



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Table Of Contents

Message From The Secretary.....	3
LDEQ gets two new Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratories	4-5
LDEQ introduces first all-electric car to vehicle fleet	6
Louisiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust allocations to date	7
Water quality is important to Louisiana	8-9
LDEQ’s Criminal Investigation Section enforces environmental laws	10-13
LDEQ Throughout The Year	14-15
Rescuing contaminated property is mission of LDEQ’s Brownfields Program	16-19
LDEQ remains diligent during unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic	20-22
2020 Louisiana Envirothon held at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens	23
LDEQ’s 2020 Environmental Leadership Program Awards canceled.....	24
Appendix	25-38





LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown

Message From The Secretary

It is hard to pick a place to begin when reviewing the 2020 fiscal year. Tropical storms? Five named storms made landfall in Louisiana, including three strong hurricanes (Laura, category 4; Delta, category 2; and Zeta, category 2. Two of those hurricanes impacted the Lake Charles area.

Covid-19? Somehow we have continued to operate through the pandemic. It has required some rethinking of the way we do things. For a while, all of our employees worked from home. Then when we entered a new phase, some of them came back to work. We instituted mask-wearing and social distancing rules as well as encouraged frequent hand washing. The agency partnered with the Louisiana Department of Corrections and industry sources to manufacture hand sanitizer when that commodity was in short supply. We took measures to limit the size of gatherings in our meeting spaces, and we limited elevator occupancy to four persons at a time.

We have, so far, been lightly touched by the virus. I will not be so overconfident as to assume that it will continue to be the case. More of our employees may be hit and be out sick or quarantined. In spite of it all, we have been able to meet our EPA grant commitments.

All of the storms have required a response from LDEQ. We stepped up and met those needs. After Hurricane Laura, the agency deployed two of our Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratories (MAML) to Lake Charles to conduct air quality (AQ) monitoring when our ambient air monitoring system lost power. The MAMLs provided real-time readings for key AQ constituents. Those monitoring results were immediately available on the LDEQ website. We also sent a MAML to Lake Charles to conduct air monitoring after Hurricane Delta, as a result of air monitoring stations going offline for a brief period. After Hurricane Zeta, when power was temporarily lost to several monitors in St. Bernard and Orleans Parishes, the agency deployed a MAML there for a few days until power was restored.

Assessments of storm damages are ongoing. As with any storm, these hurricanes produced some spills and sheens. Our personnel took to the air on the agency plane as soon as the storms passed to do aerial assessments. We immediately checked out any problems they saw. Fortunately, there were no major spills during these storms. The big thing has been debris. We have been overseeing the removal of thousands of tons of debris from destroyed buildings, residences and other structures. Additionally, trees were downed, and limbs were blown down in all areas affected by the storms. LDEQ moved to activate emergency debris staging sites as quickly as possible, and the processed debris continues to be routed to permitted disposal sites. Hurricane Laura generated a large amount of debris, while Hurricane Delta generated a smaller amount, mainly around New Orleans and southward.

Our people are top-notch and do superb work. They have been put to the test in 2020, and I have to say they have earned top grades. I'm proud of each of them and the way they respond to challenges. They are the embodiment of the agency's core values. Those values are:

- Make technically sound decisions rooted in science
- Conduct ourselves honestly and ethically
- Strive for continuous improvement
- Be accountable for our work
- Manage our resources effectively and efficiently to deliver value to the public
- Sustain our commitment to diversity
- We will be fair in all of our dealings with the public, industry and persons inside and outside the agency.

I hope for a better year in 2021, but no matter what it brings, I feel confident LDEQ will be ready to respond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Carr Brown". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.



Two MAMLs are the latest addition to LDEQ's air monitoring mission.

LDEQ gets two new Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratories

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown announced in November 2019 that the agency had accepted delivery of two new Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MAML) vehicles. “LDEQ’s existing MAML is still an effective resource, but it is aging,” Brown said.

The new MAMLs joined the previous one that LDEQ received in December 2006. The original MAML was a technical build-out of an outfitted 2006 Winnebago and cost approximately \$400,000. It has been deployed throughout the state and has been an asset to LDEQ’s environmental work. The new MAMLs carry a \$1.4 million price tag for one of the vehicles and \$1.5 million for the second, both of which were covered by settlements of civil penalties, said Lourdes Iturralde, LDEQ Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Compliance.

“These new MAMLs will greatly enhance LDEQ’s ability to respond to air quality issues across Louisiana and will allow us to sample and analyze air quality data on-site and in real time,” Brown said.

The vehicles are mounted on a 35-foot truck chassis with a custom body to house equipment, supplies and work gear with benches. The original MAML remains active in a support role, said Bob Bailey, Environmental Scientist Manager in the Office of Environmental Assessment.

“They have all the bells and whistles – gas chromatograph, reduced sulfur compounds analyzer, methane/non-methane analyzer, and more,” said Roger Gingles, LDEQ Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Assessment. “They have all the capabilities of the original MAML, testing for all criteria pollutants -- ground-level ozone, particle pollution, lead, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide, as well as hydrogen sulfide, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), methane, ammonia, speciated reduced sulfur compounds, speciated hydrocarbons and atmospheric mercury.”

The new MAMLs have an awning and exterior lighting to facilitate night work and are also capable of collecting meteorological data. Additionally, one of the new MAMLs is equipped for water analysis, Bailey said. LDEQ personnel are excited to have these new, fully functional assets in their work to protect the health and environment of Louisiana, he said. “We will even have them all out at the same time if it is necessary,” Bailey said.

Continued on Page 5

For example, in the wake of Hurricane Laura, the LDEQ deployed two MAMLs and staff to Calcasieu Parish to support air monitoring efforts in the area. The monitoring data from the MAMLs was available, real-time on the LDEQ website while power was being restored to the stationary monitoring sites. Prior to that, one of the new MAMLs was present in New Orleans for the removal of cranes from the Hard Rock collapse site. And not to be diminished, the first MAML has been used all over the state and was even sent to Arkansas to assist that state in air monitoring needs.

The Department's first priority for the MAMLs is to provide a more proactive approach to improving Louisiana's Air Quality by ensuring compliance with our Ambient Air Standards and identifying areas of concern before any serious problems arise. However, other Air Quality issues that the MAMLs will address include:

- Air Monitoring Support and Emergency Response following accidents, natural disasters, etc.
- Investigation of specific areas based on past and present air pollution complaints and concerns
- Air Monitoring studies to investigate further any exceedances of Louisiana or Federal Air Quality Standards measured by the statewide Ambient Monitoring Network
- Conduct other air quality investigations as ordered by the LDEQ Secretary

The MAML team will consist of eight environmental scientists. The team presently consists of seven people: William Felicien, Bradley Gauthier, David Wagenecht, Erin Lombard, Thomas Lee, Randy Creighton and Miranda Wimmer. The team has undergone extensive training and participated in specialized training from Quantum Analytics and Agilent on the gas chromatographic system.

Learn more at <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/mobile-air-monitoring-lab>.

MAML Fiscal Year Activities

All MAML activity for the Fiscal year were planned missions:

June 24, 2019

Cornerstone Waste and Recycling in Shreveport, LA

June 24, 2019

2R Construction in Shreveport, LA

September 16, 2019

Ronaldson Field Landfill in Baton Rouge, LA

September 30, 2019

River Ridge, LA in Jefferson Parish

October 2, 2019:

Avondale, LA in Jefferson Parish

October 17, 2019

Hard Rock Hotel in New Orleans, LA

December 10, 2019:

Ronaldson Field Landfill in Baton Rouge, LA

December 16, 2019

River Ridge, LA in Jefferson Parish

December 18, 2019

Waggaman, LA in Jefferson Parish

March 5, 2020

Ronaldson Field Landfill

The only deployment by one of the new MAMLs was the March 5, 2020 to Ronaldson Field Landfill.



State-of-the-art equipment in the MAMLs will be a benefit to the air monitoring process.



MAML team poses in front of the new MAMLs.

LDEQ introduces first all-electric car to vehicle fleet

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has expanded its vehicle fleet to include its first electric vehicle. With the electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure added to the Galvez Parking garage earlier this year, LDEQ continued to work toward energy-efficient investments with the procurement of a Chevrolet Bolt EV. The Bolt EV is an affordable all-electric car that offers an EPA estimated 259 miles of range on a single charge, nearly 10% more than previous model years.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown stands with LDEQ's new Chevrolet Bolt EV.

“We believe electric vehicles (EVs) are the future,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Brown said. “LDEQ will always be a leader and set the example in ways to conserve and protect the environment. Using EVs is one way to do this. EV technology is becoming more and more affordable and accessible. We’ve added the Bolt to our fleet as an initial investment, but see many more additions in the future.”

Electric cars are an appealing option in a world where reducing carbon emissions and pollution is a growing concern. The major benefit of EVs is the contribution they make toward improving air quality. EVs can also reduce emissions that degrade air quality, improving public health and reducing environmental damage.

Another draw for many people who decide to go electric is that EVs are often considered one of the most sustainable forms of transportation. Unlike hybrid vehicles or gas-powered cars, EVs run solely on electric power. Depending on how that electric power is produced, your EV can be run 100% on sustainable, renewable resources. For example, charging your EV on renewable energy such as solar minimizes emissions even more.

Currently, the LDEQ and partner agencies are working on making EV charging across the state much more accessible through the addition of EV charging infrastructure along the Alternative Fuels Corridors in Louisiana via the Volkswagen Settlement. The interstates initially making up the Alternative Fuels Corridors in Louisiana include I-10, I-12, I-20 and I-49.

While the federal requirement allowing the EV logo to be placed on the signs has yet to be met, there are already dozens of charging stations throughout the state, including in the downtown Baton Rouge area, in New Orleans and at retail centers such as Tanger Outlets, Whole Foods and selected hotels. To add to the ease of charging, most electric vehicles come with a charging app that can be downloaded onto your smartphone to find charging stations along the way.

