2015 BIENNIAL SOLID WASTE CAPACITY REPORT

(Fiscal Year 2014 & Fiscal Year 2015)

to the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee and Senate Committee on Environmental Quality



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Executive Summary

La. R.S. 30:2162(A) requires the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) to evaluate the volume and types of solid waste managed in Louisiana every two years. This evaluation includes information for both Fiscal Year 2014 (i.e., July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014) and Fiscal Year 2015 (i.e., July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015). It includes a determination of permitted capacity available to safely manage the solid waste generated within the state.

After careful review, the LDEQ has determined that Louisiana currently has sufficient capacity to manage the solid wastes generated within Louisiana. Additionally, solid waste disposal capacity within the state has been determined to be appropriate in amount relative to current and anticipated solid waste generation.

In the review of a solid waste permit, capacity is just one of the factors used in the evaluation process. Other factors considered are service area, zoning, ability to meet regulatory requirements and compliance history.

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Background

Louisiana has a comprehensive solid waste management program. The various areas of responsibility for the state and local governments regarding solid waste management are mainly addressed in state law under Louisiana Revised Statues (R.S.) Title 30, Subtitle II (Environmental Quality). These sections of law establish authority for the Secretary of LDEQ to adopt rules and regulations with respect to solid waste management. The solid waste regulations are codified into the Louisiana Administrative Code by the Office of the State Register and into the Environmental Regulatory Code by the LDEQ (Title 33, Part VII). A copy of LDEQ's governing statutes and regulations can be found on LDEQ's website at http://deg.louisiana.gov/page/rules-regulations.

The solid waste regulations¹ define various terms to categorize both solid waste and management practices. Terms important to this capacity evaluation are as follows:

Commercial Solid Waste:

all types of solid waste generated by stores, offices, restaurants, warehouses, and other nonmanufacturing activities, excluding residential and industrial solid wastes.

Construction/Demolition (C&D) Debris:

nonhazardous waste generally considered not water-soluble that is produced in the process of construction, remodeling, repair, renovation, or demolition of structures, including buildings of all types (both residential and nonresidential). Solid waste that is not *C&D debris* (even if resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, renovation, or demolition of structures) includes, but is not limited to, *regulated asbestos-containing material (RACM)* as defined in LAC 33:III.5151.B, white goods, creosote-treated lumber, and any other item not an integral part of the structure.

Disease Vector:

animals such as rodents, and fleas, flies, mosquitoes, and other arthropods, that are capable of transmitting diseases to humans.

Industrial Solid Waste:

solid waste generated by a manufacturing, industrial, or mining process, or that is contaminated by solid waste generated by such a process. Such waste may include, but is not limited to, waste resulting from the following manufacturing processes: electric power generation; fertilizer/agricultural chemicals; food and related products; byproducts; inorganic chemicals; iron and steel manufacturing; leather and leather products; nonferrous metals manufacturing/foundries; organic chemicals; plastics and resins manufacturing; pulp and paper industry; rubber and miscellaneous plastic products; stone, glass, clay, and concrete products; textile manufacturing; and transportation equipment. This term does not include

¹ See LAC 33:VII.115.

hazardous waste regulated under the Louisiana hazardous waste regulations or under federal law, or waste that is subject to regulation under the Office of Conservation's Statewide Order No. 29-B or by other agencies.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Landfill:

an entire disposal facility in a contiguous geographical space where residential solid waste and/or commercial solid waste is placed in or on land.

Putrescible:

susceptible to rapid decomposition by bacteria, fungi, or oxidation, creating noxious odors.

Residential Solid Waste:

any solid waste (including garbage, trash, yard trash, and sludges from residential septic tanks and wastewater treatment facilities) derived from households (including single and multiple residences, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, ranger stations, crew quarters, campgrounds, picnic grounds, and day-use recreation areas).

