



**Coalbed Methane Association of Alabama**  
3829 Lorna Rd. Suite 306  
Birmingham, Alabama 35244  
(205)733-8087 FAX (205)985-0042

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Bennett L. Bearden, J.D., LL.M., J.S.D.  
Chairman, Alabama Water Agencies Working Group  
General Counsel  
Office of the State Geologist  
Geological Survey of Alabama  
P.O. Box 20276  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35402-0276

Dr. Bearden:

On behalf of the membership of the Coalbed Methane Association of Alabama I am pleased to offer you, and the AAWG, the following comments relative to the report "Water Management Issues in Alabama."

Water policy is a very complex issue and, over the years, has consumed many resources and considerable time from many organizations, government officials, and citizens. I commend you and the AAWG for the hard work that is evident in the report submitted to Governor Bentley. You and the AAWG did a very thorough job of identifying the potential issues in Alabama and outlining the options that could be considered in the future.

However, before any comprehensive water policy effort can begin we all need a better idea of what the actual issues are in Alabama. The best way to proceed is with a statewide surface and groundwater assessment. I feel confident the AAWG is capable of performing such an assessment.

The Coalbed Methane industry has enjoyed great success in Alabama and now produces almost half of the natural gas in the state. We have a great interest in these very important water issues and appreciate the opportunity you have extended to work with the AAWG, and others to continue our understanding of the water policy needs of the state.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Lathem". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dennis Lathem  
Executive Director