



# Newsletter

## Environmental Connection

May - June 2010

### Contents

- Moving on Up
- Governor Visits DEQ
- USANA Recognized for Waste Reduction Achievements
- "End of an Era" Long-time Solid & Hazardous Waste Director Retires

Sponsored by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality

Donna Kemp Spangler, Editor

---

### Moving on Up

#### DEQ Now Under One Roof

After two years of planning and constructing, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has moved into a new home with all of its Divisions under one roof for the very first time.

As of May 3, all six DEQ Divisions are located in the Multi Agency State Office Building at 195 N. 1950 West, which it shares with the Department of Human Services (DHS).

"It's truly exciting having all employees here in the same building," said Amanda Smith, executive director of DEQ. "It invigorates morale and improves efficiencies."

The Legislature laid the foundation for the move three years ago when it decided to sell the DHS building site on North Temple to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. With an appropriation from the Legislature, the Division of Facilities and Construction Management (DFCM) saw this as an opportunity to build a high-performance building big enough to house two state agencies.

DEQ saw it as a chance to bring all of its 380-some employees under one "green" building roof.

"The best thing about this building is being able to walk to an employee's office or cubicle and talk to them face-to-face," said Renette Anderson, director of the Office of Public Affairs.

For 19 years, DEQ was spread out into four buildings along the west side. Water Quality and Solid and Hazardous Waste were located in the Cannon Health Department Building. The Air Monitoring staff was located in West Valley. Environmental Response and Remediation, Radiation Control and DEQ's Executive Director's Office were located in Building 2 next to the Tax Commission while Air Quality and Drinking Water occupied Building 1 across the parking lot.

"It was very confusing for visitors," said Valerie Phillips, receptionist. "People would come to building 2 and really need to go to building 1. Now it's easier and nicer to have all the employees in one location."

DFCM wanted its occupants to be involved in all phases of the planning and construction. In July 2008, a hand-picked team from HS and DEQ selected Architects VCBO, and Builder Jacobsen Construction from a field of other potential contractors who presented their proposed designs. DEQ encouraged employees to provide input. A suggestion form, created on DEQ's InnerWeb, prompted numerous responses that ranged from the need to have bike lockers to a day care center. (A day care center wasn't in the drawing plans.)

Contractors first constructed the Human Services' portion of the \$51 million 250,000-square-foot building to accommodate the agency's need to move out of its old building before its lease expired on January 2010.

DEQ went to work on designing its half of the building.

Rebecca Troutman, audit manager for Support Services, attended weekly meetings with DFCM and the contractors to track the building's progress. A Building Committee comprised of representatives from each Division, met twice-monthly to address issues and concerns.

### **Preparing for the Move**

DEQ's move was done in phases, moving in as each of the four floors was completed. By April, the second floor was ready to accommodate Solid and Hazardous Waste and Information Technology (IT) staff. Two weeks later, Air Quality and EDO moved into its fourth floor offices. Drinking Water, Water Quality and Radiation Control followed, occupying the third floor. Division of Environmental Response and Remediation staff moved in the first floor by May 3.

Months before the move, DEQ directors encouraged their employees to "de-junk." Recycle bins overflowed with paper, cardboard and plastic. Stacks of unused or unwanted binders grew to an enormous size. Debbie Obendorfer, administrative assistant for Smith, arranged to have binders donated to the Salt Lake School District. "They were so pleased to take them," she said.

Moving all Divisions into one building took meticulous organization under the oversight of DEQ's Facilities Coordinator Daryl Cramer.



Ellen Lund, DRC,  
checks out her new  
wardrobe locker.

"Daryl coordinated all aspects of the moving process from making sure employee's boxes were properly labeled to ensuring that large rolling filing systems were properly moved and installed. He worked with the movers, Bailey's, and DEQ management with the utmost professionalism and patience," said Craig Silotti, director of Support Services. "He and Rebecca really deserve Kudos for an outstanding job for such a challenging task."

IT Director Ryan Walker for Department of Technology Services and his IT Team worked weekends to move all the computers and printers into the new building. He also set up a DEQ helpline to help employees with any technical issues, and arranged telephone training to allow employees to become acquainted with a new phone system. By the time employees came to their offices on Monday, their computers were ready to go.

"It was such a pleasure to get to a new office and have my computer up-and-running," said Rose Kenworthy, secretary in OPPA.

It was challenging, said Walker, but credits his staff for their hard work.

## **A Well-lit Place**

The Multi Agency State Office Building (MASOB) was constructed to incorporate natural light. It also features artwork from two Utah artists David Adams and Yolly Torres who were selected from a field of over 100 artists nationally who bid for the work.

"I really do believe we have created a beautiful building," Troutman said. "This is a transition from how our previous buildings functioned to the way the MASOB operates as a high-performance building."

And as with most things new, there have been some glitches. For instance, DFCM is making adjustments to the heating-air-conditioning system to allow for a more consistent air flow throughout the building, added Troutman.