Woodwaste:

yard trash and types of waste generated by land and right-of-way clearing operations, sawmills, plywood mills, and woodyards associated with the lumber and paper industry, such as wood residue, cutoffs, wood chips, sawdust, wood shavings, bark, wood refuse, wood-fired boiler ash, wood ash, and plywood or other bonded materials that contain only polyurethane, phenolic-based glues, or other glues that are approved specifically by the administrative authority. Uncontaminated, un-treated or un-painted lumber or wooden pallets are considered woodwaste under this definition.

The solid waste regulations² define five specific categories (i.e., "types") of permitted facilities (a facility can be one or more type). Solid waste can only be processed and/or disposed at facilities permitted to accept the specific type of wastes.³ The five types of permitted facilities are as follows:

Type I:

a facility used for disposing of industrial solid wastes (e.g., a landfill, surface impoundment, or landfarm).

Type I-A:

a facility used for processing industrial solid waste (e.g., a transfer station (processing), shredder, baler, etc.).

² See LAC 33:VII.115. (See also LAC 33:VII.405.)

³ See LAC 33:VII.509.A.1.

Type II:

a facility used for disposing of residential and/or commercial solid waste (e.g., a landfill, surface impoundment, or landfarm).

Type II-A:

a facility used for processing residential, infectious, or commercial solid waste (e.g., a transfer station (processing), composting municipal solid waste facility, refuse-derived fuel facility, shredder, baler, autoclave, etc.).

Type III:

a facility used for disposing or processing of construction/demolition debris or woodwaste, composting organic waste to produce a usable material, or separating recyclable wastes (e.g., a construction/demolition-debris or woodwaste landfill, separation facility, or composting facility).

Solid waste management discussed in this report falls into at least one of the above categories. However, the focus of this report is the remaining disposal capacity for Type I, Type II and Type III landfills. Of particular interest are the Type II landfills as most solid waste generated by residences and commercial establishments (i.e., municipal waste) are disposed at these landfills. This report also looks at miscellaneous solid waste management (i.e., emergency-generated debris management, recycling and waste tire processing).

Commercial and residential solid waste are generally considered together as municipal solid waste and will be reported together in this report. Likewise, woodwaste is generally considered to be C&D debris for the purposes of disposal at Type III landfills.

Unless otherwise noted, the information used in this report was derived from the annual reports (e.g., Certification of Compliance) submitted by permitted solid waste management facilities.

In addition, to assist in compiling the annual reports and ensure reliable estimates, the LDEQ uses the following terms as defined in the *Guidance Document for Determining Solid Waste Landfill Capacity* on the LDEQ's website at http://deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/Land/GuidDocCapRpt2.docx.

Permitted Capacity:

the initial total volume of waste expressed in cubic yards that a specific bounded facility (total landfill disposal area) is capable of accepting for disposal under an issued permit, i.e. for the permit's duration.

Used Capacity:

the volume of waste expressed in cubic yards that has been disposed into a landfill at a specific bounded facility operating under an issued permit.

Remaining Capacity:

the volume of waste expressed in cubic yards that may be disposed into the unused permitted disposal area at a specific bounded facility under an existing permit (for the permit's duration). Remaining Capacity is determined by subtracting the amount of capacity that has been used from the total permitted capacity.

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Industrial Solid Waste Management

For the combined Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 (FY14 & FY15) which ended on June 30, 2015, Louisiana landfills disposed of approximately 15,968,701 wet-tons of industrial solid waste.

There were thirty-nine (39) landfills that were permitted to dispose of industrial solid waste in Louisiana (see Table 1). (One landfill closed during this reporting period, 1 was sold and indefinitely ceased operations, and 2 have not been constructed.) Of these remaining thirty-five (35), seventeen (17) are Type I and dispose of only industrial solid waste, and eighteen (18) are multi-type and dispose of industrial solid waste, along with municipal solid waste (Type II) and/or C&D debris (Type III).

The average remaining life of the seventeen (17) Type I landfills (industrial waste only) is 23.9 years.⁴ The average remaining life of the eighteen multi-type landfills (i.e., industrial waste with municipal and/or C&D debris wastes) is 78.9 years.⁵ The total remaining capacity for the Type I landfills is approximately 133,668,105 cubic yards. The total remaining capacity for multi-type landfills is approximately 256,199,990 cubic yards.⁶

⁴ Two (2) Type I landfills (Exide Technologies - Baton Rouge Smelter and WestRock CP LLC - Hodge Mill) reported a remaining capacity approximately double or more from the others. If these landfills are excluded from the calculation, the average remaining life of the Type I landfills decreases to 15.7 years.

