

North Myrtle  
 Beach Times  
 N. Myrtle  
 Beach, SC  
 Circ. 7250  
 From Page:  
 3  
 4/9/2015  
 63198

## Pitts to speak at First Friday Business Builder

President and CEO of the S.C. Chamber of Commerce Ted Pitts will be the featured speaker at the First Friday Business Builder series event scheduled for Friday, April 10. The monthly breakfast meeting, presented by the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce Convention & Visitors Bureau, will take place from 7:45 to 9:30 a.m. at the conference center at Barefoot Resort at 2250 Premier Resort Blvd. in North Myrtle Beach.

Pitts will be speaking on the topic of "The Rising Tide of South Carolina Business." He joined the S.C. Chamber of Commerce in November 2014 as executive vice president and later became president and CEO on Jan. 1, 2015. He also serves as a Major in the S.C. Army National Guard.

Pitts recently served as chief of staff for Gov. Nikki Haley and served in the State House of Representatives from 2003

to 2010. He has several years of experience as a commercial real estate broker and was a partner with Newmark Grubb Wilson Kibler in Columbia. Pitts is a native of Lexington and a graduate of Presbyterian College.

"We are pleased to welcome Ted Pitts as our featured speaker for our First Friday Business Builder breakfast meeting," said Marc Jordan, president and CEO of the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce Convention & Visitors Bureau. "We are happy to offer this opportunity to area business leaders and to

share Ted's perspective on our state's business community."

The First Friday Business



**Ted Pitts**

Builder is an informative monthly breakfast meeting held on the first Friday of every month by the North Myr-

tle Beach Chamber of Commerce. April's event is being held on the second Friday, April 10, due to the April 3 holiday. The event is available to chamber members and non-members as an opportunity to hear valuable speakers on important topics, updates on city and council issues and new business opportunities.

Tickets are \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members and can be purchased on the Chamber's website. The meetings are presented by the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Conway National Bank.

To register or purchase tickets, visit the Chamber's website or call 843-281-2662.





Westminster  
News  
Westminster, SC  
Circ. 1685  
From Page:  
1  
4/15/2015  
61246



# ITECH Expansion 148 At Oconee Plant To Cost \$6.03 Million, Add 34 Jobs

ITECH South, LLC, the Palmetto State operations of Injection Technology Corporation (ITECH), is expanding its existing plant in Oconee County. The \$6.03 million investment is expected to create 34 new jobs at the company's Westminster facility over the next five years.

Established in 1987 and headquartered in Arden, N.C., ITECH aims to provide a broad range of molding-based services to its diverse customer-base. The company provides specific services such as product and packaging design, material selection, prototype development, mold flow and mold design.

Expansion of ITECH's Oconee County facility, located at 7090 South Highway 11 in Westminster, includes the construction of a 32,000-square-foot addition to the company's existing building. ITECH will also be adding seven new molding machines and two new shipping doors to the facility.

Construction is expected to conclude in the second quarter of 2015. Hiring for the new positions is anticipated to begin in September 2015. Those interested in joining the ITECH team should contact the HR department. For more information on ITECH, visit [www.itechplastics.com](http://www.itechplastics.com).

In announcing the expansion, ITECH South, LLC President Carl Morris said, "Since beginning operations in South Carolina in 2008, we have been very pleased with our S.C. facility and the quality of workers we have. The expansion will enable us to better serve our customers and to continue to grow the business. The incentive package from Oconee County and the state was very helpful in our decision to expand."

Governor Nikki Haley commented, "It's always an exciting time when we can celebrate the success of a South Carolina company. ITECH's decision to expand in Oconee County is a big win for the company and for our entire state, and the 34 jobs it will create will make a real difference in the lives of South Carolinians."

Oconee County Council Chairman Wayne McCall remarked, "We are proud to be the home of ITECH South in South Carolina and are very pleased with the decision to create additional jobs here as it demonstrates we have the workforce and business climate to meet the needs of our industry. We believe that ITECH South will continue to be a great success story for our community."

Oconee Economic Alliance Chairman Glenn Buddin added, "The new jobs and additional investment from ITECH South are a welcome addition to our progressive and business friendly community."