LDEQ received the car in January, and after a makeover via a custom wrap, it hit the road. Be sure to look for us. Learn more about the efforts to expand EV in Louisiana at <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/louisiana-volkswagenenvironmental-mitigation-trust>.

Louisiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust allocations to date

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) solicited proposed project applications for the Louisiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust three times with the third application window completed Oct. 1, 2019. Proposed projects were solicited for consideration by LDEQ, the Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) and the Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD), and many have been awarded over the past year.

To date, Louisiana has awarded \$11,917,845 to 16 Parish School Boards who applied for funding under the VW Environmental Mitigation Settlement. Approximately 156 of the 351 buses receiving funding are propane or compressed natural gas (CNG) powered. Additionally, LDOTD's replacement of old diesel equipment and vehicles is being paid for with \$6,616,268 in VW Funding.

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry was awarded funding for proposed projects that include replacing seven vehicles paid for with \$693,791 in funding. The Town of Hornbeck was awarded \$75,000 to replace an old diesel dump truck with a clean-burning CNG-powered emergency roadside nurse dump truck that will be used to refuel other CNG vehicles. \$664,000 has been awarded to 10 cities, towns and universities to purchase 24 Dual Port Level II Electric Car Chargers, seven DCF Fast Chargers and an electric charger to charge a city bus.

In 2017, Volkswagen (VW) pleaded guilty to charges that the company had installed software in its model year 2009-2016 2.0-liter and 3.0-liter diesel cars which circumvented Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emissions standards using a "defeat device." These vehicles emit up to 40 times more pollution than emissions standards allow in the form of nitrogen oxides (NOx), a pollutant that harms public health and contributes to ozone or smog formation.

A federal court in California approved the Volkswagen settlement on Oct. 25, 2016. Volkswagen is required to pay \$2.9 billion into an environmental mitigation trust fund to be shared among the states and tribes. Louisiana received more than \$19 million over the past three years from this settlement. The money has been used to offset the excess air pollution caused by VW's actions.

Three Louisiana state agencies were designated to receive equal shares of the fund: LDEQ, LDNR and LDOTD. These agencies were tasked with allocating the VW Mitigation Trust funds. LDEQ was designated the Lead Agency by the Office of Gov. John Bel Edwards.

The agencies proposed to pool their funds to target the replacement of eligible diesel school buses. The bus replacement program offers partial funding to school districts to replace older diesel buses with electric, alternative fuel or high-efficiency diesel vehicles. However, government and non-government organizations, alike, were also eligible for consideration.

To learn more about the VW Environmental Mitigation Settlement, visit <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/louisiana-volkswagenenvironmental-mitigation-trust>.



Louisiana's Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust is funding alternative fuel school buses to help improve air quality in Louisiana.

Water quality is important to Louisiana

Water is the life-blood of Louisiana, known as the Sportsman's Paradise. We have an abundance of water in our rivers, bayous, lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. Good water quality is vital to Louisiana's environment, economy and people. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is dedicated to protecting this valuable asset and has programs and employees delegated to that end.

LDEQ oversees the Mercury Initiative, the Drinking Water Protection Program, the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) section with the New Vision program, water surveys, Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention, the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund, aquifer protection, reviewing and managing online Network Discharge Monitoring Reports (known as NetDMR) in Permitting, conducting investigations when there are spills that affect the waters of the state, and oversight of the Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program. These initiatives address different water protection efforts throughout Louisiana. The department also works in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health on swimming and fishing advisories and various water quality and water protection efforts.



LDEQ Environmental Scientists Chad Keith (l) and Eric Garner measure the flow rate and verify the GPS location information at a water sampling point in a waterway in Tangipahoa Parish.

Water quality in Louisiana is managed under two broad areas: surface water and groundwater. The LDEQ Aquifer Sampling and Assessment Program seeks to protect the quality of all waters found in underground aquifers as well as the surface water sources of that groundwater. In comparison, the LDEQ Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program seeks to protect the surface water quality of all waters of the state, including rivers, streams, bayous, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, estuaries and many other types of surface water. While these two areas are broad, the Water Quality Division of LDEQ is broken down into many more programs than just the two listed. There are programs with specific focuses and expertise aimed at addressing the various water quality issues faced by the state, and all equally important.

Additionally, there are tools for the public to access water quality information collected throughout the state via these programs, including:

1. The Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Data portal can be viewed at <https://waterdata.deq.louisiana.gov>.
2. The currently available 2018 Louisiana Water Quality Inventory: Integrated Report (305(b)/303(d)). Found at <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/water-quality-integrated-report-305b303d>.
3. Fishing consumption and swimming advisories can be viewed at <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/fishing-consumption-and-swimming-advisories>.
4. The online fishing and swimming advisory map is now available as an application (app) for smartphones as well. The new app, released July 11, 2019, is available through Google Play and the Apple Store by entering the search term: LA Fish Advisories.

When it comes to water quality, everyone has an important role to play – from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state and local governments, all the way down to private water suppliers and home and business owners. Most people remain unaware of the little ways they contribute to the water quality in their area or how water quality directly affects them. These are some things that individuals can do to be part of the solution:

- **Be Aware** — Learn about water quality in your area and water pollution issues. Join LDEQ's EnviroSchool for a webinar when topics are on Water Quality in Louisiana and/or Onsite Sewerage System Maintenance, Health and the Environment. Both webinars are free to the public. Please look for water quality webinars and register at <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/form/enviroschool>.

Continued on Page 9

- **Get Involved** — Reduce your household's water usage by not wasting water while washing dishes, showering, or brushing your teeth. Pick up trash and pet waste at home to avoid water pollution.
- **Volunteer** — Volunteer in a local cleanup/restoration project. Find ways that you can help with the water crisis locally, or start your own efforts.

It is important to examine what can be done at home and in the community to protect our water sources. Water pollution is a major problem, and only growing. LDEQ hopes you will join us in raising awareness, reducing pollution and positively impacting local water quality by celebrating Water Quality Month next month.

To learn more about Water Quality in Louisiana and the programs that support it, visit <https://deq.louisiana.gov/subhome/water>.

The Network Discharge Monitoring Report (NetDMR) electronic reporting system is used for the receipt of discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.

Federal regulations require stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity to be covered under NPDES permits.

Benefits of NetDMR

- Reduces paperwork burden
- Improves data quality by automatically error-checking and validating data prior to submission
- Improves timeliness and accessibility of data
- Provides instant confirmation of submission
- Allows for revisions of DMRs to be submitted electronically
- Allows for electronic submittal of attachments and supplemental documentation

LDEQ collects surface water quality data in its Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program as well as for other projects in water bodies across the state. Ambient water quality data, as well as other water project data, collected by LDEQ is available by accessing the LDEQ Web Portal.

Or for more information on NetDMR, go to <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/netdmr> and for FAQ's about NetDMR go to <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/faq/category/26>.

Prevent negative water quality impacts at home

- **Try not to use antibacterial soaps or cleaning products.** Regular soap and water will do the trick. Much of the antibacterial soaps contain a registered pesticide that is known to harm marine life.
- **Do not flush unwanted or out-of-date medications down the toilet or drain.**
- **Turn off the faucet when you brush your teeth and in between rinsing dishes and fruits and vegetables.**
- **Choose nontoxic household products when possible.**
- **Pick up after pets.** Animal waste contains harmful organisms like *E. coli*, salmonella, and giardia. Animals waste is also high in nitrogen, which in excess can deplete the oxygen in the water, making it harmful for fish and other underwater plants.
- **If you have a private well, make sure it is tested and cleaned regularly.** There can be bacteria build up in wells.
- **Read your local water quality report, so you know what the water quality is in your area.**
- **Repair leaky faucets.** Make certain all hoses have shut-off nozzles to prevent leaks and unnecessary water use.
- **If you wash your car, do so over grass or gravel to prevent contaminated water from going directly into our waterways.** Professional car washes are the better option as they are required to drain into sewer systems so that wastewater plants can treat the water before it is re-used.
- **Sweep driveways, sidewalks, gutters and patios instead of hosing them down.**
- **Do not pour anything other than water down storm sewers.**
- **Avoid using pesticides or chemical fertilizers.**
- **Install cisterns and rain barrels to collect water for use on your lawn and gardening.**
- **Mow grassy areas responsibly and only as necessary.**
- **Plant native trees, shrubs and grasses.**
- **Group plants according to their water needs; use drought-tolerant plants.**
- **Irrigate and water responsibly.** If using spray irrigation, do not water the lawn except in the cool morning to avoid evaporation. Use drip irrigation, if possible, so water goes directly to the roots of the plants.

LDEQ's Criminal Investigation Section enforces environmental laws

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is to protect human health and the environment, with the enforcement of the state's environmental laws led by LDEQ's Criminal Investigation Section (CIS). The section continually works in conjunction with local, parish, state and federal law enforcement, along with districts attorney throughout all 64 parishes, to investigate environmental crimes.

CIS's objective is to have a cleanup initiated in any instance where an illegal discharge, disposal and/or emission has occurred. Cleanups must begin as soon as possible so that the environmental damage is stopped and no further harm to the soil, water and/or air occurs. Once an illegal discharge, disposal and/or emission is discovered, CIS will work diligently to determine the responsible party so that cleanup can quickly begin without involving taxpayer dollars. CIS works closely with law enforcement partners and legal counsel to seek aggressive prosecution against any person or business who decides to break health and environmental laws.

Many of the CIS investigations are related to illegal disposal, which is alarming for a state known as the Sportsman's Paradise. Typically, this is in the form of solid waste being dumped on private or public lands or the discharge of hazardous chemicals into the state's soil or waters.

During the fiscal year, investigations conducted by CIS have resulted in several successful cleanup actions. The following are a few examples of those efforts:

August 2019 – St. Landry illegal waste tire dumping. CIS identified the responsible party for the unlawful dumping of approximately 732 waste tires. The tires were recovered and properly disposed of by the responsible party.

January 2020 - Baton Rouge oil spill. The responsible party was identified by CIS. LDEQ Emergency Response worked with the responsible party to coordinate cleanup and remediate the site of an oil spill. The discharge was found to be the result of equipment malfunction.