⁵ Four (4) multi-type landfills (LaSalle-Grant Sanitary Landfill, White Oaks Landfill, Tensas Parish Police Jury, and Timberlane Landfill) reported a remaining capacity approximately double or more from the others. If these landfills are excluded from the calculation, the average remaining life of the multi-type landfills decreases to 30.7 years.

⁶ The numbers for the remaining life and capacity of the landfills were taken from the FY15 Certification of Compliance Reports.

Table 1 - Landfills Accepting Industrial Waste Only						
AI	Name	Туре	Remaining capacity (cubic yards)	Remaining Capacity (months)		
328	International Paper Co - Mansfield Mill	I	12562583	286		
585	CLECO Power LLC - Dolet Hills Power Station	I	4872500	64		
1338	International Paper Co - Louisiana Bastrop Mill 7	I	0	0		
1396	Exide Technologies - Baton Rouge Smelter	I	142643	865		
1406	Motiva Enterprises LLC - Norco Refinery	I	112900	54		
1409	The Dow Chemical Co - Louisiana Operations	I	1145722	329		
2082	Honeywell International Inc - Geismar Complex	I	440000	18		
2140	International Paper Co - Pineville Kraft Mill	I	889789	8		
2418	Phillips 66 Co - Alliance Refinery	I	26967	216		
2532	Mosaic Fertilizer LLC - Uncle Sam Plant	I	94058098	523		
2617	Georgia-Pacific Consumer Operations LLC - Port Hudson	I	508175	117		
2645	International Paper - Red River Mill	I	1264500	182		
2922	CLECO - Brame Energy Center	I	6383162	123		
3647	WestRock CP LLC - Hodge Mill	I	139094	1200		
3732	PCS Nitrogen Fertilizer LP	I	7000000	132		
9142	Entergy LA LLC - Nelson Industrial Steam Co (NISCO)	I	1687210	109		
11496	Louisiana Pigment Co LP - Titanium Dioxide Plant	I	360405	17		
51761	Louisiana Land Acquisitions LLC	1	2515051	9		
19588	Entergy Louisiana LLC – Roy S Nelson Plant	I	2258667	528		
19933	Boise Packaging & Newsprint LLC - DeRidder Paper Mill	I	705479	120		
137445	International Paper Bogalusa Mill	1	2200000	10		
	Landfills Accepting Industrial and Other Solid Waste (Municipal a	nd/or C&D)			
4803	BFI Waste Systems of Louisiana LLC - Colonial Landfill	I, II	11324673	456		
6961	IESI LA Corp - Jefferson Parish Sanitary Landfill	I, II	15894451	566		
9077	City of Shreveport - Woolworth Road Regional Solid Waste Facility	I, II	18016143	414		
9340	St Mary Parish Government - Harold J "Babe" Landry Landfill	I, II, III	3411520	360		
11767	Waste Management of LA LLC - Woodside Landfill & Recycling	I, II	824980	462		
12241	Waste Management of Louisiana LLC - Magnolia Sanitary Landfill	I, II	16335860	538		
12389	Jefferson Davis Parish Sanitary Landfill Commission	I, II	8505060	362		
12448	IESI - Sabine Parish Sanitary Landfill	I, II	401972	61		
19447	LaSalle-Grant Sanitary Landfill	I, II	31943278	4158		
19803	DeSoto Parish Police Jury - Mundy Sanitary Landfill	I, II, III	1904793	304		
20061	Tidewater Landfill LLC - Coast Guard Road Sanitary Landfill	I, II	251688	124		
25491	Reliable Landfill LLC	I, II	3411620	300		
31128	East Baton Rouge Parish North Landfill	I, II, II-A	18317400	437		
32219	River Birch Landfill	I, II	41314208	357		
41194	WCI - White Oaks Landfill LLC	I, II, III	24019959	960		
43506	Tensas Parish Police Jury - Sanitary Landfill	I, II, III	14079376	5724		
52277	IESI Corp - Timberlane Landfill	I, II	32061696	1054		
85534	Webster Parish Solid Waste Landfill	I, II	14181313	411		

