

COALITION TEAM

ARKANSAS

Shane E. Khoury
Secretary

Caleb J. Osborne
Chief Administrator

Demetria Kimbrough
Office of Air Quality (OAQ) Associate Director

Heath Cobb
OAQ Deputy Associate Director

Erika Droke
OAQ Policy Manager

Mikayla Shaddon
OAQ SIP & Planning Section Supervisor

Tracy Rothermel
Office of Legal - General Counsel

Andrea Hopkins
Associate Energy Administrator

CONSULTANT TEAM

Tricia Treece
Great Plains Institute Sr. Policy Manager

Matt Newman
New Era Advisors Principal Managing Partner

Christine Covington
Deloitte Energy Sustainability Specialist

Austin Gudgeon
Deloitte Sr. Consultant

OKLAHOMA

Ken McQueen
Secretary

Lloyd Kirk
Office of Business & Regulatory Affairs Director

Angela Hughes
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Sr. Manager

Kendal Stegmann
Air Quality Division Director

Beverly Botchlet-Smith
Air Quality Division Assistant Director

Cheryl Bradley
Data & Planning Group Environmental Program Manager

Melanie Foster
Air Quality Division Rules & Planning Section Manager

Carrie Schroeder
Air Quality Division Emissions Inventory Manager

Cory Parsons
DEQ Meteorologist

Leon Ashford
Air Quality Division Environmental Specialist

Alexandria Mills
Air Quality Permits Section Engineer Intern VI

Christina Hagens
DEQ Environmental Programs Specialist

Cecilia Kleman
DEQ Environmental Programs Specialist IV

Travis Couch
DEQ Attorney

COALITION BIOGRAPHIES

ARKANSAS LEADERSHIP

Shane E. Khoury serves as the Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (E&E), appointed by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Secretary Khoury is responsible for the oversight and direction of E&E that includes the Oil & Gas Commission, Office of the State Geologist, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Pollution Control and Ecology Commission.

Prior to this appointment, he served as chief counsel for E&E, where he handled legal and policy matters, and managed legislative affairs. He has served in Arkansas state government for more than 18 years, predominantly at the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission.

Secretary Khoury has been an active member of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) serving as the governor's associate representative and is currently serving on the IOGCC Steering Committee. He also serves as a governor's alternate member on the Southern States Energy Board. Previously, he participated as a member on the National Council on Electricity Policy and as a chair on the Arkansas State Employee Grievance Appeal Panel/Arkansas State Employee Grievance Review Committee.

He previously served as a policy advisor to Governor Mike Huckabee for regulatory affairs, and he has experience in private practice.

After graduating high school in Jonesboro, Secretary Khoury received his bachelor's degree in political science from Arkansas State University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law.

ARKANSAS TEAM

Caleb J. Osborne serves as the Director of DEQ and the Chief Administrator of the Environment for E&E, which gives him statutory signatory authority for Arkansas's 13 federally delegated environmental programs. Prior to his role with E&E, Osborne served as the Chief of Staff for the Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism and the Associate Director for DEQ's Office of Water Quality. He also has worked on energy and environmental policy and regulatory issues in the energy sector at both the state and federal level. A native Arkansan, Caleb graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in political science. He also has a Juris Doctor from the George Washington University in Washington D.C. and a master's of public administration from the Bush School of Government & Public Service at Texas A&M University.

Demetria Kimbrough is the Associate Director of the Office of Air Quality (OAQ) at DEQ. She has a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and mathematics from Philander Smith College and a Master of Public Health degree with an emphasis on Environmental and Occupational Health from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences - Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health. Kimbrough has served in various capacities at DEQ, including inspector supervisor, enforcement coordinator, asbestos and enforcement supervisor, and environmental operations manager, where she has worked diligently to advance DEQ's mission of protecting, enhancing, and restoring the natural environment for the well-being of all Arkansans.

Heath Cobb earned a Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in physics from Henderson State University. In 2006, Cobb began working for a private environmental firm until 2023. Most of this experience was related to chemical emergency response, providing customized air monitoring plans and strategies related to these events across the United States. Cobb began working at E&E in June of 2023 and currently serves as the Deputy Associate Director for OAQ. His management team includes asbestos, policy and planning, and enforcement for OAQ.

