



# Newsletter

## Environmental Connection

September 2009

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## It's Official: Utah Senate Confirms Amanda Smith as DEQ Director

Amanda Smith is the new executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality, having received confirmation from the full Senate on September 16. She becomes the fourth director in DEQ's 18 year history.



*Amanda Smith, Executive Director*

"I'm delighted to have received the vote of confidence," Smith said. "I look forward to working with stakeholders and the Legislature to continue our outstanding work at DEQ."

On Sept. 1, the Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee recommended unanimous approval of her confirmation after asking questions and hearing from supporters, which included Governor Herbert's chief of staff.

In May, former Gov. Jon Huntsman nominated Smith, shortly before President Obama tapped Huntsman as U.S. ambassador to China. Gov. Gary Herbert supported the nomination and reappointed her as “acting” executive director until her confirmation approval.

She took over for Deputy Director Bill Sinclair who was the acting director for six months after Rick Sprott retired in December 2008. Prior to Sprott, Dianne Nielson served as the executive director of DEQ for over 20 years until her appointment as energy advisor to the Governor in June 2007.

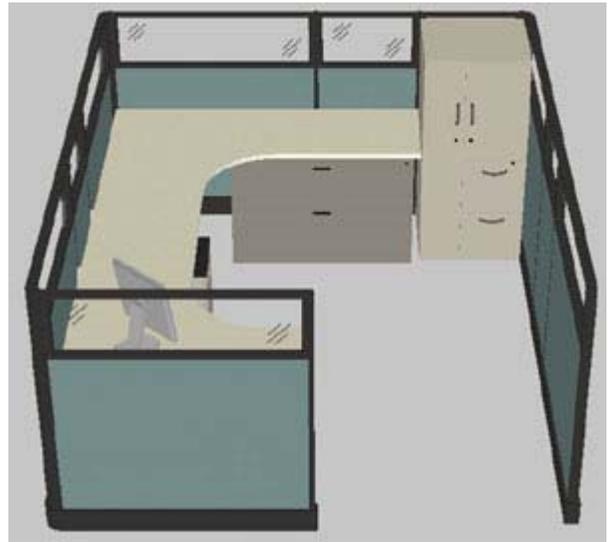
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## Just 5 Months Away! DEQ Prepares to Join HS in Move to New Building Next Year

The Department of Environmental Quality is gearing up for its massive move into new digs across the street as the contractor races toward a Feb. 26, 2010 deadline to complete construction on the \$40 million multi-agency building.

In late October or early November, the Department of Human Services plans to occupy its half of the 250,000 square-foot, 4-story building. Contractor Jacobsen Construction will then focus on completing DEQ’s side.

The Division of Environmental Response and Remediation will occupy the first floor; Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste and Office of Information Technology will be on the second floor; Division of Water Quality, Drinking Water and Radiation Control on the third floor and Division of Air Quality, along with the Executive Director’s Office, Planning and Public Affairs, Support Services and Human Resources will be located on the top floor.



The move will enable DEQ to centralize its Divisions and Offices that have been scattered in four different locations.

“For the first time, DEQ will have all 386 of its employees under one roof,” said Bill Sinclair, deputy director of DEQ who has been involved with the building construction from the start.

Audit Manager Rebecca Troutman is overseeing the construction, updating the DEQ building committee – comprised of representatives of each Division and office – of its progress while responding to employee suggestions, comments and concerns.

“It’s been an interesting challenge to try to meet all employees’ needs and wants,” Troutman said. “Although we won’t make everyone happy, I think in the end it will be a beautiful place to work.”

In July 2008, Jacobsen Construction and VCBO Architects were chosen to design and build the multi-agency building located west of the Tax Commission. Human Services is occupying the building first because the lease on their current facility at 150 West North Temple expires this fall.

Since groundbreaking, DEQ has encouraged employees to get involved and provide suggestions on DEQ's InnerWeb.

The building is designed to take as much advantage of natural light as possible so many of the cubicles feature glass partitions that are 54 inches high – lower in height than current cubicles.

That has prompted some concerns among employees.

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## Mountain Green's Unique Sewer System Prepares for Growth

Mountain Green – This charming community of 6,000 souls has witnessed plenty of innovation as the world headquarters of the Browning Arms Company. Now the Morgan Valley town has something else that's novel – the first advanced treatment wastewater lagoon system in the state.



*Paul Krauth (DWQ)*

“This is new and innovative technology that the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) reviewed and approved,” said Paul Krauth, outreach coordinator for DWQ. “We are really happy that Mountain Green decided to try something new.”

With developers buying up lots, Mountain Green needed to expand its sewer service to meet the anticipated growth. Currently, the Mountain Green Sewer Improvement District (SID) services 655 connections to its wastewater lagoons which provide treatment before effluent is discharged to the Weber River.

“We were faced with having to double even triple our service,” said Dennis Baldwin, administrator of Mountain Green SID. The District hired Aqua Engineering of Bountiful to study the problem. The way Baldwin sees it, the District had three choices: expand the existing lagoons, construct a wastewater treatment plant like Oakley in Summit County did, replacing its lagoon system with a membrane bioreactor system, or upgrade its existing lagoon systems to meet nutrient control requirements.

In the end, the District chose a process known as ATLAS (Advanced Treatment Lagoon Activated Sludge) designed by Environmental Dynamics of Columbia, Mo., which developed the first such system in the U.S.



*Mountain Green's sewer lagoons*

At a price of \$600,000, the system provides much better performance than typical lagoons get, Krauth noted. The system uses an activated sludge process in conjunction with the existing lagoons for enhanced treatment including nitrogen removal. This system typically produces effluent quality much better than that of traditional lagoon systems.

The Sewer District also didn't rely on a loan or grant from the Water Quality Board to pay for the project. Rather, the District turned to the developers who were expected to overburden the system.

It wasn't an easy sell, Baldwin admits. "The number one concern among existing residents," he says, pointing to a placard in his office that states: "I do not want to pay one thin dime for future growth."

New residents pay \$28 a month for sewer service.

The three lagoon cells take up about 3.8 acres of the District's 17 acre parcel – so there is still plenty of room to expand, which Baldwin thinks the district will eventually have to do.

"We constructed to handle a capacity of 1,800 connections," Baldwin said. "I project in 20 years we'll reach 2,800 or 3,000 ultimately."