⁷ International Paper Co - Louisiana Bastrop Mill is closing and not included in the capacity evaluation. Solid waste was disposed in FY14 but not FY15. ⁸ International Paper Co - Pineville Kraft Mill ceased operations and was sold and not included in the

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International Paper Co - Pineville Kraft Mill ceased operations and was sold and not included in the capacity evaluation. Remaining life cannot be determined as new usage rate is unknown.

Louisiana Land Acquisitions, LLC is not constructed and not included in the capacity evaluation. Remaining life cannot be determined as new usage rate is unknown. ¹⁰ International Paper Bogalusa is not constructed and not included in the capacity evaluation. Remaining

life cannot be determined as new usage rate is unknown.

Municipal (Commercial and Residential) Waste Management

For the combined Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 (FY14 & FY15) which ended on June 30, 2015. Louisiana municipal solid waste landfills disposed of approximately 8,282,749 wet-tons¹¹¹² of waste. Of this total amount, approximately 0.5% (41,712 wet-tons) was from out-of-state.

There were twenty-five (25) permitted landfills in operation to dispose of municipal solid waste in Louisiana (see Figure 1 and Table 2).^{13 14} Most of these are multi-type landfills permitted to dispose of municipal solid waste (Type II), along with industrial solid waste (Type I) and/or C&D debris (Type III). Eight (8) of the twenty-five (25) are privately owned and operated landfills, while seventeen (17) are publicly owned.

Of the seventeen (17) publicly owned landfills, three (3) are permitted to accept only inparish generated wastes: Acadia Parish Sanitary Landfill, Vermilion Parish Municipal Landfill, and Washington Parish Choctaw Road Landfill. The remaining landfills accept wastes from outside of the parish, including out-of-state wastes, for disposal.

The average remaining life of the seventeen (17) publicly owned municipal solid waste landfills is 69.6 years¹⁵ with a total remaining capacity of approximately 141,558,428 cubic yards. The average remaining life of the eight privately owned municipal solid waste landfills is 44.3 years¹⁶ with a total remaining capacity of 129,680,699 cubic vards.¹⁷

¹¹ This amount does not include industrial solid waste disposed in a multi-type landfill [e.g., Type I/II], which is reported in the disposal amount for Type I landfills.

¹² This amount does include C&D debris not disposed in separate Type III landfill cells.

¹³ Belle Co LLC – Landfill (AI # 51910) is not included in this report as it has been permitted but its construction has been delayed indefinitely.

¹⁴ Seven (7) of the 25 operating landfills have construction/demolition (C&D) debris cells constructed separately from the Type I/II cells. The amount of C&D debris disposed in these cells is reported below in the section regarding C&D debris disposal capacity.

¹⁵ The LaSalle-Grant Sanitary Landfill and Tensas Parish Police Jury - Sanitary Landfill report a remaining life of approximately 4158 months and 5724, respectively. If these landfills are excluded from the calculation, the average remaining life of the publicly owned landfills decreases to 21.1 years.

¹⁶ The White Oaks Landfill and Timberlane Landfill report a remaining life approximately double or more from the others. If these landfills are excluded from the calculation, the average remaining life of the privately owned landfills decreases to 23.3 years. ¹⁷ The numbers for the remaining life and capacity of the landfills were taken from the FY15 Certification

of Compliance Reports.



