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Ban sought on gifts for Glenn

Ex-counsel suggests policy to cover `regulated parties'

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A former general counsel for the Alabama Department of Environmental Management has requested that agency Director Trey Glenn be required to quit accepting gifts from companies the agency regulates.

"Since the Director apparently does not have the good judgment to avoid the appearance of impropriety, at its Aug. 24 meeting, the Commission should consider adoption of a policy forbidding the acceptance by the Director of gifts of any value from regulated parties and should insist that the Director adopt a similar policy for all ADEM employees," David Ludder wrote in a letter to the Environmental Management Commission. Ludder has gone into private practice as an environmental lawyer and, frequently, as a watchdog of ADEM.

Ludder said Tuesday he does not have a proposed ethics policy for ADEM drawn up, but would like to see the commission take action on its own.

In April, the Alabama Ethics Commission voted unanimously that Trey Glenn had violated the ethics law to obtain gifts and to get his job as director of ADEM. The Montgomery district attorney's office is now investigating the matter.

Earlier this month, he took his family to a Montgomery Biscuits baseball game on tickets from Alabama Power Co. and allowed the company to buy food and drinks. According to an Alabama Power letter to the Ethics Commission, the company estimates it spent \$310 in tickets, food and beverages on Glenn's family, based on the average spent on each person attending the game in the company's box that day.

An Ethics Commission official has said the outing appeared to be legal. Alabama's ethics law requires only that companies report the money spent on public officials or state employees if it tops \$250. It does not limit the gifts.

The law also requires that the hosts attend the event, and a lobbyist for Alabama Power and another employee were at the game.

Alabama Power and Glenn said his mother, Wetumpka Mayor Jo Glenn, was given six tickets, and other Wetumpka officials also were invited. Trey Glenn said he didn't know who bought the tickets until he got to the game.

Since then, Alabama Power and the ADEM director have refused to answer questions regarding whether the utility had previously given gifts to him.

Alabama Power issued a written statement: "We follow the law. Everything we've done with any public official that requires reporting, we report to the Alabama Ethics Commission."

Glenn, through an ADEM spokesman, has said he won't answer any further ethics-related questions.

Alabama Power has permits from ADEM to discharge pollution into the air, water and land. The state agency is charged with regulating its power plants and other facilities to ensure they are within pollution laws.

Efforts to reach the commission chairman and vice chairwoman were unsuccessful Tuesday. A spokesman for the department said Glenn had not seen Ludder's request.

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