



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Arkansas Air Permit Issuance Among the Quickest in the Nation

NORTH LITTLE ROCK—The Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) continues to be a leader among state regulatory agencies in permitting efficiency. As the year closes, metrics for the upcoming 2019 *State of the Air Report* indicate that Arkansas major source air permit issuance remains among the quickest in nation as measured by DEQ's ranking among other state air quality regulators. Since 2015, DEQ has prioritized protective permitting, providing investment certainty and protecting the environment by driving advances through clean-air technology.

In the first half of 2019, DEQ issued all but one Title V permit significant modification within eighteen months. During the same period, DEQ processed all Title V renewals on time. DEQ remains among the top eight agencies for timeliness of Title V renewals. The figure below illustrates DEQ's ranking in timeliness of Title V renewals compared to other states' air quality regulators.

Becky W. Keogh, Arkansas Energy and Environment Secretary, Division of Environmental Quality Director:

"I am proud that Arkansas has cleared its backlog of state plans and ranks among the nation's leaders in permit renewal. This achievement demonstrates that Arkansas is a national leader in ensuring ease of critical investments while safeguarding the health of local communities and the environment."

Mitch Rouse, Office of Air Quality Senior Associate Director:

"The Office of Air Quality has set a goal to reduce permit lead times in Arkansas. We have achieved our original goal, but we will keep striving to be number one in the nation to better provide clarity and certainty for the existing regulated community and those that are considering investing in Arkansas."

This news follows the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent announcement that the agency cleared the backlog of state plans submitted by the State of Arkansas. Arkansas is the first state in EPA region 6 and among three states in the country to have had all of its Clean Air Act state plans approved by EPA.

Historic *State of the Air Reports* can be found on DEQ's website at <http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/air/state-of-air/>.

The 2019 *State of the Air Report* will be published to the same page in the first quarter of 2019. A copy of EPA's November 26, 2019 letter can be found on DEQ's website: <https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/air/planning/sip/pdfs/19-11-26-ADEQ-SIP-Backlog%20Ltr.pdf>.

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