Erika Droke is the Environmental Operations Manager/Policy Manager in OAQ at E&E. Beginning her career in service of the state in 2001, she wrote for and managed medical research and special programs grants for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences for five years before returning to school as a nontraditional student. After completing a Bachelor of Science in environmental science with a focus on planning and administration, she worked with the United States Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Quarantine Division to trap and track the spread of various species of invasive insects in Arkansas, including the khapra beetle, emerald ash borer, and gypsy moth. Since 2011, Droke has worked with DEQ in various roles, including air quality regulatory and state implementation plan (SIP) development, environmental and internal office policy recommendations, grant writing and implementation, and public education and outreach. She currently serves as the Policy Manager for OAQ, managing the policy and planning team, responsible for grants management, technical emissions analyses, and state implementation plan development.

Andrea Hopkins is the Associate Energy Administrator at E&E. She earned a Bachelor of Science in environmental science from the University of Arkansas and began her career at E&E in 2008 as an inspector, and then manager, in the Business Assistance Program, helping small businesses understand and comply with regulatory requirements. She spent several years working at a private environmental firm conducting audits and assisting facilities with environmental compliance. In 2017, Hopkins returned to the agency as a senior policy advisor working extensively with the legislative team on issues across all media. Her experience in both the public and private sectors has led to a well-rounded understanding of environmental regulations and industry in Arkansas.

Mikayla Shaddon is the SIP and Planning Section Supervisor for OAQ. She earned her Bachelor of Science in environmental science with a focus in biology from the University of Central Arkansas in 2016. Shaddon began her service to the state in 2018 at E&E, working in OAQ as a compliance inspector, environmental program coordinator, and epidemiologist, while performing compliance investigations, regulatory research, grants administration, and policy review and development. Through these roles, Shaddon has developed a broad skillset geared toward review, interpretation, reporting and action. She is leading a team of air quality planning epidemiologists focused on the development of SIP and special projects, and policy development coordinator with a focus in the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) and Volkswagen (VW) Settlement grants management, administration, and reporting.

Tracy Rothermel is a Senior Attorney with E&E, and while involved in many areas, primarily represents DEQ's OAQ. She's been with E&E/DEQ for 10 years and has handled a variety of matters for the division over the years. She came to DEQ initially with a background in criminal law with extensive litigation experience. Rothermel earned a bachelor's degree from Hendrix College and Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law.

OKLAHOMA LEADERSHIP

Ken McQueen serves as Oklahoma's Cabinet Secretary of Energy and Environment where he was appointed in 2022 by Governor J. Kevin Stitt. In this role, McQueen is responsible for 36 state agencies, boards, compacts, and commissions, as well as advancing policies that encourage economic growth.

Before this appointment, he co-served as US EPA Region 6 Administrator in Dallas, Texas, and US EPA National Energy Policy Advisor. He was the first and only native-born Oklahoman to serve as a regional administrator at EPA. During his time at EPA, he also served as co-chair of the Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) and co-chair of the US-Mexico Border 2020 Regional Work Group for New Mexico, Texas, and Chihuahua.

Before federal service, he was New Mexico's Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources (EMNRD) and led New Mexico's energy efforts to become the third largest crude oil producer in the US. EMNRD includes the departments of Oil Conservation, Forestry, State Parks, Energy Conservation, Management, and Mining. During his appointment in New Mexico, he also served as chair of the Rio Grande Trails Commission, chair of the Carlsbad Brine Well Authority, chair of the Natural Lands Protection Committee, chair of the New Mexico Radioactive Waste consultation Task Force, secretary of the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA), member of the Water Trust Board (WTB), and member of the Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB).

McQueen's industry experience spanned 35 years as a petroleum engineer, retiring as an asset team vice president for a major upstream energy company in 2016. Notable industry experience includes a diversified domestic and international energy background in three countries and 12 states, leading a multi-disciplined exploration and production team to go well beyond the status quo.

McQueen's academia background includes serving as a petroleum engineering adjunct professor at the University of Tulsa and guest lecturer at other colleges and universities.

In addition to teaching, he consulted on a wide array of natural resource issues, with particular focus on water use/reuse, the hydrogen economy, helium, oil and gas, electrical generation, and carbon sequestration.