148

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Keowee Courier  
Walhalla, SC  
Circ. 1706  
From Page:  
1  
4/15/2015  
61237





Keowee Courier  
Walhalla, SC  
Circ. 1706  
From Page:  
2  
4/8/2015  
61237



148 + 174 and an email to [keoweecourier@bellsouth.net](mailto:keoweecourier@bellsouth.net) or call 638-5856.

## SCDOT Employees To Pick Up Litter During Week Of April 20th

In support of Governor Nikki Haley's designation of April as Litter Prevention Month, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) plans to deploy its Maintenance crews in all 46 counties to pick up litter during the week of April 20.

"South Carolina state agencies have joined together in a collaborative effort to address litter on our roadways," Haley said in her proclamation. "Littering is illegal and is a crime against

nature as well as the residents of the Palmetto State...Zero tolerance for litter is a month-long enforcement campaign focusing on our state's litter laws."

Each SCDOT maintenance crew will spend one day picking up litter during the week of April 20. SCDOT plans to stagger scheduling among crews so that litter pickup is performed each day during the week at locations across the state. SCDOT employees will focus on

high visibility routes and "litter hot spots," said SCDOT Chief Engineer for Operations Leland Colvin.

Motorists are asked to use caution when driving in areas during litter clean-up operations for the safety of everyone involved.

SCDOT has longstanding partnerships with Palmetto Pride and other organizations to help keep South Carolina beautiful.

# DOT reform stalls in Senate, threatens road money proposal

148

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A plan to change how the state Department of Transportation operates is stalled in the South Carolina Senate and could derail the entire proposal to get more money to roads and bridges.

Gov. Nikki Haley has vowed to veto any bill that doesn't include DOT reform along with income tax relief and additional money for roads. Lawmakers have less than two months to get it all accomplished before the session ends in June.

Complicating matters is a change eight years ago that allowed the governor to appoint the leader of DOT. That change ends in July, meaning doing nothing would remove any of the governor's control of the agency.

The House is much further along with a roads plan that is more aligned with Haley's wishes. The bill on the House floor when the session resumes April 14 would raise an additional \$400 million for roads and allow the governor to appoint all eight members of the DOT commission, which would be screened by a panel of House members and senators. Those commissioners would appoint the DOT leader. Haley's biggest problem with the House plan is that its \$50 million income tax cut is not enough.

A Senate panel has dis-

cussed DOT reform bills twice in the past two weeks

and gotten nowhere. The debate is reminiscent of 2007, when senators filibustered for three weeks before passing a DOT reform bill, then held up the state budget before working out a compromise with a different version in the House.

Sen. Larry Grooms pushed that 2007 reform bill, which also required DOT to use a formula to set priorities for all but the largest highway projects. He said he wonders if some senators are stalling because they want to go back to the old system where the Legislature held all the power over roads and which project got funded first often was decided by which senator needed to be kept happy.

"Unfortunately, there are many legislators who want

to go back to the system of horse-trading because they think they would fare better," said Grooms, R-Charleston, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Grooms said he doesn't understand all the anger toward the current DOT commission, which he calls the best he has ever seen.

DOT board Chairman Jim Rozier has his own theory. He thinks the criticism is a smoke screen to make up for years of inadequate funding from lawmakers that have left the state roads and bridges crumbling and full of potholes.

"The roads are falling apart under us. They are going to continue to fall apart unless they start putting some more money

into it. I don't care who they have running things," Rozier said.

Rozier said an additional \$400 million won't do anything to make state roads better. He is calling for lawmakers to get closer to the \$1.4 billion the DOT said it needs per year to get all roads to good condition by 2040.

Haley remains a critic of the current structure of the DOT board. She said a board completely appointed by the governor is the best for all of South Carolina roads.

"Gov. Haley knows we can't keep throwing money at a system that lacks accountability because too many people think they are in charge. Right now, transportation commissioners — selected by local delegations to represent a specific district — fight each other for state funds to support their own local interests rather than doing what's best for the entire state," Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said in a

statement.

The allegations that the current DOT board operates in secrecy and approves projects based on favors bother Rozier the most. He said everyone on the board agrees improving Interstate 26 on its 200-mile trek from Charleston to Spartanburg is the biggest priority.

