

**2025 Air Quality Permitting Workshop
Nashville, Tennessee
May 28, 2025**

Daniel Bowers

Environmental Scientist, Air Pollution Control Division
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Daniel is a 2016 graduate of Bryan College with a degree in Environmental Science with a minor in Chemistry. He began his career with the Division in 2018 and is currently an Environmental Scientist in the Johnson City Environmental Field Office. As an Environmental Scientist, Daniel performs facility inspections, operates ozone and PM 2.5 air quality monitors, and investigates citizen complaints.

Martie Carpenter

Deputy Director for Field Services
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Martie has worked in the Knoxville Field Office – Division of Air Pollution Control since 1992 and has conducted source inspections, investigated complaints and operated ambient air monitors. She is currently the Deputy Director for Field Services for the Division. In this role, Martie is responsible for approximately 35 staff members located around the state in seven environmental field offices. Staff members in these offices are primarily responsible for conducting compliance inspections on regulated facilities, operating and maintaining the state's ambient air monitoring network and investigating air-related complaints.

Amanda L. Davis

Environmental Manager
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Amanda Davis has been with the Division of Air Pollution Control (APC) since 2007. She started in the Emissions Inventory Program in the Nashville Central Office and in 2014 moved to her current role as the TDEC Environmental Manager for the Division of Air Pollution Control in the Johnson City Environmental Field Office. Amanda is responsible for 5 inspectors in the Johnson City Field Office whose predominant responsibilities are conducting compliance inspections, complaint investigations, and operating and maintaining the 7 ambient air monitors in the field office region. She has a B.S. in Engineering Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (2002).

John Fuss

Manager, Surface Coating and Combustion Permit Section

Air Pollution Control Division

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John Fuss is the Environmental Manager for the Surface Coating and Combustion Permitting Program. He has been with Tennessee's Division of Air Pollution Control (TNAPC) since 2002. He received a B.S. degree in chemical engineering in 2001 from Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee. In 2002, he earned his Engineer Intern certification from the State of Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners.

Donovan Grimwood (Central Office, 5th floor)

Environmental Consultant, Small Business Environmental Ombudsman

Division of Stakeholder Engagement, Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

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Donovan Grimwood has been with the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) for 26 years. Donovan serves as the Small Business Environmental Ombudsman, advocating for small business interests during regulatory processes. Additionally, Donovan provides clarity and guidance to small businesses, helping them navigate regulations and understand compliance requirements. He is active in the National Steering Committee of State SBEAPs, serving on nearly all subcommittees. Donovan has received national recognition in 2024 for the EPA Administrator's Award for Outstanding Accomplishments by a State Small Business Environmental Assistance Provider in Providing Technical Assistance to the Small Business Community, and in 2025 for the National Steering Committee of the State SBEAPs Karen V. Brown Leadership award. This award honors long-term achievements in leadership, innovation, education, dedication to environmental protection, and highlights their efforts to build strong local/state/federal partnerships for small business compliance assistance. Outside of his career with TDEC, Donovan is a head coach in the sport of fencing with Cumberland D'Escrime Fencing Club.

Lacey J. Hardin (Central Office, 7th floor)

Environmental Consultant, Air Pollution Control Division

Permitting and Regulatory Development Programs

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Lacey Hardin is a 1987 graduate of Tennessee Technological University with a degree in chemical engineering, and she received the Engineer-in-Training Certification in 1987. She began working for the Division of Air Pollution Control in the Air Resources Program in 1988, working with infectious waste incinerators. In 1992 she moved to the Operating Permits Program and assisted with development of the Title V Program. In

2004 she assumed the position of Environmental Protection Specialist VII. With the advent of the dual career track (technical vs. managerial) at TDEC, Lacey elected to concentrate her time on the technical side and is now a TDEC Environmental Consultant 4. She is the lead technical adviser for members of the permitting, regulatory development, and emission inventory programs. Lacey is a national member of the Air and Waste Management Association. She and her husband have two daughters, one granddaughter, and one grandson.

James (Jimmy) P. Johnston, P.E. (Central Office, 7th floor)

Air Pollution Control Division

Deputy Director for Permitting and Regulatory Development

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Jimmy Johnston is a Deputy Director with the Tennessee Division of Air Pollution Control. The Tennessee Division of Air Pollution Control's mission is to maintain and improve air quality to protect the health and welfare of Tennesseans through monitoring, regulatory activities, and education in a manner that promotes maximum employment and economic growth. Jimmy's particular role is to ensure that correct, clear, and enforceable air quality permits are issued within timelines that meet the needs of new and existing facilities within Tennessee and to develop air quality plans and regulations that meet air quality standards with minimal impact on the regulated community. Jimmy joined the TDEC in 2015 after a 31-year career with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. He has a degree in Chemical Engineering from Georgia tech and is a registered PE in the states of Georgia and Tennessee.