Others really appreciate the well-lit areas of the building.

"The natural light is very uplifting," said Marc Earnhardt, Support Services financial analyst. "It creates a good working environment and it's very comfortable."

DEQ plans to celebrate its new digs at an upcoming dedication ceremony once the furnishings area complete, Troutman said.

Division staffs, too, are getting re-acquainted with their peers from other Divisions.

"It's really nice to see a unified Department," Smith said.

---

## **Gov Visits DEQ**

### **Launches Clean Air Initiative**

Standing before Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) employees, Utah's top chief executive praised the trucking industry and DEQ for doing their part to cut diesel pollution.



Governor Herbert speaks before a crowd of DEQ staff and media.

At a press conference in April, Governor Gary Herbert announced the "Utah Clean Diesel Trucking Initiative" at the state's newest energy-efficient Multi Agency State Office Building (MASOB) that DEQ shares with the Department of Human Services.

Over the past year, the Division of Air Quality has been working with trucking companies to provide nearly \$600,000 in state and federal grants to retrofit 30 big rigs with anti-idling devices that will reduce particulate pollution by 70 percent.

"We have some unique geography here," Governor Gary Herbert said of Utah's mountainous terrain that traps smog-forming pollution near the valley floor. "Each year, trucks travel more than 3.4 million miles along the Wasatch Front so these devices will go a long way to helping clean our air."

The devices, auxiliary power units (APUs), are mounted to the truck frame rails to provide sleeper cab heating and air conditions that keep drivers comfortable. The Governor and others got a first-hand look at the APUs in a 70-foot tractor-trailer parked outside the MASOB during the press conference.

These units, combined with new 2010 engine requirements, will make trucks cleaner than ever, said David Creer, executive director of the Utah Trucking Association.

He praised DAQ's Joe Thomas and Lisa Burr for work to obtain the grants that will go a long way to improving the industry.

The partnership between DEQ and the Utah Trucking Association expands on the successes of the past, said Cheryl Heying, director of DAQ.

"We've retrofitted school buses with cleaner technology and the agriculture community to retrofit, repower and replace diesel equipment with fuel and emission reduction technologies," Heying said. "Now the trucking industry is stepping to the plate and we're very pleased with this partnership."



Governor Herbert is flanked by Amanda Smith, DEQ Executive Director and DEQ's Lisa Burr and members of the Utah Trucking Association.

Amanda Smith, executive director of DEQ, said she's also pleased with Herbert's support for the project.

"It's really great to have the Governor promote the Initiative and provide employees an opportunity to visit with him, Smith said.

The message came in loud and clear, added Joe Thomas, manager of DAQ's Mobile Source Section.

"I think the event was a success," he said. "It garnered local and national attention through media sources within the trucking industry."

It also caught the attention of truckers.

"The recent media event for the Utah Clean Diesel Trucking Initiative prompted many inquiries about the grant from trucking businesses wanting to participate in future clean diesel projects," added Lisa Burr, research analysts for DAQ who helped procure the grants. "The project could encourage the use of idle-reduction technologies in an industry that spends a significant amount of time traveling and idling along the Wasatch Front."

For more information, visit the Clean Deisel site.

---

## **USANA Recognized for Waste Reduction Achievements**

USANA executives were thinking outside the box when it came to creating smaller packaging to send to its customers. As a result it reduced waste and improved their bottom line that advanced them to a partner level in the Department of Environmental Quality's Clean Utah program.

"We are pleased with your hard work and waste reduction goals, as well as your commitment to using clean energy," Amanda Smith, executive director of DEQ told USANA executives when she recently presented them with a Clean Utah plaque commemorating their advancements in the Clean Utah program.

USANA couldn't be more pleased.



Dr. Tim Wood, Executive Vice President of Research and Development, Dr. Fred Cooper, President and Chief Operating Officer, Dave Wentz, CEO Jeff Robertson, Research and Development

"Achieving status as a Clean Utah Partner is an important milestone for USANA," said Tim Wood, USANA executive vice president of Research and Development. "It means that our Environmental Management Plan has been reviewed and approved at both the state and federal levels, and that we have officially joined the ranks of other businesses across the country that is integrating commerce with sound environmental stewardship."

Earlier this year, USANA's environmental management team set out to review its shipping options for small packages and shipping fill in order to reduce the packaging waste that end up in the landfill. It did so by creating an assembling line that calls for fewer employees to ready the small packages for shipping.

USANA joins the following other Clean Utah Partners Autoliv North America—Ogden facility, Circle Four Farms, Firestone Building Products, Granite Construction Co. (four locations), Hexcel Corp.,

Utah Transit Authority (six locations) and Xanterra Parks and Resorts Zion Lodge. Collectively, these Partners, along with the Clean Utah members, have recycled over 33 tons of material this past year.