February 2020 – Jeanerette solid waste disposal. A complaint of illegal dumping of solid waste was received, and CIS subsequently identified the responsible party. The party recovered and properly disposed of the solid waste.

March 2020 - Port Allen illegal waste tire dumping. A responsible party identified by CIS recovered and properly disposed of approximately 175 waste tires that had been illegally dumped on private property. The responsible party paid a third party to properly dispose of the tires within an agreed time.

March 2020 - New Iberia sewage discharge. A responsible party identified by CIS corrected a sewage pond from discharging on private land. CIS communicated with the responsible party regarding the discharge, and a repair levee was built along the pond within an agreed time.

Other environmentally related crimes involve misrepresentations of credentials on official documentation or the filing of false public records with the department. Anyone engaging in illegal dumping, discharge and emissions does so to the blatant disregard of the state's citizens. These illegal activities impact our soil, air and water and disrupt not only the flora and fauna but human health. While breaking environmental laws puts human health at risk, it destroys the ecosystem within our Sportsman's Paradise.

When a responsible party refuses to initiate a cleanup, an investigation by CIS may lead to criminal prosecution, which can result in fines, probation and even jail time, depending on the gravity of the offense.

The practice of illegal disposal continues to be the largest environmental problem in the state. The following before and after photos depict the variety of successful cleanup efforts:

Continued on Page 11



BEFORE



AFTER

CIS investigation of illegally dumped waste tires at a site in Opelousas resulted in an immediate cleanup by the responsible party.



BEFORE



AFTER

Sewage in New Iberia was remediated by the responsible party during an investigation by CIS.



BEFORE



AFTER

As a result of a CIS investigation, approximately 175 waste tires illegally dumped in Port Allen were recovered and properly disposed of by the responsible party.

Below highlights some of the cases investigated by CIS from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020:

January 2020 – Louisiana business owner pleads guilty to oil spill violations

An oil production company based in Lafayette Parish and its president pleaded guilty to violations stemming from an oil spill that occurred in 2016. In March 2018, the company and its president were indicted for violations of the Louisiana's Pollutant Discharge Elimination System related to an oil spill from a tank at an oil production facility in Iberville Parish.

The Louisiana Environmental Crimes Task Force comprising agents from the U.S. EPA's Criminal Investigation Division, LDEQ's Criminal Investigation Section, Louisiana State Police and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries conducted the investigation with assistance from the Iberville Sheriff and Fire Departments. A remediation contractor subsequently undertook a cleanup.

During sentencing at the 18th Judicial District Court in January 2020, the company pleaded guilty to a felony of knowingly violating the provisions of Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Specifically for failing to notify LDEQ and other appropriate agencies of the discharge. The company was ordered to pay the statutory maximum fine of \$50,000.

The company's president pleaded guilty to a negligent violation of provisions of Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, specifically for discharging a pollutant into the state's waters without a permit. The president agreed to pay LDEQ \$5,000 for its investigation costs and \$5,000 to the Louisiana State Police Hazardous Materials Fund. He was also sentenced to two years of probation.

January 2020 – Baton Rouge man arrested for illegal discharge and disposal, criminal damage

Investigators with CID arrested a Baton Rouge property owner for felony illegal discharges of pollutants to waters of the state, felony illegal disposal of substance that endangers or that could endanger human health, and simple criminal damage to property.

The property owner allegedly purchased a warehouse located in an industrial area of Baton Rouge in 2017. In 2019, LDEQ Emergency Response personnel, along with members of the Baton Rouge Fire Department, responded to an odor complaint at the warehouse location. Witnesses at the scene described several men, employed by the property owner, dumping drums and containers outside of the warehouse. Some of the liquid substances flowed into a nearby ditch and produced odors.

LDEQ Emergency Response personnel, along with members of the Baton Rouge Fire Department, monitored the area for hydrogen sulfide and found elevated readings of the toxic gas throughout the area during the incident. As a result, the Baton Rouge Police Department closed the area to all traffic for several days after the incident.

The City-Parish of East Baton Rouge paid more than \$300,000 for remediation of the area.

"Illegal dumping of wastes into the state's waters will not be tolerated, and LDEQ will continue working with our local, state and federal law enforcement partners to prosecute violators to the fullest extent of the law," LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said.

If convicted of the crime of knowingly illegally disposing of a substance that endangers or could endanger human health, the property owner faces possible imprisonment for not more than ten years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$100,000, or both.

If convicted of knowingly illegally disposing pollutants to waters of the state, the property owner faces possible imprisonment for not more than three years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$50,000. If convicted of simple criminal damage to property, he faces possible imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than 10 years, or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

The case is currently under review by the East Baton Rouge District Attorney's office.

Continued on Page 13

September 2019 – Orleans Parish disposal contractor arrested for illegal dumping in New Orleans East

Investigators with CIS arrested an Orleans Parish man on multiple counts of violating environmental laws as well as criminal trespassing.

The man was charged with one felony count of dumping solid waste into waters of the state, two misdemeanor counts of illegally disposing of solid waste and 12 misdemeanor counts of criminal trespassing.

In 2019, CIS received complaints about illegal dumping occurring in New Orleans East. CIS investigators, with assistance from the Louisiana State Police, subsequently conducted aerial surveillance of the dumpsite. Investigation revealed that the man was dumping construction and demolition debris on the ground and in wetland areas.



Illegally dumping and burning waste tires is a criminal offense.

Further investigation by CIS consisted of visiting the properties and confirming the observations made through aerial surveillance. CIS investigators learned that the man did not have permission from the landowners of adjacent properties to conduct disposal activities or to be present on these properties.

“We are not going to tolerate blatant disregard of Louisiana’s laws and environment,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said. “We will catch you if you engage in this type of criminal activity, and you can count on us pursuing charges and sending you to jail.” Dr. Brown pointed to the Louisiana State Police’s role in the arrest as an example of interagency cooperation to protect the state’s environment. “We appreciate the personnel and equipment they provided to assist our surveillance operation,” he said.

If convicted of illegally dumping solid waste into the state’s waters, the man could be fined not less than \$5,000 and up to \$50,000 and would be subject to serve up to 3 years in prison or both. If convicted of illegally disposing of solid waste, for each count, he could be fined up to \$25,000 and be subject to serve up to a year in prison, or both. Finally, if convicted of criminal trespassing, for each count, he could be fined not less than \$100 and up to \$500 and be subject to serve up to 30 days in prison or both, according to LDEQ.

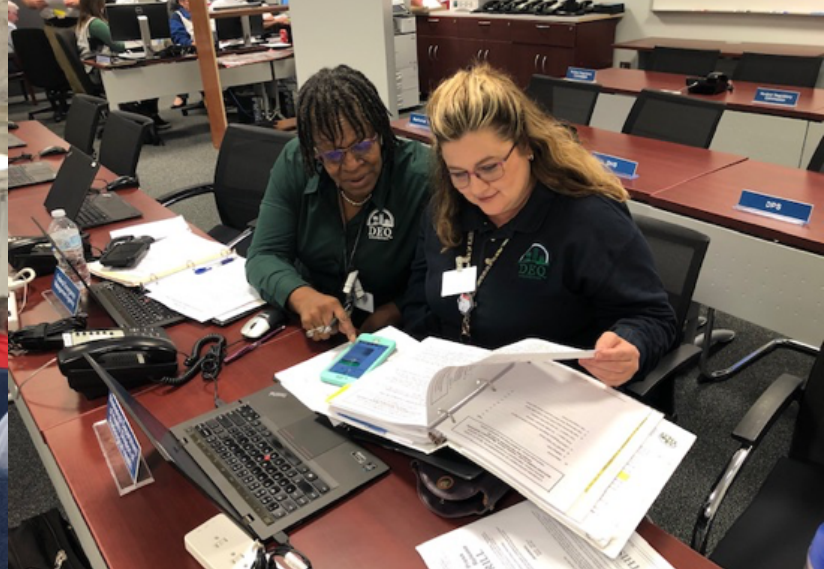
The criminal case is pending.

Note: The arrests detailed herein do not constitute guilt in a criminal case. All evidence compiled during the investigation is presented to the area prosecutors who determine if formal charges are warranted.

LDEQ asks that everyone be a proud, active watchdog of their community and their state. When possible, safely and carefully photograph, document and report any incidence of illegal or environmentally detrimental activity immediately to LDEQ.

Anyone with knowledge of any spills, releases, odors, open burning, waste tire burning or dumping, fish kills, illegal disposals or discharges and any other types of environmental incidents should contact the department immediately at 225-219-3640 or toll-free 1-888-763-5424. You may also report violations through the online incident reporting form: <http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/file-a-complaint-report-an-incident>.

All inquiries are investigated, and if circumstances dictate, appropriate legal action will be taken.



LDEQ THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



2019 – 2020

Disclaimer: All photos featured were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Workers at the groundbreaking ceremony in front of the main entrance of the McDonogh No. 19 School site on March 9, 2020.

Rescuing contaminated property is mission of LDEQ's Brownfields Program

LDEQ offers programs to help reclaim contaminated land and buildings and improve the environment. The Brownfields Program is one of the proactive programs and has been successful.

What is a brownfield? Brownfield sites are vacant and underutilized properties where actual or suspected environmental issues are a barrier to redevelopment. Under the Office of Environmental Assessment, Remediation Division, LDEQ's Brownfields Program partners federal, state and local resources to facilitate the reuse of brownfield sites. Addressing potential environmental issues can be intimidating, and financial and regulatory hurdles can create barriers to the redevelopment or expanded use of these sites. LDEQ's Brownfields Program helps convert these properties from community liabilities into community assets. The Brownfields Program staff assists local governments and communities navigate the environmental process from investigation to cleanup and redevelopment.