Tracy Kefauver (Central Office, 7th Floor)

Environmental Consultant, Air Pollution Control Division

Permitting Program: Composite Materials Section

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Tracy is a graduate of Tennessee Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. She started with the Division in January 2020 as a permit writer in the Composite Materials Section. Tracy previously worked for a large engineering consulting firm providing engineering services for Department of Defense contracts, and as an environmental consultant for a small firm working on air permitting and compliance for facilities in TN.

Ginna McWhirter (Memphis Environmental Field Office)

Small Business Education and Outreach Coordinator

Division of Stakeholder Engagement, Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

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Ginna (Jenna) McWhirter is the education and outreach coordinator for TDEC's small business environmental assistance program (SBEAP). In her role, she publishes articles and information geared toward helping small business understand and comply with environmental regulations. She received her bachelor's degree in marine biology from Rollins College in Florida, then moved to Memphis in 2017. In 2020, she joined TDEC and worked in the Divisions of Water Resources and Solid Waste Management, and in the last year, joined SBEAP. After hours, Ginna enjoys reading, playing soccer, and hanging with her husband and pets!

Dr. Michelle Oakes

Manager, Regulatory Development Program
Air Pollution Control Division
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Dr. Michelle Oakes is the Manager of the Regulatory Development and Planning Program within the Division of Air Pollution Control at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). She oversees a team responsible for regulatory planning, rulemaking, and modeling activities to support implementation of the Clean Air Act in Tennessee. She received a B.A. in Chemistry from Clemson University and a Ph.D. in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences from Georgia Institute of Technology. She has over 15 years of experience in air quality, including ambient monitoring, emissions inventory development, modeling, benefits analysis and environmental rulemaking. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband, three children and goldendoodle.

Randy Powers (Knoxville Environmental Field Office)

Environmental Consultant
Emission Inventory and Fees Program
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Randy Powers is employed by TDEC in the Division of Air Pollution Control (APC) with the Emission Inventory & Fees section. He has been with APC for ten and a half years. He is highly proficient with Microsoft Excel Visual Basic for Applications programming, and he has created some custom Excel applications for the Air Pollution Control Division. He was directly involved with getting Emissions Inventory reporting migrated to SLEIS in 2018, migrating the reporting of Title V Fees & AEAR to SLEIS in 2020, and to MyTDEC Forms in 2025.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1983 at Tennessee Technological University and a Master of Science in Systems Engineering in 1997 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. In High School he attended vocational training to be an electrician. After High School he served four years in the U.S. Army as a Missile and Launcher Electronics Repairman on the HAWK missile system. Upon graduating college, he accepted employment at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville,

AL where he spent 25+ years working in a scientific testing laboratory performing earth and space environment simulation testing of space flight hardware systems and subsystems for various NASA projects.

Tawanna Reid (Knoxville EFO)

Environmental Consultant, Air Pollution Control Division

Permitting Program: Chemicals, Food, and Wood Products Section

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Tawanna is a graduate of Clemson University with a degree in Industrial Engineering. She currently works in the Knoxville Field Office as an Environmental Consultant. Tawanna has 17 years of multi-state air permitting experience with Tennessee and South Carolina. She enjoys visiting sites; learning the various operations, as well as working alongside facilities to meet their needs. Prior to air permitting, Tawanna worked in the private sector for seven years in food manufacturing. Outside of work, she enjoys exercising, exploring attractions in East Tennessee, and spending time with family and friends.

Jerry T. Swinea (Central Office, 7th floor)

Environmental Protection Specialist, Air Pollution Control Division

Permitting Program, Metal, Paper, and Wood Section

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Jerry Swinea has been employed with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation since 1993, working with the Division of Water Pollution Control from 1993 until June 1999. He has been with the Division of Air Pollution Control since June 1999. Jerry received a B. S. degree in Civil Engineering from Tennessee Tech, and is currently the Environmental Consultant III in the Metal, Paper and Wood Permitting Section. He has worked in air permitting since joining APC. Jerry has prepared PSD, Title V, and Conditional Major permits for various sources, and is a Southern Section member of the Air and Waste Management. Jerry and his wife Amy reside in Nashville, Tennessee and have two children.

Julie Verissimo (Central Office, 7th floor)

Environmental Consultant, Air Pollution Control Division

Permitting Program, Surface Coating and Combustion Section

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Julie Verissimo has over 28 years of environmental permitting and consulting experience in both the public and private sector. After receiving her B.S. degree in chemical engineering from Tennessee Technological University in 1996, she worked as the Pretreatment Coordinator for the City of Randleman, North Carolina. She moved back to Tennessee in 1999 and began working for the Division of Air Pollution Control, where

she was a permit writer for more than 8 years. She left the Division in 2007 to work as an environmental consultant. After more than eleven years as a consultant, working primarily on air permitting and compliance issues for facilities in more than 25 states and multiple local program areas, Julie returned to the Division and now serves as environmental consultant and permit reviewer for the Surface Coating and Combustion Permitting Section.

Presenter Addresses

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