspections of active and inactive surface coal mine sites and abandoned surface coal mine sites. The last active coal mine in Arkansas ceased operations in 2018, and there are currently no active producing coal mines in the state. However, additional coal resources still remain unmined in the state.



Sand and gravel operation



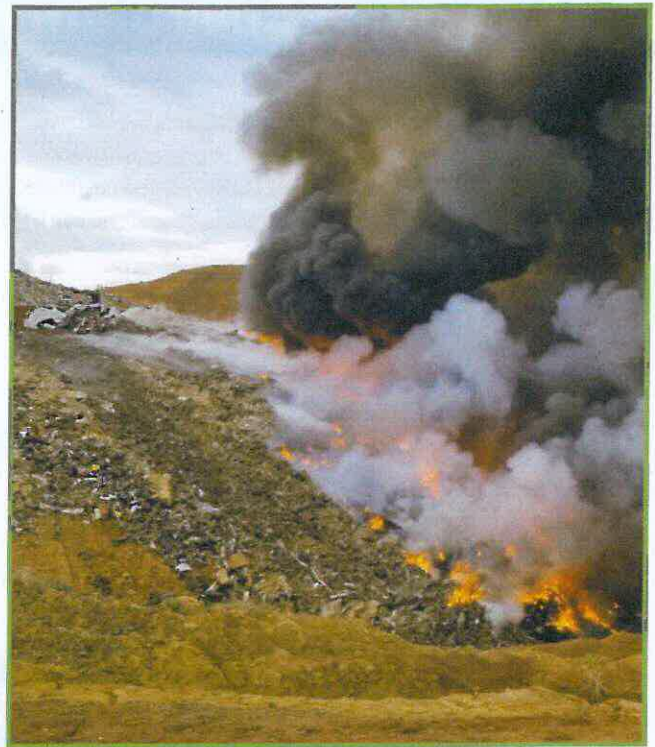
Abandoned coal surface mine causing environmental damage

The U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement provides grants to the states for the reclamation of abandoned coal mine sites that were abandoned before 1977 and were not reclaimed due to less strict mining laws. The inventory for un-reclaimed abandoned coal mine sites in Arkansas is extensive with reclamation cost estimates exceeding \$20 million. The Program expends approximately \$2-3 million per year reclaiming abandoned sites.



Emergency Management and Preparedness coordinates, facilitates, and provides support for a variety of activities related to preparedness and response to both internal and external disruptive events. EMP coordinates the Department's response to environmental releases of hazardous and other deleterious substances by providing local, state, and federally coordinated support in response to transportation incidents, fixed facility incidents, natural disasters, or intentional/terrorist acts that pose a threat to human health, property, or the environment.

Emergency Management develops preparedness and/or facilitates on-going training for E&E inspection and other technical and scientific staff to stay safe while performing daily tasks, including during an incident response. These include National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses, Hazardous Waste Operations, Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) trainings, First Aid/CPR/AED, and other safety/preparedness classes as requested or required by E&E divisions.



E&E Emergency Management personnel staff the Arkansas Emergency Operations Center during an ESF #10 event.



Arkansas Energy & Environment's Emergency Management Mobile Command Center arrives on site during an emergency response. Emergency Management and Preparedness coordinates, facilitates, and provides support for a variety of activities related to preparedness and response.

V. Division of Environmental Quality

The **Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** is the primary environmental regulatory agency for the State of Arkansas. The Division is responsible for implementing the state's environmental laws and rules as established by the Arkansas legislature and the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has delegated authority to DEQ, through memorandums of agreement and state implementation plans, to administer certain federal statutes and programs within Arkansas. These include:

- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Asbestos Management
- Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)
- Comprehensive Environmental Response
- Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as the "Superfund" law

The Chief Administrator of the Environment oversees three different offices, modeled after EPA's structure, which are: the Office of Air Quality (OAQ), the Office of Water Quality (OWQ), and the Office of Land Resources (OLR). The Associate Directors of each office report to the Chief Administrator of the Environment and have delegated authority to issue permits and manage their respective programs.