Examples of brownfield sites include (but are not limited to):

- Abandoned gas stations
- Vacant historic buildings (commercial structures, schools, government buildings, etc.)
- Abandoned or underutilized industrial complexes
- Vacant lots in previously developed areas

There are many benefits that come with addressing brownfield sites to facilitate their reuse. For LDEQ, this program helps address legacy contamination at abandoned sites more expediently. Liability protection for non-responsible parties provides an incentive for developers to repurpose brownfield sites. Communities benefit by returning properties to the tax rolls and increasing the tax base, creating spaces for community use, adding jobs (during the cleanup and construction phase and after the redevelopment is complete), and reducing maintenance costs by utilizing existing infrastructure such as roads, sewer systems, and water lines. Reusing Brownfield sites also reduces blight in communities and residents' risk of exposure

Continued on Page 17

to environmental contamination. For developers, Brownfield properties may be eligible for additional tax credits/ financial incentives and are often in key locations.

LDEQ partners closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Brownfield and Land Revitalization Program as well as local brownfields programs throughout the state to maximize the impact of EPA Brownfield funding.

The EPA's Brownfield and Land Revitalization Program provides technical assistance, case studies, and funding to help facilitate the reuse of brownfields sites and incorporate resiliency into the new development. Additional information on EPA's Brownfield and Land Revitalization Program can be found at www.epa.gov/brownfields and www.epa.gov/land-revitalization. Louisiana is part of EPA Region 6. Information on EPA Region 6's Brownfield Program can be found at www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-texas-new-mexico-oklahoma-arkansas-and-louisiana.

Follow the link to meet LDEQ's Brownfield team: <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/news/meet-ldeqs-brownfield-team>.

One of three Brownfield sites where remediation has been completed or is in progress is a project at the Former McDonogh No. 19 School site, 5909 St. Claude Ave. in New Orleans.

According to the National Park Service, "McDonogh 19 Elementary School, built in 1929, is a three-story stucco building designed by Edgar Angelo Christy in the Italian Renaissance Revival. It takes up one city block in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans. It has not been altered since construction and retains many original features on the exterior and interior and has a high degree of historic integrity. Because of its high degree of integrity, it is easily recognizable to the three young girls, Leona Tate, Tessie Prevost and Gail Etienne, who integrated the school in the fall of 1960."

The nonprofit Leona Tate Foundation for Change partnered with Alembic Community Development to purchase the site from the Orleans Parish School Board and is in the process of converting it into a Civil Rights educational/interpretive center to promote inter-racial discussions and understanding about racial equity and senior, low-income housing focused on supporting Lower 9th ward residents.

LDEQ provided funding (\$150,000) for lead and asbestos abatement on the 1.38-acre site. New Orleans' Regional Planning Commission (RPC) Brownfield Program provided Phase I and II assessments and developed the cleanup plan. Jennifer Schatzle, an LDEQ environmental scientist, provided oversight under the LDEQ's Brownfields Program.

Redevelopment is underway with the help of \$15 million in leveraged funding. Since most brownfields projects require additional resources, those funds are referred to as leveraged funding. Leveraged funding is investing brownfield dollars to support the assessment and/or cleanup of a site resulting in additional investment in the community through leveraging. This can be the purchase price of the property, additional funding contributed by a local entity and/or the developer to complete the assessment and cleanup of a site and the costs associated with putting the site back into productive use, such as renovating a building or creating park space.

Additional websites with more info:

<https://mymodernmet.com/leona-tate-tep-center>

https://www.nola.com/news/article_c9bf8746-6241-11ea-91ec-9f70a64d5993.html

<https://www.leonatafoundation.org>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McDonogh_Three

Another Brownfield Project in progress is the Old Federal Courthouse Complex/Downtown Lafayette Civic Center in the Historic District, which consists of a former administrative building at 731 Jefferson, the former Rosa Parks Federal Courthouse at 705 Jefferson, and the former Acadiana Arts building at 704 Lee Ave. in Lafayette.

This 1.75-acre project is being completed again with a partnership between LDEQ, Acadiana Planning Commission, South Central Planning and Development Commission's Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund. Leveraged funding of \$17.2 million was procured. An LDEQ 128(a) grant to the Acadiana Planning Commission for environmental assessment work provided \$74,859, and the work was completed by Dec. 30, 2019. A 128 grant refers to Section 128(a) of the Comprehensive



Former Federal Building in Lafayette



Interior photos from the federal building before remediation was started.

Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), which authorizes a non-competitive grant program through EPA to establish and enhance state and tribal brownfield programs. In general terms, it is the primary EPA grant that funds LDEQ's Brownfields Program and the Voluntary Remediation Program.

The finished project will provide the redevelopment of former federal buildings into a mixed-use development, part of the city's efforts to revitalize downtown Lafayette.

Websites with more info:

<https://developinglafayette.com/wp/update-on-the-old-federal-courthouse-in-downtown-lafayette>

<http://lptfa.org/portfolio-posts/u-s-federal-courthouse>

Downtown Lafayette Civic Center Historic District: <https://www.crt.state.la.us/dataprojectsVS/NRHP/PublicForms/ViewProperty/1488>

Another Project underway is Shreveport Common in Shreveport. Its newest addition, Caddo Common, is a 2.4-acre green space in downtown Shreveport in the middle of the project area.

Caddo Common consists of a historic nine-block blighted area being revitalized into a creative cultural community. Nestled in the 800 block of Texas Avenue in Shreveport, it is the first downtown urban greenspace in the area and marks the cornerstone for redeveloping the nine-block area. The park opened Nov. 2, 2019, with a large "FriendsWithYou" Rainbow City parade, which ended at the new Caddo Common park. Caddo Common will provide a much needed green space where citizens may rest and recreate.

Many pieces have to come together, and a lot of money has been invested in order to create the greenspace project. It began with the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) conducted by Shreveport Parks and Recreation in 2012, at a cost of \$4,300. In 2014, voluntary remediation program investigation funding by the LDEQ Brownfields Program in the amount of \$92,887 was completed. Funding from the city of Shreveport Park Capital Project in the amount of \$149,307 helped with cleanup costs. Phase I section was funded by the city of Shreveport with Economic Development funds for \$1.2 million and Brownfield remediation grant dollars. Currently, \$51 million is the total invested in the area to date; \$33 million of that is by private stakeholders, developers and property owners. For Phase II, the Caddo Parish Commission gave one million dollars in matching funds to match one million dollars of private donations, big and small.

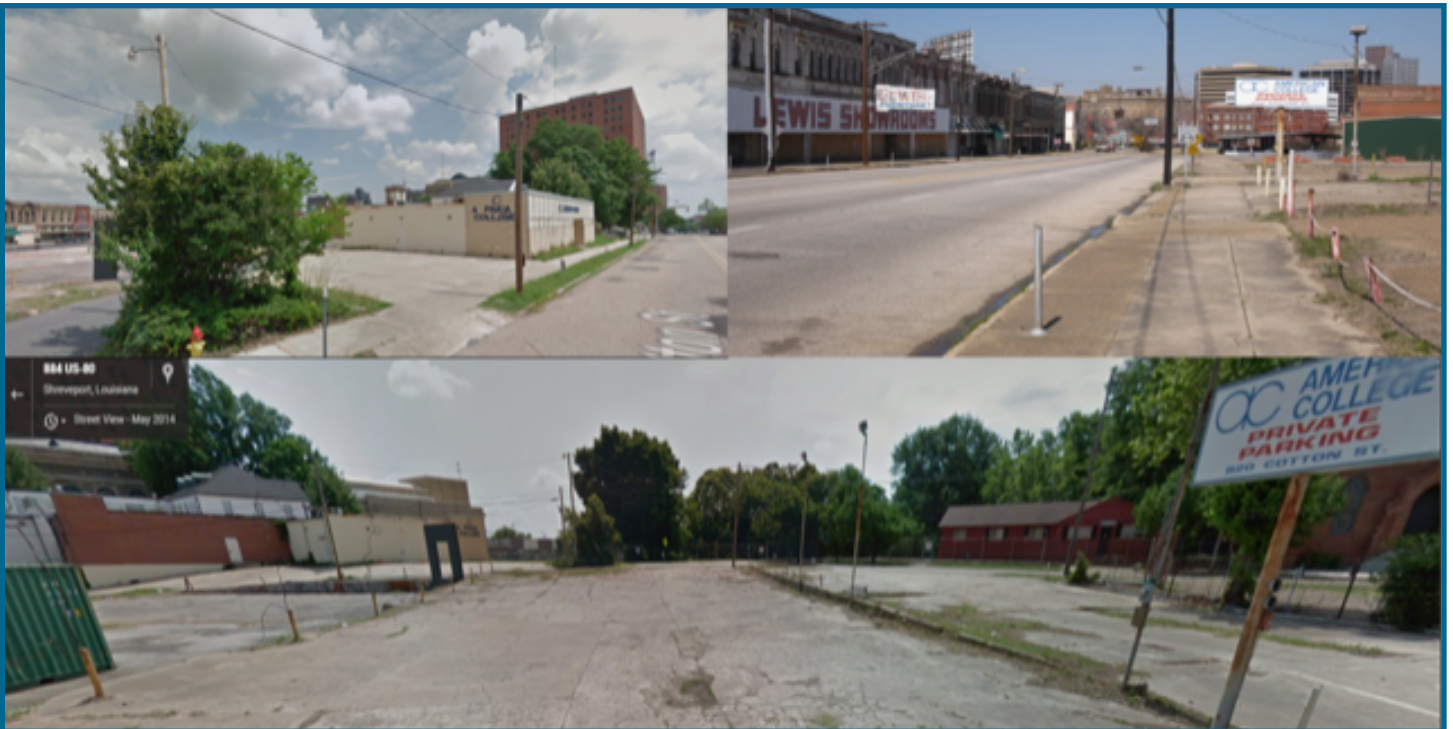
"The first bulldozer in what is now the park was the signal property owners and developers were waiting for to start the risky and challenging restoration of historic properties," said Wendy Bencoter, executive director of Shreveport Common. "Today, 26 preservation and redevelopment construction projects have been completed in the nine-block area, and nine properties are currently under construction."

