After the hearings, a plan will be drafted and submitted to the EPA for final approval. Alabama is one of 10 states and two Indian communities selected by the EPA to participate in a pilot program for accelerated development of a Comprehensive State Ground Water Protection Program. The hearings will be held Oct. 7 at the ADEM conference room here; Oct. 14 at the International Trade Center in Mobile; Oct. 19 at the Alabama Power Co. in Anniston; Nov. 4 at Drake Community College in Huntsville; Nov. 9 at Dothan Civic Center; and Nov. 18 at Florence City Hall.

The DEQ reported that some fueling operations and bulk petroleum storage facilities which have not been covered by permit in the past will be permitted outright, with some limitations.

The permit covers storm-water runoff, ground-water dewatering discharges, draining of water from storage tanks, and other discharges associated with petroleum storage, formulation or packaging facilities. It can also include sewer discharges from motor pools or other facilities which can generate an oil discharge.

A series of public hearings will be conducted from Oct. 11-19 at Pendleton, Bend, Portland, Medford and Salem. More information is available from the DEQ at 503-229-5989 or 800-452-4011.

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