McQueen graduated from the University of Tulsa with a Bachelor of Science in petroleum engineering; he currently serves on UT's Industry Advisory Board where he twice served as chair. He was inducted into the UT College of Engineering Hall of Fame in 2018.

OKLAHOMA TEAM

Lloyd Kirk has more than 35 years of diverse experience from regulatory agencies, tribes, and Fortune 500 corporations. During his time at Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), he was the previous manager of the Radiation and Brownfield sections, and currently is the Division Director of the Office of Business & Regulatory Affairs. Kirk also assists the agency and Secretary of Energy and Environment in special projects involving the clean energy transition such as CCUS, hydrogen, produced water, critical minerals, EV, battery, solar, etc. Most recently he has been involved with the governor's Hydrogen Task Force, the HALO Hydrogen Hub, and currently the DEQ CPRG executive team. Kirk is a graduate of Oklahoma State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in engineering technology. He went on to earn a Master's in Management from Southern Nazarene University and an executive Master's in Leadership from the McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University. Recently, Kirk earned a certificate from Georgetown University in the Business of Sustainability.

Angela Hughes is the Senior Manager for DEQ, Office of Business and Regulatory Affairs. As the project manager for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, she has worked with multiple state agencies, tribes, industry, and citizens to create a plan that will ultimately support all Oklahomans to reduce pollution in the state. Hughes has more than 25 years of state and federal environmental experience, which includes oversight of multimillion-dollar projects at both Superfund and hazardous waste sites across Oklahoma. Hughes started the Site Cleanup Assistance Program that remediated National Guard armories so they could be safely used by the local communities for community events or business opportunities. During her time at DEQ, Hughes managed the complex buyout of communities in northeastern Oklahoma as part of the Tar Creek Superfund Site. In Hughes's role with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, she managed military construction projects at Tinker Air Force Base. She also has experience plugging gas wells and planning recreation sites for the Bureau of Land Management in Texas.

Kendal Stegmann earned her Bachelor of Science and Juris Doctor from the University of Oklahoma in 1992 and 1995, respectively. After graduating law school, she started her career at DEQ as an air staff attorney and later as a Senior Environmental Manager of the Compliance and Enforcement Group in the Air Quality Division (AQD). After spending four years as EHS counsel in the oil and gas industry, Stegmann returned to DEQ as the Division Director for the Environmental Complaints and Local Services Division. Later, she became the Division Director for AQD. She has been serving the state of Oklahoma for 23 years making sure that Oklahomans have clean air to breathe.

Beverly Botchlet-Smith is the Assistant Director of the AQD at DEQ. Botchlet-Smith received a Bachelor of Science in biology from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1992. She began her career with the state of Oklahoma in 1992 at the Oklahoma State Department of Health as a Disease Intervention Specialist. She moved to the DEQ AQD in 1994 working as an Environmental Program Specialist in the Rules and Data Analysis Section. She was promoted to her current position in 2003 and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the division, including budget, grants, IT oversight, personnel, and policy issues. In addition, Beverly co-chairs the Energy Committee for the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies.

Cheryl Bradley earned her Bachelor of Science in biology from Central State University in 1989 while working for the Oklahoma Secretary of State. She started working as an environmental regulatory professional for the Oklahoma State Department of Health in its Air Quality Service that same year. Later, she continued her career with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and then DEQ. Bradley has worked in DEQ's AQD for the last 29 years and is currently the Environmental Programs Manager of its Data and Planning Group. She has served the state of Oklahoma for 42 years, with 34 years devoted to protecting Oklahoma's public health and its environment.

Melanie Foster is the Rules & Planning Section Manager for the AQD of DEQ. Foster received a Bachelor of Science in environmental science from the University of Oklahoma in 1999. After working as temporary employee for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for two years, she worked briefly for a private environmental consulting firm in Oklahoma City. After moving out of state, Foster worked as a Hazardous Waste Compliance Officer for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for a year before working for the Arkansas DEQ as a manager in the Hazardous Waste Division for over six years. She began her work for the Oklahoma DEQ as an inspector in Compliance & Enforcement for a year before becoming the Compliance Section Manager for six years. She then moved over to the Rules & Planning Section and has been in her current position for the last eight years, working to keep Oklahoma's Air Pollution Control rules and its SIP up to date.

