

ADEM PUBLIC HEARING
RE-LICENSURE OF DADEVILLE SEWAGE
TREATMENT PLANT

Comments by
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Lake Martin Home Owners and Boat Owners Association, Inc
(Lake Martin HOBOS)

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ADEM PUBLIC HEARING

As a representative of the Lake Martin Home Owners and Boat Owners Association, I would like to introduce you to the Lake Martin HOBOS. Our new organization has evolved because of the need for Lake Martin stakeholders, to have a voice in protecting our valuable asset, the lake. The group is made up of full time owners, part time residents, and all recreational users of the lake.

Many members, even residents of Dadeville, have been shocked to learn that the Dadeville Sewage Treatment Plant has been dumping raw untreated sewage into Lake Martin for over ten years. More importantly, your office, (ADEM), has known about the dumping and in fact condoned the violations for all these years.

I live on Sandy Creek, as do many of the people in the audience. Gentlemen you have knowingly allowed the City of Dadeville to dump raw sewage in our front yards. That is no different than approving their dumping of sewage on the courthouse lawn, in fact it is worse, because our children and grandchildren swim, play, and fish in these polluted waters.

We see the scum line of sewage along our lake banks after a rain, we know that ADEM, at the least, is not doing their job of looking out for the citizens of Alabama, and at the worst is actually conspiring with the City of Dadeville to NOT repair their treatment plant.

Now Dadeville wants their plant re-licensed, given a rubber stamp of approval by ADEM, to continue with their old habits. Dadeville City Hall is on a public relations campaign, with favorable newspaper articles, in an attempt to cover the tracks of the City and ADEM. The mayor even made the statement in the newspaper that the plant is already performing better now than when it was new. Wonder what'll happen when we have some rain. The articles don't even acknowledge that the sewage goes into Lake Martin.

Mr. Mayor, officials of Dadeville, and ADEM, we don't trust you. You have no record here to base trust on. Only your actions in the future will give us any hope that this problem will be corrected.

The Lake Martin HOBOS recommend that strict conditions of performance be placed on any temporary approval, or extension of the existing approval. There should be a moratorium placed on any connections to the plant, residential or industrial, until Dadeville PROVES that all improvements have been completed and a test period of at least two years, proves the plant is functioning properly.

It is my understanding that ADEM will prepare a response to this meeting. I would like for you to include your response to these questions:

- 1. Did any meetings or conversations between ADEM, representatives of Dadeville, and the Attorney General take place prior to the Attorney General's civil suit against Dadeville? Were these meetings public?**
- 2. What specific oversight guidelines will ADEM follow to make sure Dadeville isn't up to their old tricks?**
- 3. Are there any other violations of clean water regulations concerning any waters flowing into Lake Martin? Camp Hill? Stillwaters? Others?**
- 4. We have been told that your department is NOT an enforcement department. If that is true, please provide copies of your notifications of Dadeville's violations to the proper enforcement agency. We WILL find the party responsible for enforcement of this fiasco.**

In closing, I hope the citizens of Dadeville will hold their officials responsible for this embarrassing situation. Lake Martin is one of the greatest resources in this state; a few politicians and bureaucrats cannot be allowed to ruin our future.