

# 2016 A&WMA Conference

John Mitchell, Director  
Division of Environment



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**Our Mission: To protect and  
improve the health and  
environment of all Kansans.**

# Overview

- **Division of Environment 2015 Accomplishments**
- **2016 Legislative Agenda for the Division of Environment including legislation pending at mid-point of 2016 session**

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# 2015 Year in Review

## Division of Environment Accomplishments:

### Bureau of Air

- Staff is focused on reducing the backlog of pending air program construction permits
- All documents associated with sources of air pollution in Kansas have been scanned and indexed for easy referencing

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# 2015 Year in Review

## Division of Environment Accomplishments:

### Bureau of Water

- Continues to work to refine the Kansas Blue Green Algae Response and based on lessons learned in 2015, modified the BGA response to lessen the economic impacts of BGA warnings to communities relying on tourism dollars

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# 2015 Year in Review

## Division of Environment Accomplishments:

### Bureau of Waste Management

- Worked with local officials and Johnson County Landfill managers to address odor concerns related to the landfill
- Developed a representative sample collection plan for NORM and TENORM waste from previous oil field drilling activities in the state. Sample collection has started

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# 2015 Year in Review

## Division of Environment Accomplishments:

### Bureau of Environmental Remediation

- Undertook a complete review of our Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) and implemented changes

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# What Will 2016 Bring?

**Staffing and budget expected to remain steady in 2017 as compared to 2016**

**Retirements of key personnel:**

- **Mike Tate, Bureau of Water Director**
- **Jaime Gaggero has been hired to fill this vacancy**
- **Tom Gross, Bureau of Air Planning and Monitoring Section Chief**
- **Many key staff eligible for retirement**

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# 2016 Legislative Initiatives

## Environmental Remediation

- **Passage of Senate Bill 365 would establish the Contaminated Property Redevelopment Act providing a release of environmental liability to an innocent or prospective property owner. The liability release would be through issuance of a Certificate of Environmental Liability Release (CELR), which would be provided to a purchaser of a contaminated property or to someone who receives contaminated property through foreclosure or tax sale.**
- **Voluntary program**

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# 2016 Legislative Initiatives

## Air

- **House Bill 2516 would amend the Kansas Asbestos Control Act to eliminate the requirements for Kansas specific training and certification of asbestos abatement workers. These state requirements duplicate current federal requirements.**
- **Senate Bill 318 would set limits on what KDHE and KCC can and cannot do during the U.S. Supreme Court stay on the Clean Power Plan efforts.**

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# Questions



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