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*Our Vision – Healthy Kansans Living in Safe and Sustainable Environments*



# AWMA – Midwest Section Environmental Technical Conference

Kansas Environmental Issues and  
Initiatives  
January 20, 2009

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John Mitchell, Director  
Division of Environment

Kansas Department of  
Health and Environment

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# Vision and Mission

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- Kansas Department of Health and Environment – a combined public health and environmental protection agency
- KDHE Vision – Healthier Kansans Living in Safe and Sustainable Environments
- DOE Mission – Protecting public health and the environment for Kansas

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# DOE Organization

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- Five programmatic bureaus
  - Bureau of Air and Radiation (BAR)
  - Bureau of Environmental Remediation (BER)
  - Bureau of Waste Management (BWM)
  - Bureau of Water (BOW)
  - Bureau of Environmental Field Services (BEFS)
- State laboratory

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# Bureau of Air and Radiation

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- Director: Rick Brunetti
- Contact: (785) 296-1593
- Purpose: To protect the public health and environment from radiation and air pollution
- Responsibilities: Air permitting, compliance and enforcement, and air monitoring activities. Other programs include radiation control, asbestos, and Right To Know.

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# Bureau of Environmental Remediation

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- Director: Gary Blackburn
- Contact: (785) 296-1660
- Purpose: To manage environmental contamination through pollution source control, containment, or remedial action, and to respond to emergencies of an environmental nature that may affect the health and safety of the general public

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# Bureau of Environmental Remediation

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- Responsibilities: Remediation (site assessment, site remediation, restoration and long-term stewardship, voluntary cleanup, redevelopment), Assessment & Restoration (landfill, dry cleaning, Superfund), storage tanks (above ground, and underground), and surface mining.

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# Bureau of Waste Management

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- Director: Bill Bider
- Contact: (785) 296-1600
- Purpose: To minimize the health and environmental impacts associated with the generation, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of all solid and hazardous and waste in Kansas

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# Bureau of Waste Management

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- Responsibilities: Hazardous waste permitting, solid waste permitting, compliance and enforcement, waste reduction, public education, and grants.

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# Bureau of Water

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- Director: Karl Mueldener
- Contact: (785) 296-5500
  
- Purpose: To improve and protect public health and the environment by ensuring clean water

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# Bureau of Water

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- Responsibilities: Public water supplies, municipal programs, industrial programs, watershed planning and management, geology (water wells, underground injection control, and underground storage), and livestock waste management.

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# Bureau of Environmental Field Services

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- Interim Director: April Dixon
- Contact: (785) 296-0380
- Purpose: To gather and analyze data to identify environmental conditions and trends for regulatory, technical, and pollution prevention purposes

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# Bureau of Environmental Field Services

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- Responsibilities: Oversee management of district office activities (Chanute, Dodge City, Hays, Lawrence, Salina, Wichita) including regulatory inspections, complaint investigations, compliance assistance, use assessments of lakes, rivers, and streams, and water quality monitoring of Kansas streams.

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# Kansas Health & Environmental Laboratories

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- Interim Director: Dennis Dobson
- Contact: (785) 296-1619
  
- Purpose: To provide essential support to disease prevention and environmental programs. To provide analyses required for bioterrorism activities.

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# Kansas Health & Environmental Laboratories

- Responsibilities: Provide accurate, timely, and comprehensive chemical laboratory analyses consistent with Kansas environmental and public health program priorities, to identify factors affecting the health and quality of life of infants born with metabolic and genetic diseases, and to provide clinical and reference lab services aimed at prevention and diagnosis of infectious diseases and to assure the quality of water supplies in Kansas.

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# Environmental Initiatives and Issues

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- The Kansas Legislative session began January 12, 2009
- The Division of Environment has proposed only one legislative initiative:
  - Modifications to KSA 65-3424g, Waste Tire Management Fund.

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# Proposed Legislative Initiatives

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- The proposed change would allow grants to be made to any public or private school (K-12) to pay up to 50% of the costs to purchase tire derived products made from recycled waste tires.



# Other Legislative Interest

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- Sunflower Electric decision will again be debated
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Energy

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# Questions?

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# Contact Information

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