Continued on Page 19

“The public/private partnership to complete the Phase II amenities, such as the outdoor performance pavilion and food truck court with artist-trees, has motivated even more interest in creating mixed use, mixed income residential, artist studios, makerspaces and marketplaces. Fourteen additional properties are currently in predevelopment,” Bencotter said.

The Shreveport Common project area is home to eight Historic National Registry properties and several State-listed endangered buildings. This area had been a diverse cultural and entrepreneurial mecca since the 1920s. In the 1950s, this is where Hank Williams, Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley got their start on the KWKH Louisiana Hayride. By 2010, the population had decreased 75% from 8,000, leaving 64% of the remaining historic buildings empty. Most residents lived in transitional housing or high-density, low-income housing.

What’s Different? Today, over 30 public/private partners are transforming the area following a year-long creative placemaking vision planning process. This transformation is being built on the authenticity of the area, creativity, sustainability and for the community. There will be no displacement to the current neighbors – instead, they will remain as an integral part of the revitalization.



Caddo Common, part of the Shreveport Common project, before the revitalization of 2.4 acres into green space.



Caddo Common after the renovation as the first downtown greenspace in Shreveport.



The park opened Nov. 2nd with a large “FriendsWithYou” Rainbow City parade, which ended at the new Caddo Common Park.

LDEQ remains diligent during unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic



The mixing of the hand sanitizer occurs in a 700-gallon poly tank at Prison Enterprises.

In early March 2020, the Louisiana Environmental Health Association (LEHA), in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), held a lunch and learn event at LDEQ headquarters regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) in an effort to get in front of a virus that would quickly be on Louisiana's doorstep.

According to Coronavirus.gov, the disease was first detected in China and named "SARS-CoV-2," and the disease it causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19"). It has since become a global pandemic.

By the end of March, Louisiana saw an alarming rate of infection, with numbers across the state rapidly climbing. Governor John Bel Edwards issued a Stay-at-Home order to advance the state's efforts to "flatten the curve" and encourage

the public to stay at home. Louisianans had begun to receive daily updates from Governor Edwards and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). The LDH is tracking the presumptive positive test results online at <http://ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus> and updating this information daily. To date, the Governor continues to give updates twice a week with case updates daily from LDH, and the state finds itself faces its third surge in cases.

Since COVID-19 is a new virus, scientists learn more about it every day. They maintain that older adults and people with certain underlying health conditions are at greater risk of severe illness as a result of the virus. A list of underlying health conditions can be found at <https://bit.ly/3608BvI>. The CDC has determined that the virus is spread from person to person between people that are within 6 feet of each other, respiratory droplets from when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks or breathes. People can be infected but may be asymptomatic.

The CDC recommends practicing the following to prevent the spread of the virus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing, or having been in a public place and/or touched public surfaces
- If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc
- Avoid close contact with others by keeping at least 6 feet between yourself and others
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others. Since someone can be infected and not show symptoms, a mask can help the spread of infection. However, a mask does not take the place of social distancing.

The CDC asks everyone to stay diligent. If you experience symptoms that include a fever, cough and shortness of breath, or if you have come in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider. Let them know of your symptoms and circumstances. This will help them take care of you and keep other people from getting infected or exposed. Also, stay home and self-quarantine for at least two weeks, if you can.

Continued on Page 21

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, the LDEQ instituted a work-from-home policy that allows a maximum number of agency personnel to work from their homes using agency computers (telecommuting). This measure went into effect on March 17 and is meant to comply with social distancing recommendations from the CDC and the LDH. The agency has seen the number of personnel telecommuting ebb and flow with the rise and fall of infection rates.

“When Governor Edwards declared his stay-at-order for the state of Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) was able to close our physical offices across the state and move to telecommuting without a pause in service or a reduction in productivity,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said. “My staff was able to make this transition with minimal complications, and many are still telecommuting as we slowly repopulate our offices.”

LDEQ also helped directly combat the spread of COVID-19 by partnering with other agencies to produce hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer quickly became an effective weapon against COVID-19, but just as quickly became a scarce commodity. LDEQ had people with the technical knowledge and agency leadership saw a way to help fight the epidemic.

The World Health Organization (WHO) promoted a formula for hand sanitizer on the Internet. The recipe requires three main ingredients: isopropyl alcohol, glycerol and hydrogen peroxide. The Secretary of State’s Office had acquired small amounts of some of those ingredients to produce a batch of sanitizer to be used to clean voting machines. Therefore, the ingredients were available. A project was born, one that would evolve and eventually produce 7,370 gallons of hand sanitizer.

“We added this project to the list of things we do as part of our normal workload,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said. “We wanted to help. Hand sanitizer was the first thing we could do. It won’t be the last. We hope to assist in the fight against COVID-19 as the pandemic continues.”

Brown and Department of Public Safety and Corrections Secretary Jimmy Le Blanc collaborated on a plan to make more hand sanitizer to help meet the high demand. The first order of business was to get the ingredients for the WHO recipe. Louisiana industry sources stepped up. ExxonMobil donated isopropyl alcohol of proper purity, Proctor & Gamble provided the glycerol and Solvay added the hydrogen peroxide. The Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) purchased some small bottles for the sanitizer and organized the product’s distribution.

The operation began at Prison Enterprises on March 24. LDEQ was on-hand with an air monitor to make sure no harmful gases accumulated. LSU chemistry professor and chemistry department chairman John A. Pojman, Ph.D., and LSU chemistry graduate student Anthony Mai provided additional expertise.

“They mixed the batches in the tank, adding the ingredients in a fixed sequence. Liquid nitrogen was fed into the tank from the bottom and bubbles through the mixture to homogenize it. We had a line coming out of the tank to carry any fumes to a carbon scrubber – 250 pounds of activated carbon in a 55 barrel drum. Any vapor was scrubbed there,” LDEQ Environmental Scientist Senior/Disaster Coordinator Daniel Lambert said.

Lambert has been the agency’s liaison in the manufacturing project. The finished product was bottled in 8-ounce, 10-ounce, 16-ounce, 32-ounce and 1-gallon containers, he said. “Sixteen 55-gallon drums were also produced,” Lambert added. “It went to different facilities.”

Here are some quick tips for those transitioning back to the office:

- Always wear a facial covering over your nose and mouth when walking around the office
- Maintain at least six feet of distance from others in elevators, breakrooms, hallways and areas where people typically congregate
- Use a paper towel when handling doorknobs, handles and any frequently touched areas
- Always wash hands and use hand sanitizer
- Make it a habit of using sanitized wipes and sprays to clean commonly used areas such as desktops, keyboards, your computer mouse, chairs, tables, phones and places or things you’re likely to touch frequently
- Limit interpersonal/face-to-face meetings as much as possible and maintain the 6-foot rule. If possible, consider using virtual conference platforms such as FaceTime, Zoom, Skype, HouseParty, Microsoft Teams, etc.

Continued on Page 22

“This is a good example of public/private co-operation to meet an emergency need,” Brown said. “It can be a template for how we can do more of these public service projects moving forward.”

COVID-19 has redefined what “normal” means for most people. It has ingrained in many a new level of caution found in what used to be mundane tasks, and it has shined a light on just how many everyday tasks can be handled digitally. From e-learning in schools to telecommuting at work to online grocery services, many people are navigating the “new normal.”

LDEQ continues to be open for business. Agency offices may be operating with reduced staff. Still, emergency response calls and citizen complaints are being handled as they normally are, and it is business as usual as much as possible in all other divisions. Telecommuting staff continues to process permit applications and perform their assigned work. Although LDEQ remains open for business, public access to LDEQ worksites will be restricted. LDEQ’s response to the Coronavirus outbreak will continue to evolve. As conditions change, employees will receive more directives, as will the public.

If you have additional questions about Coronavirus, Louisiana’s statewide 211 network is now answering calls about COVID-19. For questions or the most current information: Dial 211, text LACOVID to 898-211 or visit <http://LA211Help.org>.

You can also visit coronavirus.gov for more information from the Center for Disease Control and <http://ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus> for more local information. Check the State of Louisiana’s website, <https://gov.louisiana.gov/coronavirus>, and the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness website for instructions, as well as other important health tips and information at emergency.louisiana.gov and gohsep.la.gov.



2020 Louisiana Envirothon held at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

For the 15th year, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) partnered with other Louisiana organizations to host the Louisiana Envirothon, an environmental problem-solving competition, at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. On Saturday, Feb. 15, nine high school teams participated in the environmental competition that included testing in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, a current issue and an oral presentation on a current issue. The 2020 current issue was “Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions.”

Winning teams received recognition, plaques, medals and cash prizes. Participating schools included Baton Rouge International School, Caddo Parish Magnet High School, Calvin High School, Live Oak High School, Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy, University Laboratory School, Vinton High School and Winnfield High School.



Participants of the 2020 Louisiana Envirothon

Winners of the 2020 Louisiana Envirothon:

First Place: Caddo Parish Magnet High School (Leah Sullivan, Diya Desai, Ashini Modi, Savannah Green and Olivia Horrell)

Second Place: Winnfield High School – Future Farmers of America (FFA) (Lauren Poole, Peyton Little, Annie Heard, Joy So and Gracelyn Chevallier)

Third Place: Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy (Olivia Guerra, Merrick Crosby, Emily Kraus, Ella Grindstaff and Ahmed Farhoud)

Highest Scores in Testing Areas:

Caddo Parish Magnet High School School (Leah Sullivan, Diya Desai, Ashini Modi, Savannah Green and Olivia Horrell) scored highest in Forestry, Current Issue and Orals.

Live Oak High School – Environmental Club (Ariana Milner, Harley Bowman, Ernogene Stringer, Lauren Rogers and Kelsey Overman) scored highest in Soils and Wildlife.

Winnfield High School – Future Farmers of America (FFA) (Lauren Poole, Peyton Little, Annie Heard, Joy So and Gracelyn Chevallier) scored highest in Aquatics.

LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens was a major sponsor of the 2020 Louisiana Envirothon. Louisiana Science Teachers Association and Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts sponsored as patron level sponsors. Louisiana Environmental Health Association and Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association sponsored at the supporter level. Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers, The Kolache Kitchen and Bluewing Civil Consulting all sponsored at the friend level. Learn more about sponsorship opportunities by visiting <http://bit.ly/Envirothon2020Sponsorship>.

Louisiana Envirothon partnered with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, Louisiana Environmental Education Commission, LSU School of Plant, Environmental & Soil Sciences, LSU Superfund Basic Research Program and Southern University and A&M College – Urban Forestry Program to host the competition.

For more information on Envirothon, please visit www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon or follow Louisiana Envirothon on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/Louisiana-Envirothon-143476735949>.

LDEQ's 2020 Environmental Leadership Program Awards canceled



Due to continuing health concerns, the Louisiana Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) Awards will regretfully break the tradition of recognizing various entities for their commitment to voluntary pollution prevention, waste reduction, and other environmental stewardship efforts for the 2020 calendar year.

Please know that this does not diminish the phenomenal contributions that schools, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, federal entities, businesses and industries have made to enhance environmental quality.

Your “thinking outside the box,” making the financial investment(s), and putting forth the hard work required in coordinating and executing projects that “go above and beyond” are a great reward to our citizens and visitors, and to the quality of life that the state of Louisiana will offer for years to come.

Special thanks to the 2020 ELP award applicants who were diligent in sending applications prior to our notification of the ELP awards postponement. We hope to conduct the awards program in 2021, at which time, the 2020 applications will be given proper consideration.

New entities are welcomed to join ELP anytime! Membership is free -- please join on our website at <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/form/ELPmembership>.

LDEQ will continue to highlight new ELP members for “Welcome Wednesdays” on LDEQ’s social media platforms. We look forward to seeing you there.

Also, you may visit our website at <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/the-louisiana-environmental-leadership-program> for new member highlights and ELP Awards ceremony updates. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at elp@la.gov.

Appendix

Office of the Secretary	26-27
Office of Environmental Assessment	28-30
Office of Environmental Compliance	31-32
Office of Environmental Services	33-34
Management and Finance.....	35
Contact Information	36-38



Office Of The Secretary

Communication Section	
Emergency Declarations	20
Press Releases	53
Press Mentions – Including Social Media	6,405
Radio And TV Interviews	4
Facebook Followers	300 New (1,352 Total)
Twitter Followers	29 New (663 Total)
Graphic Projects	117
Enviroflash Subscribers	2,351
Videos Produced	2
YouTube Subscribers	109 (241 Total)
Website Views	933,361
Discover DEQ Newsletters	12

Criminal Investigation Section	
Percent of criminal cases referred to the appropriate district attorney for criminal prosecution	100
Number of criminal investigations conducted	44
Number of criminal leads	75
Number of criminal referrals for prosecution	7
Number of criminal investigations assisted	17
Number of administrative cases assisted	6
Number of law enforcement network/stakeholder contacts	68

Environmental Leadership Program New Members	
Businesses	4
Municipalities	5
Academia	2
Non-Government Organizations	10
Total Members	21

Enviroschool	
Number of Participants	88
Number of Sessions	2
Number of Topics	2
Number of Instructors	3

Office Of The Secretary

Continued

Legal And Regulation Development	
Court Appearances	139
Pleadings Prepared	134
Legal Consultations	45,338
Public Hearings	26
Cooperative and Settlement Agreements Negotiated	94
Ethics Consultations	170
Regulation Packages Prepared and Reviewed	64
Enforcement Actions Reviewed	715
Fees and Penalties Collected	\$2,602,341.38

Small Business Assistance Program		
Compliance Assistance	1,820	Provide assistance to local community, municipalities and new and existing small businesses to understand the regulatory process, ensure compliance with environmental regulations and remain viable and productive economic development engines that drive Louisiana's economy, determine regulatory compliance, and how regulations affect a business or community, assist with knowledge and compliance of multi-media regulations, permits and plans.
Permits Assistance	1,471	Provide assistance to small businesses and communities with preparation of permit applications, reports, registrations, plans and regulatory documents. Contact newly permitted facilities to provide orientation of complying with provisions of permit.
Correspondence Sent	1,198	Provide the information on environmental regulation to small businesses and communities per request.
Workshops/Seminars	135	Participate in or organize educational workshops/seminars in conjunction with local government, environmental groups, LDEQ operational groups, and Small Business Assistance partners (e.g., Louisiana Rural Water Association, Louisiana Municipal Association, Louisiana Police Jury Association, Louisiana State University).

Office Of Environmental Assessment

Air Quality Assessment	
Air Quality Monitoring Network	<p>LDEQ operates 44 ambient (neighborhood) monitoring sites. These sites employ a variety of continuously operating monitors that sample 24 hours per day, seven days per week.</p> <p>On average, 131 monitors are operating at any given time, 89 of which operate continuously and the remaining 42 operate on set schedules.</p> <p>Louisiana also has 5 special monitoring sites – Lighthouse, Marrero, St. Rose, Southern University and Jefferson parish. These sites house 24 additional monitors that are used for special studies and projects.</p>
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	19 sites collect about 3,150 canisters per year with 17 sites sampling when continuous monitors detect a pre-determined concentration for a given period of time for an additional 200 canisters per year. Each canister is analyzed for about 60 individual compounds with many receiving two separate analysis.
Oxides Of Nitrogen (NOX)	9 Monitors (6 in the Baton Rouge area). NOX combines with VOCs to form ozone.
Ozone	22 Monitors (10 in the Baton Rouge area)
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	14 Monitors (5 in the Baton Rouge area)
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	2 Monitors (1 in the Baton Rouge area)
Lead (PB)	3 Monitors, samples collected and analyzed every six days
Particulate Matter 10 (PM10)	5 Monitors
Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5)	30 Monitors statewide. 11 of which operate continuously and 19 that collect samples on a timed schedule

Nonpoint Source (NPS) And Surface Water/Aquifer Protection	
Source Water Assessment	Collected GPS data for approximately 14 water systems which included locations for 27 potential sources of contamination and 13 water wells.
Source Water/ Wellhead Protection	Protection strategies and contingency plans implemented for 24 water systems; approximately 1,530 people educated on drinking water source protection; distributed 63 drinking water protection highway signs; 132 potential sources of contamination visited and/or educated on best management practices; 11 ordinances worked on; established and worked on 1 source water protection committee with a total of 20 volunteers in 1 parish; 67 aquifer recharge maps distributed.
Aquifer Sampling And Assessment Program	41 water wells sampled that produce water from the Chicot, Cockfield, and Mississippi River Alluvial aquifers.
Louisiana Nonpoint Source Management Program	Managed 21 watershed projects on average, developed/processed 319 NPS work plans for ~1.5 million, supported 5 active contracts with watershed support groups for State of Louisiana. Developed/revised 4 watershed implementation plans and participated in 12 education and outreach events and reached over 20,413 people.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund Performance Data	
Value of Loans Since Inception (1990) to FY2020	\$1,223,537,128.79
Number of Loans Since Inception (1990) to FY2020	259
Value of Loans Closed in FY2020	\$31,033,080.00
Number of Loans Closed in FY2020	8

Office Of Environmental Assessment

Continued

Water Quality	
Total Maximum Daily Load and Water Quality Modeling	Revised and resubmitted the final restoration plan for fecal coliform in Tunica Bayou (070505) based on comments from EPA. Completed monitoring water quality in the Yellow Water River (040504) and continued monitoring in the Natalbany River (040503). Assessing data for spikes, hot spots, problem areas. Initiated development of the draft restoration and protection plans for Yellow Water River and Bayou Sara (070501). Water Surveys group started reconnaissance of water quality monitoring sites for Blind River (040401, 040403). Continued working on a monitoring strategy for New River (040404) and the discharger inventory for Blind River (040401, 040403) and New River. Continued efforts to revise the dissolved oxygen and nutrient TMDL report for subsegments 120102, 120103, 120105, 120106, 120107, 120109, and 120110. Evaluated and provided recommendations for approximately 46 projects under our surface water withdrawal review process along with LDNR and LDWF. Provided receiving stream characteristics for 83 water discharge permits. Completed two modeling/analysis activity in support of water permitting activities and initiated support work on two other permitting activities.

Remediation Division	
Corrective Action Implementation Reports	64
Corrective Action (CA) / CA Monitoring Work Plans	56
Complete Geology Monitoring Evaluation / Operation & Maintenance Reports	3
Evaluated and Closed Areas	85
Geological Review of Certification of Compliance	45
Hazardous Waste / Solid Waste Permit Application / Permit Modification Reviews	32
Investigation Work Plans	78
Investigation Reports	168
Institutional Control Operation & Maintenance Inspections	7
Monitoring (Investigation / Corrective Action) Reports	532
Site Inspections	301
Solid Waste Detection Monitoring Report Reviews	18
Technical Assistance Reviews	6
Voluntary Remediation Program Completion	1
Voluntary Remediation Program Remedial Action / Remediation Investigation Work Plans	13
Other TEMPO Tasks	583

Office Of Environmental Assessment

Continued

Underground Storage Tank (UST)	
Investigation Works Plans	113
Investigation and Corrective Action Implementation Reports	261
Corrective Action Work Plans	60
UST Cost Estimates	14
Monitoring Reports	253
No Further Action	105
No Further Interest	31
Voluntary Remediation Program Completion	0
Inspections	1,633
Non-TEMPO Defined Task	31
UST Support	
Receive Application	706
Administratively / Technically Reviewed	910
Issue Annual Tank Certificate	3,802
Create Assessment	225
Issue Notice of Deficiency	265
Issue Corrected Deficiency	212
Issue Deficiency Clear	252
Issue Notice of Potential Delivery Prohibition	167
Submitted for Circuit Rider Review	0
Forward to Enforcement	54