"Even the guy in Myrtle Beach agrees that is the No. 1 need in the state," Rozier said.

The Morning  
News  
Florence, SC  
Circ. 35092  
From Page:  
4  
4/6/2015  
61050





The Morning  
News  
Florence, SC  
Circ. 35092  
From Page:  
7  
4/6/2015  
61050



148  
**The Island Packet, Hilton Head Island,  
on Gov. Haley's stance on proposed  
nuclear waste disposal plan**

**G**ov. Nikki Haley's forceful opposition to more toxic waste in South Carolina is well founded and much appreciated.

A private operator wants the state to undo a hard-fought compact reached long ago to stem the tide of nuclear waste brought into South Carolina.

Haley's stand is consistent with long-established policy. She correctly called the new proposal a "huge step backward."

"We don't sell our soul for jobs and money," Haley said recently. "I'm not willing to go in and take in nuclear waste that our kids and grandkids are going to have to deal with."

The 235-acre Barnwell Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility opened in 1971. Tons of radioactive trash from 39 states was buried there before South Carolina lawmakers started to push back about three decades later. It holds 28 million cubic feet of material that leaks radiation, and now the Utah-based company that operates the site wants to bring in material that is more highly contaminated from more states.

On the face of it, the proposal is absurd.

But EnergySolutions, operating in Barnwell as Chem-Nuclear, started a public relations campaign to undo the Atlantic Compact limitations put in place in 2000 under Gov. Jim Hodges after years of work.

The compact was agreed to by the state, Chem Nuclear and Barnwell leadership. As a result, the landfill was closed in 2008 to all states except South Carolina, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Haley's strong stand reflects the resolve it will take to keep South Carolina from being the nation's nuclear dumping ground.

EnergySolutions argues it must bring in higher-level waste from around the country to help pay for environmental management of the site.

"Using a pro-environmental argument for taking higher-level waste to pay for environmental degradation that's taken place there over time – that's pretty unique and creative," Hodges said.

Thankfully, Haley is not falling for it, and neither should the state legislature.

Press & Banner  
Abbeville, SC  
Circ. 6350  
From Page:  
1  
4/8/2015  
61045



# 148 + 131 Scott named County's 2015 'Ambassador'

**By Henry E. Green**

Jeremy Scott is the 2015 Abbeville County Ambassador for Economic Development.

Scott, who works with Pro Towels, was recently recognized in Columbia along with Economic Ambassadors from other South Carolina counties.

Jeremy went to Columbia on Thursday, April 2, for a ceremony in which he and Ambassadors from other counties were recognized by South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

Scott noted Tuesday that he received a plaque, and there was a reception following the ceremony. His wife and two sons accompanied him on the trip to Columbia.

Scott was chosen through

Abbeville County Development Services to represent Abbeville County.

Jeremy is a lifelong resident of Abbeville County, and he graduated from Abbeville High School in 1996.

At AHS "I played everything--football, baseball and basketball," he said.

After graduation, he attended USC-Spartanburg, on a baseball scholarship, and he pitched for the Rifles.

He suffered an injury during practice. "In my sophomore year I threw out my elbow," he said. The injury required Tommy John surgery, and Jeremy realized at this point that baseball was not in his future.

He left college and returned to Abbeville, and began working at Pro Towel in 1998. "I have done

pretty much every job in the facility over the years," he said.

Today, he is the vice president of operations, overseeing "our East Coast and West Coast facilities," he said.

Pro Towels has its headquarters in Pittsburgh, and is engaged in manufacturing towels for the "promotional product injury."

The Abbeville facility employs 125 people. It is one of two Pro Towels plants, with the other one located in Camarillo, CAL.

"Industry is important to me," he said. His parents and grandparents were active in the mills around Abbeville their entire lives.

"To see it coming back is a big motivator for me," he said.

Title: **Ex-Duke Energy exec chosen as next leader**  
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**S.C. DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

# Ex-Duke Energy exec chosen as next leader

**By SEANNA ADCOX**  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A former Duke Energy executive was chosen Friday as the next leader of South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The department's governing board voted unanimously to select Catherine Heigel, who was president of the utility's South Carolina operations from March 2010 to June 2012. She is now an attorney with Elliot Davis Decosimo in Greenville, where she's been since August 2013.

