

## EPD Small Business Assistance: An Update

In 2004, the MDEQ Environmental Permits Division (EPD) began the Small Business Permitting Assistance Initiative to focus on the needs of small businesses entering the environmental regulatory arena. MDEQ recognized a need to improve the availability of information to businesses, and that much of the environmental information available was more suited to someone experienced in environmental permitting. Realizing that many small businesses did not have a technical staff and that the environmental regulations that applied to their business were expressed in technical language, EPD staff began the initiative by creating a series of brochures that were technical in nature but presented in non-technical terms. “Environmental Considerations For Your Business”, a plain language, pre-application guide, helps businesses identify the environmental aspects of their operations so that EPD staff can identify the permitting needs for the business. “Electronic Environmental Management” presents the *electronic* Environmental Site Information System, *enSite*, used by MDEQ staff to manage the environmental permitting and compliance aspects of businesses. Also presented were, *enSearch online* and *enDx*. *enSearch online* is a public access tool for information searches about permitted businesses. *enDx* is a web-based application to support electronic submissions of environmental data. “Simplified Permitting Options” is a guide to the general permits available for facilities. “Where Does Your Company Fit?” describes the industry based branches within the EPD. “Online Assistance” describes the guidance documents, applications and forms available from the MDEQ website, [www.deq.state.ms.us](http://www.deq.state.ms.us).

Additionally, the EPD Small Business Assistance webpage was developed and is available from the MDEQ main webpage. The EPD Small Business Assistance webpage offers technical guidance information, highlights articles discussing various environmental topics, provides Adobe® versions of the brochures & links to other sources of information for small businesses.

“Assistance: An MDEQ Priority” is issued electronically monthly. The “Assistance” newsletter provides articles and features of interest to businesses. Issues of the “Assistance” newsletter are available on the EPD Small Business Assistance webpage.

Three additional brochures have been developed. “Water Quality Certifications” discusses wetlands and jurisdictional waters as regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers and state certification of water quality. “Laboratory Selection: Eight Questions” provides information on the selection of an analytical laboratory for the sampling and analysis requirements of environmental applications. “Environmental Consultants” provides businesses with information to identify the environmental consultant right for their business.

MDEQ is committed to providing permitting assistance to the businesses of Mississippi. As needs are identified, EPD staff will evaluate and address those needs and provide the information necessary to help small and medium businesses comply with the regulatory

requirements for their operations. The EPD Small Business Assistance liaison is [Michelle Vinson](#).