Carrie Schroeder earned a Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in chemistry from the University of Central Oklahoma. Following an internship at the Oklahoma Conservation Commission in water quality, Schroeder began her career at DEQ in 2009. She worked as an Environmental Programs Specialist in the Emissions Inventory and Compliance & Enforcement sections of the AQD. She has served as the Emissions Inventory Manager since 2016 and has been a member of the National Oil and Gas Emissions Committee for many years. In 2021, Schroeder oversaw a DEQ partnership project with NASA to investigate high ozone readings at a monitoring site. Also in 2021, she was awarded a multi-year EPA Exchange Network Grant to make improvements to Oklahoma's State and Local Emissions Inventory System (SLEIS). In 2023, she began serving as the co-chair to the National Emissions Inventory Committee under the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies. After DEQ was awarded a CPRG Planning Grant, Schroeder oversaw the compilation of Oklahoma's Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Co-pollutant Inventory.

Cory Parsons earned his Bachelor of Science in meteorology from the University of Oklahoma in 2021. He then went on to work as a Maritime Meteorologist/Route Analyst for two years. In 2024, he began working at DEQ to assist on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

Leon Ashford is an Environmental Specialist IV in the Rules and Planning Section of AQD of DEQ. He received his Bachelor of Science in wildlife ecology from Oklahoma State University in 1979 and a Master of Science in Industrial Hygiene & Environmental Management from the University of Oklahoma in 1998. He began his career in 1980, working 15 years in air monitoring for the OKC-County Health Department. In 1995, he moved to DEQ, working in the Special Projects Section for three years before transferring to his current position for 25 years. While at DEQ, Ashford has worked with a wide variety of special projects and many that involve mobile source pollution reduction.

Alexandria Mills is an Engineer Intern VI in the Air Quality Permits Section at DEQ. She received her Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Baylor University in 2013 and a Master of Science in Renewable Energy & Sustainability from the University of Southern California in 2014. Mills began her career in the electric power industry, working alongside colleagues to procure and design natural gas fired combined cycle generating stations. In 2017, her career shifted to the environmental sector when she began working at DEQ in the Industrial Wastewater Permits Section in the Water Quality Division. In February 2023, she joined the Existing Permits Section in the AQD. While at DEQ, Mills has worked with a wide variety of industries drafting permits for both air quality and water quality.

Christina Hagens is an Environmental Programs Specialist in the Rules and Planning section at DEQ. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science in environmental sustainability, minoring in political science. Hagens began her career with DEQ shortly after graduating in 2018 and has been in the AQD ever since. She began assisting with grants under DERA and VW, eventually managing each program. After training additional staff, she shifted to the role of project manager for the new Alternative Fuel School Bus (AFSB) program under VW funding. Mills has been involved with DERA and AFSB for five years where her duties included developing grant solicitations, applications, scoring guides, fact sheets, and communicating with staff and awardees throughout the application, award, and project phases.

Cecelia Kleman is an Environmental Programs Specialist IV in Air Quality at DEQ. She received her Bachelor of Science in field biology and geography from Pittsburg State University in Kansas in 2013. Kleman began working at DEQ in early 2015 in the Emissions Inventory Section. She transferred to the Compliance and Enforcement Section in 2016 and then to the Technical Resources and Projects Section in October 2018. Kleman has worked on the Oklahoma Clean Diesel (DERA) Grant Program for the last five years, serving as the project manager since June 2019.

Travis Couch earned his bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor from the University of Oklahoma in 2012 and 2015, respectively. His entire career thus far has been serving the state of Oklahoma in various roles within DEQ. During law school, Couch quickly became interested in environmental law and became a legal intern for DEQ's Office of General Counsel during his second year. Upon graduation and Oklahoma Bar admittance, he accepted a full-time attorney position with DEQ. He spent five years as a staff attorney for the Water Quality Division before moving to AQD in 2020. He went on to become the Supervising Air Quality Attorney in early 2022 and has been in this position since. Couch is grateful to provide legal support regarding all aspects of AQD in order to help Oklahoma maintain clean and safe air.