Each office implements permitting, compliance, and enforcement programs. Permit engineers draft sound, protective, and defensible permits for the regulated community. These permits establish working parameters and reporting requirements to ensure compliance with state and federal rules and statutes as well as protection of the environment. Compliance staff provide assistance and regulatory oversight by investigating and assessing environmental issues across the state. Inspectors regularly inspect permitted facilities and respond to environmental complaints to review adherence to applicable requirements. Enforcement staff review compliance status and work with out-of-compliance facilities to mitigate their environmental impact in accordance with EPA delegation. Further, enforcement staff work with legal counsel to prepare formal orders that guide facilities as they work to return to compliance.



The **Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (PC&EC)** is the environmental policymaking body for Arkansas. The PC&EC sets environmental policy—drawing on guidance from the Governor, the Arkansas General Assembly, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—that is then implemented and enforced by the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The Commission has 15 members—seven representing specific state agencies and eight who represent Arkansas's four congressional districts and are appointed by the Governor.

The **Office of Air Quality (OAQ)** is responsible for enhancing and protecting human health and the environment by protecting the air we breathe. Through managing pollutants emitted into the air, OAQ's four branches work together to meet Arkansas's federal obligations under the Clean Air Act and to protect the state's air quality while fostering responsible economic expansion opportunities.



Operations

OAQ staff engages in the On-Track Assistance Program to assist permitted facilities with compliance and foster a mutually-beneficial working relationship between regulated entities and OAQ staff. The program allows facilities to request a meeting with an inspector and a permit engineer to ensure a common understanding of permit requirements, DEQ policy, and inspector expectations.

OAQ implements several funding programs to assist with community air quality issues such as asbestos disposal and reducing diesel engine emissions through bus replacement programs



OAQ processes and tracks the progress of permitting requests online, through ePortal: <http://bit.ly/3GzJnp5>

OAQ inspectors and engineers work with facilities to ensure compliance with permit conditions and Air Quality chemist calibrating/checking air monitoring equipment.



Asbestos Section

The **Asbestos Section** administers the certification and licensing of asbestos contractors and reviews submitted Notice of Intent (NOI) forms for demolition. In addition, this section conducts inspections of asbestos removal and demolition projects to determine compliance with state and federal regulations.

Policy and Planning Branch

Emissions Inventory Section collects and verifies emissions from large, permitted sources of air pollutants for planning and air quality modeling.

Air Quality Forecasting Section forecasts air quality conditions for northwest and central Arkansas using meteorological and pollutant concentration data collected by the Air Lab to estimate ozone and fine particulate matter. These estimates are then translated into an **Air Quality Index (AQI)** available on DEQ's website and social media pages.

Modeling and Meteorology Section gathers and evaluates information on air quality conditions, weather patterns, and emissions of air pollutants in the state and the region. The section's technical expertise on the transportation of air pollutants by weather conditions and modeling bolster state air plans and assist the Permitting Branch with prevention of significant deterioration reviews of major source permitting actions.

State Implementation Plan/Planning Section makes policy recommendations and develops formal state plans to implement DEQ's air program in accordance with Arkansas law and the Clean Air Act. Staff assists with researching and evaluating information on air quality conditions and emissions of air pollutants in the state. Staff in the section drafts regulatory language, comments on EPA rules, and works closely with neighboring states' environmental agencies and EPA Region 6 staff to meet regional air quality goals.

Air Regulatory Efficiency and Streamlining Effort (EASE) Collaborative

EASE explores options to further clarify and otherwise streamline existing air quality rules. The collaborative focused on two workgroups: Permitting and Regulatory. These groups developed a Permitting FAQ and Permitting Quick-Start Guide and identified and discussed Rule 18, Rule 19, and Rule 26 inconsistencies, updates needed, and clarifications.

