

# Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and the City of Blytheville

## Success in the Making

Demetria Kimbrough  
Enforcement and Asbestos Branch Manager  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

Region 6 Environmental Justice Forum

# Program Overview:

## Office of Air Quality, Asbestos Program

- Staff
- Functions:
  - administer the certification and licensing programs
  - receive notices for asbestos renovation/demolition
  - conduct inspections of renovation/demolition projects
  - administer a grant program to assist cities and counties with abatement, stabilization, and remediation for asbestos-related activities
  - asbestos-related outreach and assistance

# Relationships: Fostering and Cultivating

- Local Government
  - Meetings and outreach
- Asbestos Regulated Community
  - Discussions on the application of regulation with work practices
- State Government
  - Funding of eligible abatement projects with the Arkansas Asbestos Abatement Grant



# State Facts: Arkansas

- Population: over 3 million
- Racial composition:
  - Caucasian (non Hispanic or Latino): 72.9%
  - African American: 15.7%
  - Hispanic or Latino: 7.3%
  - Asian: 1.6%
  - American Indian and Alaska Native: 1.0%
- Poverty: 17.2 % of persons in poverty



# City Facts: Blytheville

14,375

**Population**

26.4%

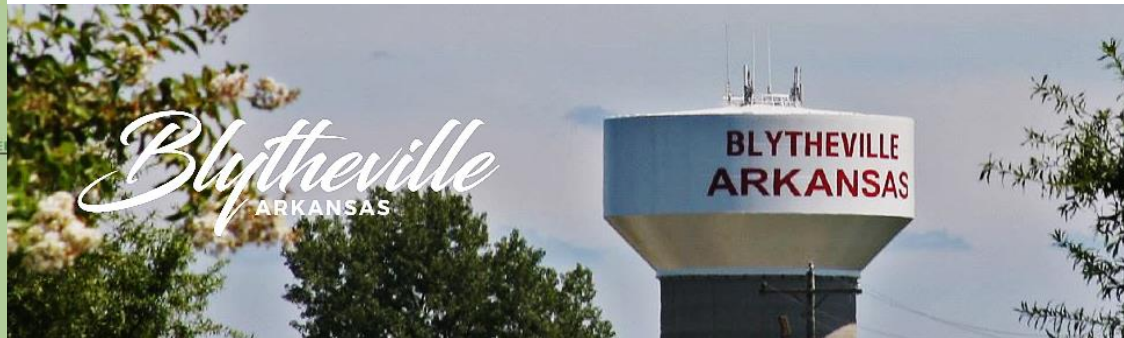
**Persons in  
Poverty**

7,408

**Total  
Housing Units**

1,467  
(19.8%)

**Vacant  
Housing Units**



# Issue:

## Condemned, Dilapidated Houses

- Over 200 condemned homes/structures, possibly asbestos containing
- Lack of knowledge regarding asbestos and asbestos regulations
- Limited revenue and resources
- Regulated through asbestos regulation



Photo Courtesy of Kait Channel 8 News

# State Regulation Clarification: Nuisance Abatement

- ADEQ Clarification:
  - Small residential buildings
    - One house, per city block, per year
  - Demolition is not part of a
    - Commercial, highway construction, private development, urban renewal project;
    - Project to develop shopping mall or industrial facility
  - Demolition not
    - Conducted by open burning
    - Involve small residential building previously used to store farm supplies
  - Proper disposal of debris/waste

# Success in the Making: Inform, Train, Reduce

- Inform
  - Mayor Sanders of possible solutions
- Train and Certify
  - The Blytheville employees as Asbestos Inspectors
- Reduce
  - The number of condemned and dilapidated houses through ADEQ nuisance abatement clarification or through structural demolition



# What Does a **Successful** Solution Look Like?



# Contacts

## Office of Compliance

Mona Partman, Branch Manager

501-682-0890

[partman@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:partman@adeq.state.ar.us)

## Office of Air Quality-Asbestos Section

Demetria Kimbrough, Branch Manager

501-682-0927

[kimbrough@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:kimbrough@adeq.state.ar.us)

## City of Blytheville

James Sanders, Mayor

870-763-3602

[mayorsanders@sbcglobe.net](mailto:mayorsanders@sbcglobe.net)

# Questions?