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Table 2 - Municipal Solid Waste Landfills								
Publicly Owned								
AI	Name	Туре	Remaining capacity landfill (cubic yards)	Remaining Capacity (months)				
148	Vermilion Parish Police Jury - Municipal Landfill	II, III	431323	211				
6961	Jefferson Parish Sanitary Landfill	I, II	15894451	566				
9077	Woolworth Road Regional Solid Waste Facility	I, II	17174321	414				
9340	St Mary Parish Government - Harold J "Babe" Landry Landfill	I, II, III	3411520	360				
12389	Jefferson Davis Parish Sanitary Landfill Commission	I, II	8505060	362				
12448	Sabine Parish Sanitary Landfill	I, II	401972	61				
19220	St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District	П	3795505	273				
19447	LaSalle Parish Police Jury - LaSalle-Grant Sanitary Landfill	I, II	31943278	4158				
19803	DeSoto Parish Police Jury - Mundy Sanitary Landfill	I, II, III	1904793	304				
20036	Acadia Parish Police Jury - Acadia Parish Sanitary Landfill	II, III	4844588	550				
20076	Washington Parish Police Jury - Choctaw Road Landfill	I	3586287	139				
20079	West Carroll Parish Police Jury - Sanitary Landfill	II, III	225266	96				
31128	East Baton Rouge Parish North Landfill	I, II, II-A	18317400	437				
43470	Tangipahoa Parish Regional Solid Waste Facility	П	1005174	60				
43506	Tensas Parish Police Jury - Sanitary Landfill	I, II, III	14079376	5724				
69378	Union Parish Sanitary Landfill	П	1855802	66				
85534	BFI - Webster Parish Solid Waste Landfill	I, II	14181313	411				
	Privately Owned							
4803	Colonial Landfill (BFI)	I, II	11324673	456				
11767	Woodside Sanitary Landfill (Waste Management)	I, II	824980	462				
12241	Magnolia Sanitary Landfill (Waste Management)	I, II	16335860	538				
20061	Tidewater Landfill LLC - Coast Guard Road Sanitary Landfill	I, II	387703	124				
25491	Reliable Landfill LLC	I, II	3411620	300				
32219	River Birch Landfill	I, II	41314208	357				
41194	CWI - White Oaks Landfill LLC	I, II, III	24019959	960				
52277	IESI Corp - Timberlane Landfill	I, II	32061696	1054				

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Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Waste Management

Since construction and demolition (C&D) debris is relatively inert, non-putrescible and not susceptible to disease vector, permitted Type III (C&D debris) landfills do not have to meet the more stringent federal and state requirements necessary for Type II (municipal solid waste) landfills. Therefore, C&D debris landfills, in contrast to MSW landfills, are less costly to construct and operate.

EPA has estimated that C&D debris waste contributes 25 to 45 percent of the waste that is disposed within permitted landfills in the United States.¹⁸ Therefore, If not for the permitted Type III (C&D debris) landfills, Louisiana would face a significant reduction in the remaining life of the permitted MSW landfills.

For the combined Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 (FY14 & FY15) which ended on June 30, 2015, Louisiana Type III landfills disposed of approximately 2,477,101 wet-tons¹⁹ of C&D solid waste.

There were forty (40) permitted landfills in operation to dispose only of Type III (C&D debris) in Louisiana (see Figure 2 and Table 3). (One landfill, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government C&D Landfill, has not been constructed. Two landfills. Tidewater Landfill LLC - Coast Guard Road Sanitary Landfill and Catahoula, ceased operations during the reporting period.) In addition to these dedicated Type III landfills, as indicated in the previous sections, there are multi-type landfills permitted to dispose of C&D debris along with industrial solid waste (Type I) and/or municipal solid waste (Type II).

The average remaining life of the Type III landfills is approximately 50.6 years.²⁰ The total remaining capacity for the Type III landfills is approximately 201,156,009 cubic yards.

¹⁸ EPA. Characterization of Building-Related Construction and Demolition Debris in the United States. June, 1998. EPA530-R-98-010. ¹⁹ This does not include C&D debris disposed in a Type II landfill. This amount of C&D debris is reported

in the disposal amount for Type II landfills.

²⁰ Four (4) Type III landfills (Acadia Parish Police Jury, White Oaks Landfill, Tensas Parish Police Jury, and Hwy 90 C&D Landfill) reported a remaining capacity approximately double or more from the others. If these landfills are excluded from the calculation, the average remaining life of the landfills decreases to 16.6 years.