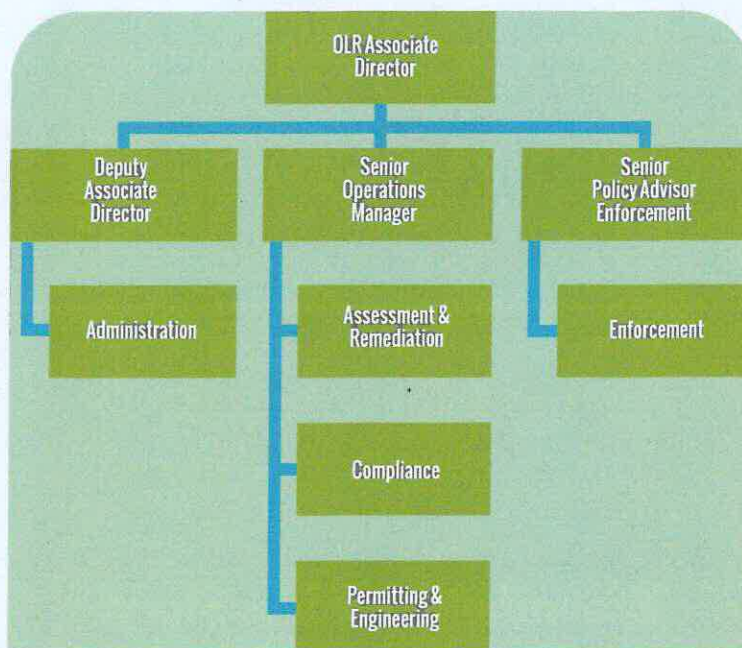
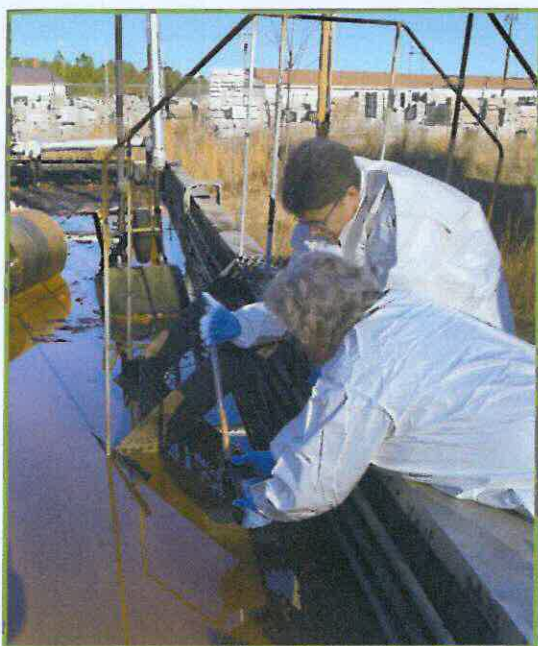


The **Office of Land Resources (OLR)** houses various land-based programs, which collectively are responsible for protecting, enhancing, and restoring the land for the well-being of all Arkansans. The three branches of OLR: operations and policy & administration, oversee and manage:

- the disposal and treatment of solid waste through the permitting of municipal and industrial solid waste landfills;
- the proper management, disposal, and treatment of hazardous waste by generators and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities;
- the licensing, regulation, and registration of underground storage tanks; and
- remediation activities within the state.

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OLR Operations Branch

Operations is composed of engineers, inspectors, risk assessors, site assessors, and geologists. This branch is further divided into three sections: Assessment & Remediation Operations, Compliance Operations, and Engineering Operations. Working closely with members of the regulated community, OLR's Operations Branch helps to ensure that hazardous waste, solid waste, and underground storage tanks are managed properly and in accordance with state and federal rules through permitting, frequent inspections, and assessments.

Since the program's inception in 1995, the program has certified over 50 sites, returning more than 1,000 acres of property to beneficial use.



Assessment & Remediation Operations manages Hazardous Waste; Regulated Storage Tanks (RST), including Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST); and Brownfield site assessment and remediation projects. This section is involved in providing corrective action at active facilities and remedial action at closed or abandoned facilities, as well as risk assessment and management.