Other joint accomplishments include saving over 8.6 million gallons of water, 3.3 million kilowatt hours of electricity and 12,000 decatherms of natural gas, while preventing air pollution in the amounts of: over 2,300 metric tons of smog-producing CO<sub>2</sub>, 32 metric tons of nitrogen oxides, 1,700 pounds of particulate matter and 2,300 pound of sulfur dioxide.

Clean Utah is a program designed by a stakeholder group in collaboration with DEQ and consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is designed as a three-tiered system. At "Entry Level," businesses are committed to develop an Environmental Management System or "EMS" that provides a thorough review of its operations.

Entry Level businesses currently in Clean Utah are: Big-D Construction, IM Flash Technologies, Kennecott Land Company, Kennecott Utah Copper Operational Services, Nucor Building Products, Park City Building Department, Red Hanger Cleaner (17 locations), Salt Lake Marriot City Center, Tear-A-Part and Tooele Army Depot.

At "Partner Level," the company is committed to completing projects aimed at improving their environmental performance.

---

## **"End of an Era"**

### **Long-time Solid & Hazardous Waste Director Retires**

Dennis Downs, the longest-serving director of the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, retired recently ending a 37-year career and legacy of establishing one of the first environmental programs to have state oversight.

"I would hope that I will be viewed as someone who had a regulatory role but was fair," he said.

Downs was born and raised in Orem. In 1972 he graduated from Brigham Young University with a Master of Science degree in zoology and microbiology, specializing in parasitic diseases. He soon went to work as an environmental health specialist in solid waste management at the Utah Department of Health's Bureau of Sanitation. He quickly climbed the government ladder from section chief over permitting to assistant director of the Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste to director of the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) when it was established in 1991.

In the beginning, industry would have preferred a hands-off approach, Downs recalled.

"The regulated community didn't want regulation," he said. "Over the years, that changed. We now have industry very interested in protecting the environment. The attitude changed when it started to become very expensive to clean up a mess, so business-wise it makes sense to take care of it because of the liability."

Downs was instrumental in establishing the Solid and Hazardous Waste program that qualified for state primacy and was widely accepted by industry and the public.

At one time, Downs had oversight of the Superfund program, Underground Storage Tanks and Emergency Response before the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation was created and took oversight of those programs.

"I was always working late into the night," Downs recalled. He also served as an adjunct professor at University of Utah and BYU and taught environmental classes at Utah Valley University. He's served on numerous boards, including the Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission on Chemical Weapons Demilitarization, overseeing the federal governments' campaign to destroy military weapons in the West Desert. That campaign is nearly complete.

Downs and his team also assisted small businesses to comply with hazardous waste rules, established a successful used oil and waste tire recycling programs and regulated commercial hazardous waste landfills. His work has prompted numerous recognition and awards, such as the Outstanding Achievement Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for managing an exemplary state waste regulatory program.

"He's the only boss I've ever known," said Scott Anderson who replaced him as Director on May 3. "He's been a great friend and mentor. He's really an icon. I will truly miss him."

"His sense of humor added to his success as a tremendous leader," added Rusty Lundberg, branch manager in the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste. "We always knew he cared for the work as well as for us."

To his staff, Downs was known for his pithy expressions and witty remarks.

"He always liked to use the expression, 'Oh, go kiss old Rose,'" Anderson said. "So during a celebration for Dennis' 30 years of service for the state, Rusty dressed up as "Rose." At an unexpected moment, Rusty appeared before Downs and declared, "You always wanted to Kiss Old Rose, well here I am!"

Others just think of Downs as one heck-of-a nice guy.



Dennis Downs and Amanda Smith during retirement celebration.

"He's one of the funniest, nicest and most considerate people I've ever known," said Debbie Oberndorfer, executive assistant to Amanda Smith, executive director of DEQ. "He's the guy I go to whenever I need him to play a part in the picnic play or skit. He's a really good sport, and has become one of my good friends. I will truly miss him."

That wit comes in handy during negotiations over hazardous waste legislation or fees, said Smith.

"Dennis is widely respected and liked by his peers inside and outside the Department," Smith said. "He has a great sense of humor and can always be counted on to add levity to a situation. I appreciate his ability to connect with people and also address serious issues and cut right to the point of the matter. It truly is the end of an era."

He will be missed, said Arlene Lovato, administrative secretary to Downs.

"I really enjoyed working with him and hate to see him go," she said. "How do you replace the best?"

Downs, too, said he will miss the DEQ team but is leaving the Division in good hands. "I've got a seasoned veteran staff that know their job and do it well in hard budgetary times that will continue to be a challenge," he said.

There are other things he'll miss too.

Downs, who spent years working in a tiny, undecorated windowless office in the Cannon Health Building, will leave behind a window with a view in the Multi Agency State Office Building.

"For the first time in 37 years I have an office with a window and a door."

Downs, however, will get a windshield view of the Utah landscape he helped to protect as he travels with his wife, Marsha and their three grown children.