Office Of Environmental Compliance

Enforcement: Total Actions Issued	
Air	349
Hazardous Waste	85
Mobile Source Enforcement	0
Radiation	114
Solid	649
Underground Storage Tanks	88
Water	490
Total Number of Enforcement Actions	1,775
Penalty Assessments	32
Expedited Penalty Agreement and Notice of Potential Penalty	170
Total Penalty Amount Assessed	\$631,641.58
Settlements / Agreements	96
Total Settlement Agreements	\$1,549,462.79
Total Beneficial Environmental Project Value	\$661,402.16
Underground Storage Tanks Compliance School	N/A
Sanitary Wastewater Assistance Training Compliance School	N/A

Enforcement: Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs)			
DMRs Received			
Permit Type	Major/ Minor	#DMRs	#Pages
LA0	Individual Permits		
	Major	12,581	61,954
	Non-major	21,352	61,002
LAG	General - Non Stormwater Permits	55,612	125,634
LAR	Stormwater Permits		
LAR05	Non-construction (LAR050000)	616	1,916
LAR10	Construction (LAR10000)	49	98
LAU	Unpermitted Facilities	65	76
	TOTAL	90,275	250,680
DMRS Received via NetDMR			
Permit Type	Major/ Minor	# DMRs	# Pages
LA0	Individual Permits		
	Major	12,551	61,790
	Non-major	20,656	59,285
LAG	General - Non Stormwater Permits	51,309	117,740
LAR	Stormwater Permits		
LAR05	Non-construction (LAR050000)	518	1,528
LAR10	Construction (LAR100000)	48	96
	TOTAL	85,082	240,439

Office Of Environmental Compliance

Continued

Emergency Response (ER Staff Members Only)	
Spills	873
Complaints	48

Radiation License Services	
Radioactive Materials Licenses	555
Registrations	811
Certifications	665
Industrial Radiography Tests Administered	574
Infrared Tests passed	418
Infrared Tests Order and Paid For	662

Radiation Surveillance Inspections	
X-Ray	694
Radioactive Materials	206
Mammography	98

Single Point Of Contact	
Spills Processed	2,380
Complaints Processed	2,928
Written Notifications Processed	1,230

Surveillance: Incidents	
Acadiana Region	841
Capital Region	1,171
Northeast Region	331
Northwest Region	458
Southeast Region	1,502
Southwest Region	399
TOTAL	4,702

Surveillance: Inspections	
Acadiana Region	546
Capital Region	684
Northeast Region	278
Northwest Region	196
Southeast Region	696
Southwest Region	248
TOTAL	2,648

Office Of Environmental Services

Asbestos	
Asbestos Reno / Demo Notification Forms (AAC-2)	1,288
Asbestos Disposal Verification Forms Issued (ADVF's)	3,805
Regulated Asbestos Disposed in LA Landfills (CU YDS)	80,617
Total Asbestos Accreditation Work Products Completed (Forms AAC-1, AAC-3, & AAC-4)	3,040
Accreditation (Form AAC-1)	2,889
Training Provider Recognition (Form AAC-3)	35
Trainer Recognition (Form AAC-4)	116
Asbestos Management Plan Activities Completed	110

Hazardous Waste	
Annual Reporting Reports Processed	543
Generators Delisted	91
Generators Registered (In Year)	647
Generators Registered (Total)	15,493
Hazardous Waste Generated by Large Quantity Generators (Tons)	5,367,438
Transporters Registered (In Year)	26
Transporters Registered (Total)	601
Pollution Control Exemption Determinations Completed (Per Act 910)	1
Stack Test Reviews Completed	136

Laboratory Accreditation	
In-state Laboratories Accredited (New)	3
In-state Laboratories Accredited (Total)	47
In-state Laboratories Audited	19
Out-of-State Laboratories Accredited (New)	4
Out-of-State Laboratories Accredited (Total)	139
Out-of-State Laboratories Audited*	34
<i>*Performed by Contractors</i>	

Lead	
Accreditations Issued (Form LPF-1)	414
Licensed Contractors Recognized	78
Project Notifications Processed (Form LPF-3)	21
Trainers Recognized	18
Training Providers Recognized	13

Office Of Environmental Services

Continued

Permit Applications Administrative Review	
Total Applications Processed (Air, Water, Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste, Biosolids & NOCs)	4,171
Air	1,119
Water	2,085
Solid Waste	298
Hazardous Waste	80
Biosolids	24
Name/Ownership/Operator Changes (NOCs) Processed for Final Decision (Multi-media)	565
Expedited Permit Requests Processed	226

Permit Work Products Completed	
Air Quality Permits Division Work Products Completed	1,767
Solid Waste Work Products Completed	360
Hazardous Waste Work Products Completed	126
Individual Water Quality Permit Actions Issued, Including Master Generals	419
General Water Quality Permit Actions Issued, Including Stormwater	2,912
Name / Ownership / Operator Changes Completed (Final Decision) (Multi-media)	599

Public Participation Group	
Public Comments Received	10,111
Public Hearings Conducted	3
Public Notices Mailed Out (Hard Copies)	65,603
Public Notices Published (473 papers)	443
Subscribers to E-mail Public Notice Service	2,277
Subscribers to Mail-out Public Notice Service	1,813

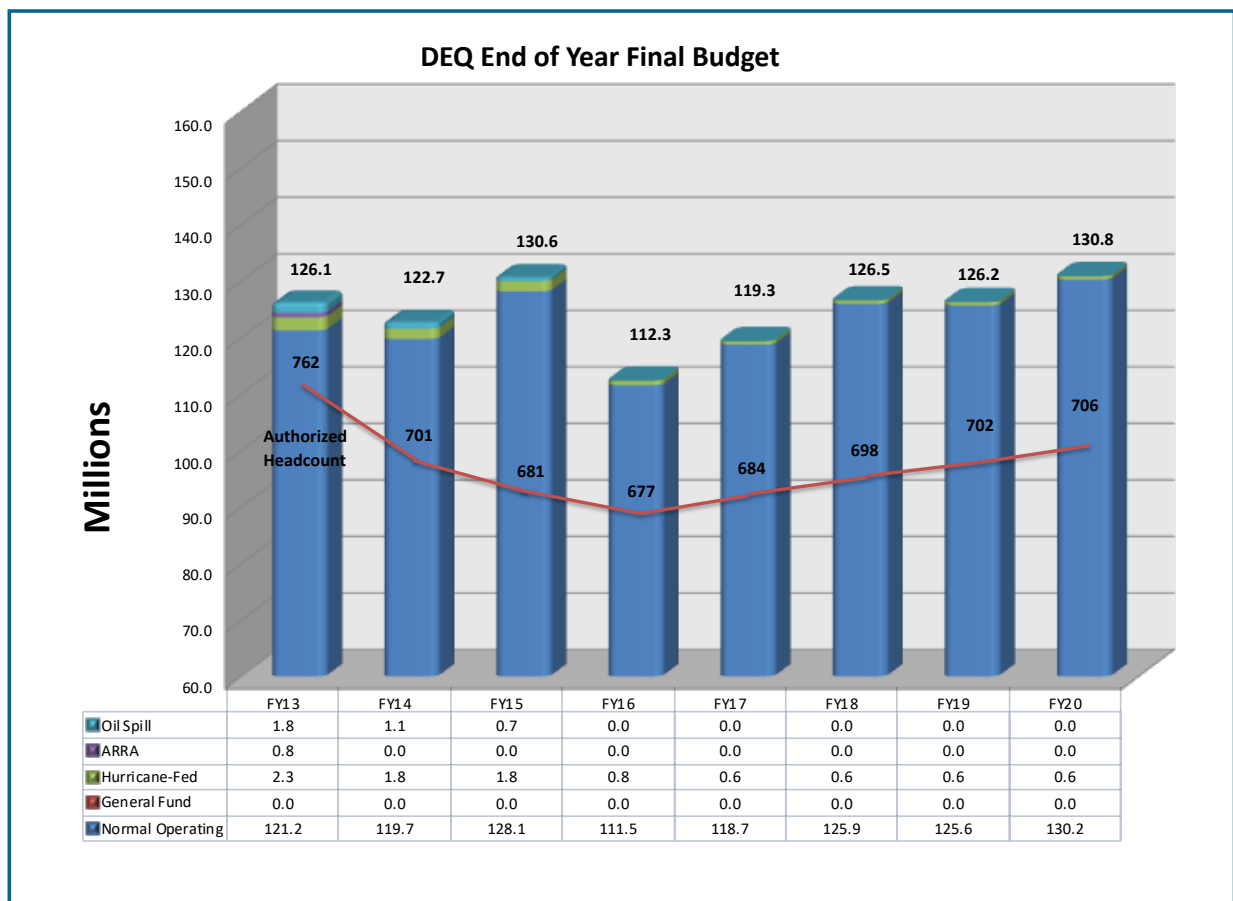
Solid Waste	
Generators (Industrial) Registered (In Year)	9
Generators (Industrial) Registered (Total)	2,094
Solid Waste Operators Certified	70
Sewage Sludge Hauler Applications Processed	241
Transporters Registered (In Year)	21
Transporters Registered (Total)	2,588

Tempo Support Group	
Conduct Change Requests	4,877
Create New Master Files (AIs)	3,370
Requirements Loaded Into TEMPO	1,359
System Service Requests Completed	165
TEMPO Security Requests Completed	280

Office Of Management And Finance

Records Management	
Public Record Request Filled Per Year	1,374
Total PRR Fees Collected Per Year	\$1,289.78
Pages Scanned Per Year	2,492,943
Average EDMS Website Hits Per Month	161,302
Documents Supported By EDMS	6,929,903

