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Our Vision – Healthy Kansans Living in Safe and Sustainable Environments



The Kansas Environment

2009 Update & 2010 Legislative Agenda
Division of Environment, KDHE

John Mitchell
Director of Environment

Our Vision – Healthy Kansans Living in Safe and Sustainable Environments



Our Mission

- To protect the public health and environment for Kansas.
- Goals:
 1. Assurance – Implement environmental programs in Kansas to achieve regulatory compliance and maintain assurance that environmental programs are protective of public health and the environment.

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Goals (continued)

2. Policy Development – Be responsive to the needs and inquiries of the citizens of Kansas and the regulated community with respect to environmental programs.
3. Assessment – Provide citizens of the state with accurate assessments of the environmental conditions of the state.

To meet these goals, DOE has developed and implemented regulatory, compliance assistance, monitoring and educational programs within each bureau.

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Bureau of Air (BOA)

- Mission – to protect the public and the environment from air pollution.
- 2009 Accomplishments
 - Awarded \$4 million by US EPA to reduce diesel fleet emissions in Kansas under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act. Received an additional \$1.73 million to reissue the Kansas Clean Diesel Program grant competition for public and private fleets

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Bureau of Air (cont'd)

- Set up lead monitoring program per requirements of newly lowered National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Monitoring began on January 1, 2010.
- Submitted a Regional Haze State Implementation Plan to EPA for approval.
- Worked with Sunflower Electric on planning for a proposed 895 MW coal-fired electrical generating unit.

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Bureau of Environmental Remediation (BER)

- BER works to protect and preserve Kansas water supplies (ground and surface waters) as well as public health and welfare of Kansans, from the effects of environmental contamination.
- 2009 Accomplishments
 - KDHE Brownfields program completed 54 site assessments. These are now have the potential to be redeveloped.

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BER (cont'd)

- The Voluntary Cleanup Program worked with Siemens and the City of Hutchinson to confirm groundwater contamination had originated from an off-site source that had already been addressed, and provided a “No Further Action” determination. This allowed Siemens’ selection of the property as the location for a new \$50 million wind turbine manufacturing facility.



BER (cont'd)

- Performed corrective actions at drycleaning facilities in 28 cities and where necessary, designed remedial systems to address soil and groundwater contamination systems.
- Implemented dozens of storage tank remedial systems to treat petroleum contaminated public water supply wells resulting from releases.

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Bureau of Waste Management (BWM)

- This bureau's mission is to minimize the health and environmental impacts associated with the generation, storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal of all solid and hazardous wastes in Kansas.
- 2009 Accomplishments
 - Completed initial work to establish pre-selected burial sites at animal feeding facilities for preparedness purposes.

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BWM (cont'd)

- The six regional e-waste collection centers became fully operational and expanded service to about 70 counties.
- Several landfill gas recovery projects expanded to include several more facilities. The recovered gas can now be used for beneficial uses.
- Continued the “Green Schools” initiative, to encourage waste reduction activities. Hundreds of Kansas schools are now registered.

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Bureau of Water (BOW)

- BOW works to protect and improve the health and environment of Kansas through effective regulation of waters of the state
- 2009 Accomplishments
 - Low-interest state revolving loans (\$71 million) were made to 30 municipal water quality projects across the state (included 14 wastewater infrastructure and 16 public water supply projects).

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BOW (cont'd)

- Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Program (WRAPS) awarded funding to 32 projects (\$2.47 million). Now 43 active WRAPS projects covering nearly 60% of Kansas' geography.
- Developed and managed the 90th Annual Water and Wastewater Operators School in Lawrence. This three-day school was attended by over 300 water and wastewater operators.

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Bureau of Environmental Field Services (BEFS)

- This bureau provides services to the public and other DOE bureaus through regulatory and compliance efforts, complaint and emergency response, environmental monitoring and assessment, and pollution prevention efforts.

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BEFS (cont'd)

- 2009 Accomplishments
 - District office staff conducted hundreds of routine compliance inspections during the year. Conducted site investigations and permitting and enforcement activities. Investigated spills, illegal disposal, and reports of fish kills. Supported affected cities or counties in natural disaster situations with waste removal, restoration of water and wastewater treatment, and other basic needs.

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BEFS (cont'd)

- Hosted the 2009 Kansas Environmental Conference in August in Wichita. This conference provided businesses, community leaders, consultants and the public with an understanding of new environmental regulations, current trends in environmental quality, and new technologies.
- Contracted with Kansas State University's Pollution Prevention Institute for both the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program and the Pollution Prevention Program. These programs provided assistance to over 850 requests and over 35 on-site visits for technical assistance.

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Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories (KHEL)

- KHEL, located at Forbes Field, provides clinical and environmental testing in support of KDHE programs
- 2009 Accomplishments
 - Passed a biennial assessment to ensure that KHEL is meeting the requirements of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA).

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KHEL (cont'd)

- Passed three triennial assessments of environmental laboratories (environmental microbiology, radiochemistry, and environmental chemistry).
- The Radiochemistry Laboratory became the fourth in the nation to receive an EPA grant to expand the laboratory's capability and capacity for analyzing samples in the event of a radiological incident.



KHEL (cont'd)

- Provided diagnostic testing for H1N1 in the initial outbreak of the pandemic and continues to provide surveillance testing for KDHE and confirmation testing for hospitalized patients.
- Provided training for those collecting blood spots for the newborn screening program. This training has greatly reduced the number of unsatisfactory specimens received from a monthly high of 14 percent in March 2008 to a monthly average of three percent.

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Legislative Agenda and Critical Needs

- Treece Buyout Matching Funds
 - Senators Brownback and Roberts assisted in passing federal legislation to provide federal funding for a property buyout (matching the process used in Picher, Oklahoma). This will be through a Superfund Cooperative Agreement which will provide \$3,500,000 (90%) and the state share will be \$350,000 (10%). Kansas must come up with its share before the buyout is completed.

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Treece Buyout Matching Funds (cont'd)

- The Governor's budget proposes funding the \$350,000 from the State Water Plan.
- EPA is currently developing the Cooperative Agreement while KDHE and others are identifying potential Public Trust members and performing other preliminary tasks.



KHEL Facility Needs

- Building 740 at Forbes Field was built in the early 1950s as an Air Force Base hospital.
- Building 740 was not designed to meet today's code or clinical laboratory facility requirements.
- The current HVAC system has caused repeated problems including damage caused by high humidity:

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KHEL Facility Needs (cont'd)

- Plaster sloughing
- Black mold led to a week long closure in 2008
- Water damage to lab equipment

Lab staff are unable to meet uni-directional flow requirements for samples.

KDHE is exploring all possible options to relocate KHEL.

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Questions?



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