Heigel is a board member of the Original Six Foundation, Gov. Nikki Haley's nonprofit organization, and a former trustee of South Carolina's chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

The vote comes two months after Haley picked longtime friend Eleanor Kitzman to head the agency. Kitzman withdrew amid tough questioning from senators concerning her relationship with Haley and how she got the job, particularly because she lacked experience in either health care or environmental matters. The Senate must confirm any nominee.

Kitzman, former director of the state's Insurance Depart-

ment, was the only candidate for the job after Haley gave her name to the board's chairman. Haley appoints the entire board.

The board took applications after Kitzman withdrew. Board Chairman Allen Amsler said Heigel was chosen from among 99 people who applied during a nationwide search. The agency did not release the names of the other finalists.

"With her strong background and leadership skills, we are confident in Heigel's ability to successfully continue the board's vision and propel the agency forward," Amsler said in a news release. "Heigel's expertise and knowledge in law and management will serve as valuable assets."

Heigel began working as an attorney for Duke Energy Corp. in 1997 and rose to become a special adviser to the chairman in February 2010. After leaving Duke Energy, she worked as a lawyer and executive vice president of American Transmission Co., a Wisconsin-based electric utility, according to her resume.

She received her bachelor's degree in international studies from the University of South Carolina and her law degree from Ohio State University.



Title: **Ex-energy executive picked to lead DHEC**  
 Author: BY THAD MOORE [tmoore@postandcourier.com](mailto:tmoore@postandcourier.com)  
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# Ex-energy executive picked to lead DHEC

BY THAD MOORE  
[tmoore@postandcourier.com](mailto:tmoore@postandcourier.com)

COLUMBIA — A former energy company executive has been tapped to be the next chief of South Carolina's agency overseeing health and environmental regulations.

Catherine Heigel, past president of Duke Energy South Carolina, was selected Friday to lead the Department of Health and Environmental Control, one of the state's largest agencies and one with wide-ranging responsibilities. DHEC monitors infectious diseases, gives food safety grades and enforces environmental laws.

Heigel was selected from a pool of 99 applicants for the job, which will pay about \$155,000 a year, an agency spokeswoman said. The agency's board voted unanimously to appoint her.

Her name now heads to the governor's office for approval and then to the state Senate for confirmation.

In a statement Heigel gave to the board, she said her experience with utilities gave her a deep familiarity with environmental regulations.

"The electric utility industry has a significant impact on the environment, and, accord-

ingly, is subject to substantial environmental regulation at both the state and federal level," Heigel wrote. "Throughout my career, I have had to address myriad issues flowing from this regulation."

Heigel, of Greenville, is general counsel of Elliott Davis Decosimo, one of the Southeast's largest accounting firms, and spent 11 years at Duke Energy, the nation's largest power company. She serves on the boards of state-owned power company Santee Cooper and Gov. Nikki Haley's charitable foundation, and was previously on the board of the Nature Conservancy's state chapter.

Heigel's selection by the DHEC board marks the latest chapter in the months-long saga of

of DHEC, the board named a successor, Eleanor Kitzman, a longtime friend of Haley.

Kitzman had run the state's Budget and Control Board and its Department of Insurance, but moved out of the state in 2011 to head up the Texas Department of Insurance, appointed by then-Gov. Rick Perry.

She left the job two years later after Democrats raised questions about her insurance industry ties and state senators in Texas refused to confirm her.

Earlier this year, she faced another tough confirmation fight.

This time, South Carolina senators asked about her ties to Haley and about the application and selection process. The DHEC board appointed her on Haley's recommendation, and an agency spokeswoman said they didn't consider other candidates.

While she awaited confirmation, Kitzman worked in a \$74-an-hour management position DHEC created for her.

Her appointment was op-

posed by environmental groups, including the Conservation Voters of South Carolina, and senators like Chip Campsen, R-Charleston, who chairs the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee. They criticized her lack of medical and environmental experience.

She was grilled on her first day of Senate hearings in February, as senators asked her about a fundraiser she'd attended for Haley and questioned whether her relationship with the governor helped her land the job



Heigel

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