FY20 Actual Expenditures						
Expenditure Category	Office Of The Secretary	Environmental Compliance	Environmental Services	Management And Finance	Environmental Assessment	DEQ TOTAL
Salaries	\$5,160,880	\$13,282,542	\$10,103,624	\$3,196,996	\$11,704,690	\$43,448,732
Other Compensation	\$124,960	\$125,217	\$9,069	\$450,138	\$78,114	\$787,498
Related Benefits	\$2,480,666	\$6,660,839	\$4,766,493	\$5,128,902	\$5,816,418	\$24,853,318
Travel & Training	\$37,210	\$73,422	\$23,345	\$13,950	\$81,362	\$229,289
Operating Services	\$110,769	\$795,219	\$12,316	\$243,358	\$619,766	\$1,781,428
Supplies	\$30,132	\$285,328	\$19,423	\$165,485	\$221,260	\$721,628
Professional Services	\$2,359	\$1,410,205	\$0	\$1,410,715	\$401,181	\$3,224,460
Other Charges	\$0	\$29,360	\$0	\$24,630,830	\$4,789,258	\$29,449,448
Acquisitions	\$62,590	\$391,836	\$0	\$147,322	\$2,934,181	\$3,535,929
IAT	\$125,595	\$90,036	\$44,112	\$11,211,278	\$2,883,290	\$14,354,311
TOTAL	\$8,135,161	\$23,144,004	\$14,978,382	\$46,598,974	\$29,529,520	\$122,386,041



Contact Information

Office of the Secretary

P.O. Box 4301
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301
Phone: 225-219-3953
Fax: 225-219-3971

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown - Secretary
Phone: 225-219-3950
Email: chuck.brown@la.gov

Bijan Sharafkhani - Confidential Advisor to the Secretary
Phone: 225-219-3951
Email: bijan.sharafkhani@la.gov

Denise Bennett - Deputy Secretary
Phone: 225-219-3951
Email: denise.bennett@la.gov

Gregory Langley - Press Secretary
Phone: 225-219-3964
Email: gregory.langley@la.gov

Courtney Burdette - General Counsel
Phone: 225-219-3989
Email: courtney.burdette@la.gov

Criminal Investigation Section
Keith Bates
Phone: 225-219-3942
Email: keith.bates@la.gov

Roger Ward - Ombudsman
Phone: 225-219-3995
Email: roger.ward@la.gov

Legal Affairs
P.O. Box 4302
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4302
Phone: 225-219-3985
Fax: 225-219-4068

Communications Section/Media Relations
Greg Langley
Phone: 225-219-3964
Fax: 225-219-3971
Email: gregory.langley@la.gov

Small Business Assistance Program
Linda Brown Piper
Phone: 225-219-3954; 800-259-2810
Fax: 225-219-3971
Email: linda.piper@la.gov

Enviroschool
Tomeka Prioleau
Phone: 225-219-0877
Fax: 225-219-3971
Email: tomeka.prioleau@la.gov

Environmental Leadership Program
Tomeka Prioleau
Phone: 225-219-0877
Fax: 225-219-3971
Email: tomeka.prioleau@la.gov

Office of Environmental Assessment

P.O. Box 4314
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314
Phone: 225-219-5337

Roger Gingles - Assistant Secretary
Phone: 225-219-1208
Email: roger.gingles@la.gov

Air Planning and Assessment
Jason Meyers
Phone: 225-219-3408
Email: jason.meyers@la.gov

Remediation
Estuardo Silva
Phone: 225-219-3386
Email: estuardo.silva@la.gov

Underground Storage Tanks (UST)
Gary Fulton
Phone: 225-219-3505
Email: gary.fulton@la.gov

Water Planning and Assessment
Jonathan McFarland
Phone: 225-219-3956
Email: jonathan.mcfarland@la.gov

Brownfields Initiative
Rebecca Otte
Phone: 504-736-7069
225-219-3719
Email: rebecca.otte@la.gov

Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund
Phone: 225-219-3956

Drinking Water Protection Program
Phone: 225-219-3510

Mercury Initiative
Al Hindrichs
Phone: 225-219-3189
Email: al.hindrichs@la.gov

Motor Vehicle Inspection & Maintenance
Phone: 225-219-3586

Nonpoint Source
Crisalda Adams
Phone: 225-219-3510
Email: crisalda.adams@la.gov

Ozone Action Program
Jean Kelly
Phone: 225-219-3966
Email: jean.kelly@la.gov

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
Phone: 225-219-3217

Contact Information

Office of Environmental Compliance

P.O. Box 4312
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312
Phone: 225-219-3710
Fax: 225-219-3708

LOURDES ITURRALDE - Assistant Secretary

Phone: 225-219-3710
Email: lourdes.iturralde@la.gov

Enforcement

Celena Cage
Phone: 225-219-3715
Email: celena.cage@la.gov

Surveillance

Mike Algero
Phone: 225-219-3611
Email: michael.algero@la.gov

Emergency Response and Radiological Services

Jeff Dauzat
Phone: 225-219-2966
Email: jeff.dauzat@la.gov

Beneficial Environmental Projects hotline

Phone: 225-219-3725

Illegal Dumping (SPOC)

Phone: 225-219-3640
888-763-5424 (Toll-free in Louisiana)

Radiological Services

Phone: 225-219-3670

Single Point Of Contact/SPOC

Phone: 225-219-3640
888-763-5424 (Toll-free in Louisiana)

Office of Environmental Services

P.O. Box 4313
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313
Phone: 225-219-3181
Fax: 225-219-3156

ELLIOTT VEGA - Assistant Secretary

Phone: 225-219-3180
Email: elliot.vega2@la.gov

Water Permits

Scott Guilliams
Phone: 225-219-3187
Email: scott.guilliams@la.gov

Waste Permits/Landfills

Yolunda Righteous
Phone: 225-219-3516
Email: yolunda.righteous@la.gov

Air Permits

Bryan Johnston
Phone: 225-219-3450
Email: bryan.johnston@la.gov

Permit Support Services

Cheryl Nolan
Phone: 225-219-3241
Email: cheryl.nolan@la.gov

Public Participation

Phone: 225-219-3276

Public Records

EDMS - Electronic Data Management System
www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/edms

Recycling

Jodie Kimball
Phone: 225-219-3408
Email: jodie.kimball@la.gov

Battery Recycling Hotline

Phone: 800-822-8837 (Toll-Free)
800-BATTERY (Toll-Free)

Office of Management & Finance

P.O. Box 4303
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4303
Phone: 225-219-3840
Fax: 225-219-3846

Karyn Andrews - Undersecretary

Phone: 225-219-3845
Email: karyn.andrews@la.gov

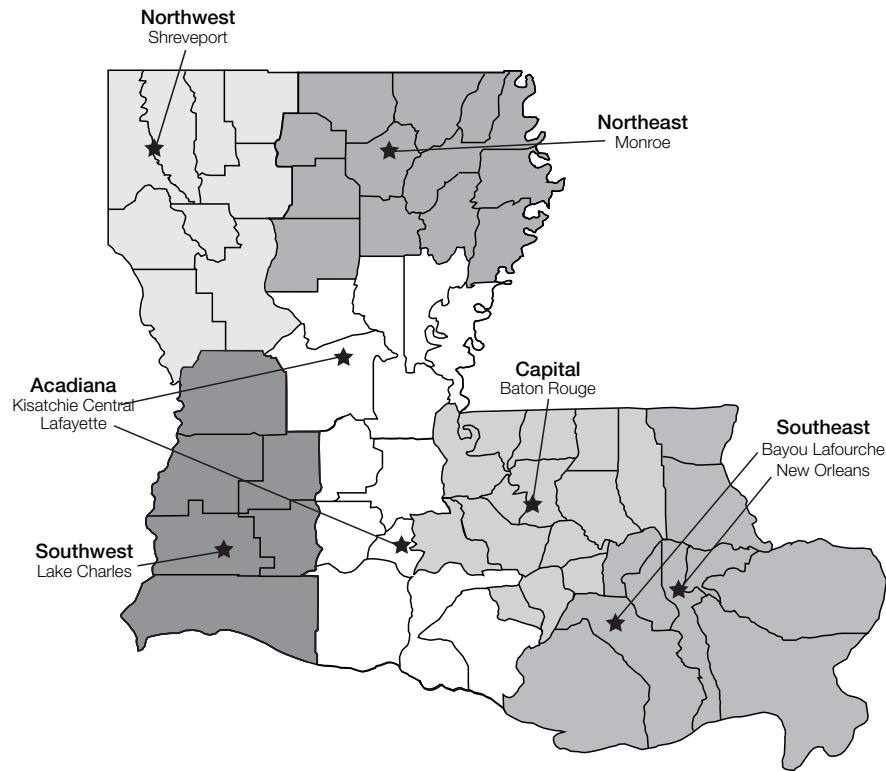
Financial Services

Theresa Delafosse
Phone: 225-219-3863
Email: theresa.delafosse@la.gov

Human Resources

Donia Gillespie
Phone: 225-219-3828
Email: donia.gillespie@la.gov

Contact Information



Regional Offices

Acadiana – Lafayette

Rhonda McCormick, Regional Manager
111 New Center Drive
Lafayette, LA 70508
Phone: 337-262-5584
Fax: 337-262-5593

Acadiana – Kisatchie Central

Rhonda McCormick, Regional Manager
2800 S. MacArthur Drive, Suite A
Alexandria, LA 71301
Phone: 318-487-5656
Fax: 318-487-5927

Northeast – Monroe

Casey Head, Regional Manager
508 Downing Pines Road
West Monroe, LA 71292
Phone: 318-362-5439
Fax: 318-362-5448

Northwest – Shreveport

Mark Juneau, Regional Manager
1525 Fairfield, Room 520
Shreveport, LA 71101
Phone: 318-676-7476
Fax: 318-676-7573

Southeast – New Orleans

Brian Tusa, Regional Manager
201 Evans Road, Bldg 4, Suite 420
New Orleans, LA 70123
Phone: 504-736-7701
Fax: 504-736-7702

Southeast – Bayou Lafourche

Brian Tusa, Regional Manager
110 Barataria St,
Lockport, LA 70374
Phone: 985-532-6206
Fax: 985-532-9945

Southwest – Lake Charles

Billy Eakin, Regional Manager
1301 Gadwall Street
Lake Charles, LA 70615
Phone: 337-491-2667
Fax: 337-491-2682

Capital – Baton Rouge

April Baiamonte, Regional Manager
602 North 5th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Phone: 225-219-3600
Fax: 225-219-3695

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

602 NORTH FIFTH STREET, BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

(866) 896-5337 • WWW.DEQ.LOUISIANA.GOV