Through the Site Assessment Program, DEQ accurately identifies, assesses, and ranks hazardous waste sites for potential inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). State Priority List (SPL) sites are also often identified through this process and can be viewed here:

Scan the QR code for more information

Similarly, the Arkansas Brownfield Program encourages the redevelopment, reuse, or expansion of potentially contaminated property; defines financial liabilities associated with cleanup early on; and ensures environmentally sound redevelopment. The Brownfield Certificate of Completion, given to participants after they complete voluntary cleanup requirements, provides state liability relief to the participant and all following property owners. The Arkansas Brownfield Program can provide funding for environmental site assessments and cleanups to municipalities, community planning organizations, and non-profits.

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Brownfield Success Story: Conway Scrap Metal

The Conway Scrap Metal site operated as a salvage yard and scrap-metal facility from 1917 until its closure in 2014 and was accepted into the Arkansas Brownfield Program in 2013. The Arkansas Brownfield Program provided the City of Conway Targeted Brownfield Assessments identified metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), semi-volatile organic chemicals (SVOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and total petroleum hydrocarbon-diesel range organics (TPH-DRO) in the soil. The City of Conway was awarded an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant in 2015 for remedial actions including installation of stormwater control facilities, installation of security fencing, removal of concrete slabs, excavation of impacted soils, backfill, and seeding and mulching of the site. The Arkansas Brownfield Program provided cleanup planning and oversight and approved the Remedial Action Report on April 6, 2018. The Brownfield Certificate of Completion was awarded in June 2021 at the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of Markham Square-a local park and water quality demonstration.



Compliance is responsible for overseeing and monitoring compliance for three media—Hazardous Waste, Solid Waste, and Regulated Storage Tanks (RST)—through inspections. Overall, Compliance is OLR's largest section and represents the "boots on the ground." **Each year OLR is responsible for conducting approximately 2,500 inspections and responding to an average of 300 complaints.**

The engineering section drafts solid waste and hazardous waste permits and reviews corrective action projects. The corrective action work group works with Post-Closure solid waste disposal sites as well as ongoing cleanup efforts at sites impacted by hazardous waste contamination. OLR's contracted services are managed by our corrective action engineering team.

OLR Administration

The Administration staff conduct a myriad of functions related to professional certification programs, data management, program planning, and general administrative support for OLR. In addition, this branch oversees the stewardship of several grants and the Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund.

The Recycling Distribution Program provides financial assistance to regional solid waste management districts and local governments to develop and improve recycling opportunities for wastes such as unwanted computers and electronic devices. Funding is provided by a fee on each ton of solid waste landfilled in the state.

DEQ has disbursed over \$66 million to more than 2,300 recycling projects since 1991.

OLR Policy

The Policy staff oversee regulatory development and coordination and enforcement. This critical group provides the policy input to the vast technical activities throughout the OLR.



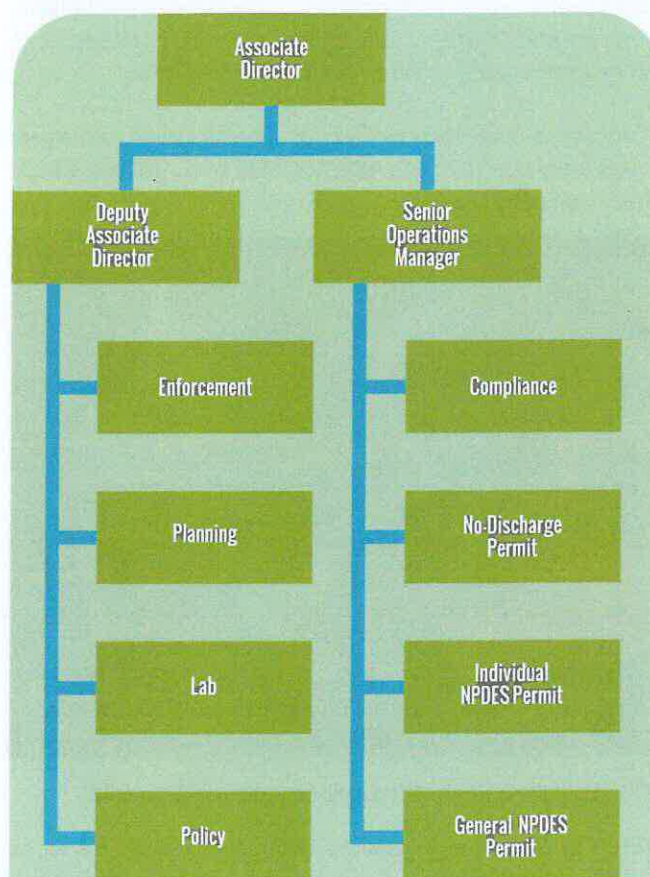
The Office of Water Quality's mission is to protect and improve the quality of Arkansas's water resources. Administration of state and federal environmental laws is accomplished through permitting, inspections, sampling, analytical services, and monitoring activities.

Office of Water Quality Programs:

- saltwater disposal
- water quality planning/standards
- groundwater quality protection
- clean lakes
- concentrated animal feeding operations
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) which includes stormwater permitting

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Operations

Approximately 5,000 systems have been permitted by OWQ Permits Branch through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. Approximately 770 non-discharging land application, septic systems, and liquid animal waste systems are managed through the No-Discharge program.

OWQ permit applications may be completed and submitted online at <http://bit.ly/3CFgeba> site.

Short Term Activity Authorizations (STAAs) are issued for instream activities such as bridge repair or stream bank stabilization that will temporarily impact water quality standards. <http://bit.ly/3INfpRg>

OWQ staff maintains a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) in accordance with Section 208 of the Clean Water Act, which provides an inventory of point source dischargers and its associated permit limits and other information.

In addition to compliance inspections of permitted facilities and compliant investigations, the Compliance Branch collects water samples monthly from rivers, streams, and creeks across the state (approximately 3,000 water samples annually). These samples provide data used to establish water quality standards and criteria, to make assessments, and to determine permit limitations, all of which aid in protecting the surface waters of the state.

Compliance staff inspects each of the 113 major dischargers once every two years and more than 650 minor dischargers are inspected every five years.



OWQ Compliance staff collect ambient water quality samples.

The Planning Branch develops water quality standards for all 17,872 miles of streams in the state. Every two years, the Planning Branch compiles data from DEQ's monitoring networks and other



OWQ Planning staff conduct a stream habitat assessment.

sources for comparison against water quality standards to prepare a list of the state's impaired waters. For water bodies that either don't meet water quality standards or have a significant potential not to meet the standards, the Planning Branch staff develops total maximum daily loads that limit the number of specific pollutants that can enter those water bodies. Planning staff is also responsible for monitoring fish and macroinvertebrate communities in Arkansas streams.

The Office of Water Quality's Enforcement Branch administers the Wastewater Licensing Program which maintains approximately 3,000 licensed operators. OWQ employees travel the state to test and license operators of municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants.

Employees in the Water Laboratory analyze ambient water quality samples collected at hundreds of monitoring stations, lakes, and streams around the state which can equate to upwards of 34,000 analyses performed each year. They also analyze samples from wastewater plants around Arkansas to ensure permit compliance and samples from groundwater for aquifer protection.



Enterprise Services helps Arkansas businesses, through compliance assistance, understand their permits and act in accordance with existing environmental regulations. Enterprise Services administers the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP), the Recycling Equipment Tax Credit Program, and the Natural State Environmental Program (NSTEP).



VI. Internal Programs

E&E's **Emerging Leaders** program identifies and empowers varied talent for the future leadership of E&E's divisions and offices. E&E staff members are selected to participate in the yearlong program designed to provide leadership training, increase knowledge about E&E and state government operations, and create opportunities for professional networking. Each year the class completes a capstone project. The classes of Emerging Leaders are selected to represent a cross section of all E&E's divisions, offices, professions, and employee populations.

EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM



The first cohort of Emerging Leaders met Governor Asa Hutchinson and toured the Arkansas State Capitol.

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