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Table 3 - Type III (C&D Debris) Landfills							
AI	Name	Туре	Remaining capacity (cubic yards)	Remaining Capacity (months)			
148	Vermilion Parish Police Jury - Municipal Landfill	III ²¹	907309	211			
1036	City of New Orleans - Gentilly Landfill	111	10118439	306			
7744	McManus Construction Inc - Old Town Road Landfill	111	967384	180			
9340	St Mary Parish Government - Harold J "Babe" Landry Landfill	III ²³	532472	492			
14689	Riverside Recycling & Disposal LLC - Industrial Pipe Inc.	111	1161600	108			
15427	Natchitoches Parish Landfill	111	54900	329			
19444	Lincoln Parish Police Jury Landfill	111	153225	76			
20036	Acadia Parish Police Jury - Acadia Parish Sanitary Landfill	III ²³	1012098	990			
20061	Tidewater Landfill LLC - Coast Guard Road Sanitary Landfill 22	III ²³	251688	87			
20079	West Carroll Parish Police Jury - Sanitary Landfill	III ²³	376435	348			
24093	Greenpoint Type III Solid Waste Disposal Facility	111	510000	204			
25814	Jackson Parish C&D Debris Landfill	111	245292	304			
28008	Angco Construction & Demolition Debris Landfill	111	4761075	439			
28070	City of Pineville-Wardville Construction/Demolition-Debris Landfill	Ш	116626	144			
28118	Harrelson Materials Management Landfill ²³	111					
28168	Scott Construction Dump Inc	111	5680000	372			
30781	Tommasi Disposal Inc	111	9311	12			
40072	Chaney Trucking Disposal	111	188159	108			
41194	CWI - White Oaks Landfill LLC	III ²³	2366008	1116			
42610	Ronaldson Field Landfill	111	4600000	225			
43506	Tensas Parish Police Jury - Sanitary Landfill	III ²³	4312898	11268			
52121	Morgan Roofing Co LLC – Type III C&D Landfill	111	660000	270			
52141	Vernon Parish C&D Landfill	111	591033	189			
52368	Mount Zion C&D LLC	111	450556	142			
67860	Krause & Managan Landfill	111	1329166	78			
80799	Pellerin & Wallace Inc - C&D Landfill	111	26115	11			
82479	Schamerhorn C&D Landfill	111	7112701	422			
92039	KV Landfill	111	3742115	257			
92737	Chaney Trucking Disposal	111	239989	168			
97112	Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government C&D Landfill ²⁴	111	2300973				
100642	Hwy 90 C&D Landfill	111	132320611	2112			
113894	Iberia Parish Government – Type III Landfill #2	111	82715	108			
117009	Mikeebo Inc	Ш	1074916	818			
132953	Western Real Estate LLC – Jennings C&D Disposal Facility	111	656125	314			
133512	Jevcon C&D Landfill	III	1422073	25			
134011	McManus Construction Inc - Carlyss C&D Landfill	Ш	2220000	180			
151876	David A Abshire LLC – 108 Disposal	III	278000	60			
154502	Gator Type III C&D Debris Landfill	Ш	6083482	324			
168535	BP Disposal	III	1389973 ²⁶	312			
184164	Gordon's Landfill, LLC	III	850547	108			

²¹ Seven (7) of the Type III (C&D debris) landfills are co-located at multi-type landfills. In general, the Type III landfill cells are separate and distinct. The amount of C&D debris disposed in these cells is reported in this section. ²² Tidewater Landfill LLC - Coast Guard Road Sanitary Landfill ceased operations during this reporting

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period. ²³ Harrelson Materials Management Landfill ceased operations during this reporting period.

²⁴ Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government C&D Landfill has not been not constructed. Remaining capacity in months cannot be determined as new usage rate unknown. ²⁵ Remaining, capacity in water fund

Remaining capacity in years for Jevcon C&D Landfill not reported and not included in average remaining life. ²⁶ Remaining capacity in cubic yards for BP Disposal not reported for FY15. Most recent data used as

surrogate.

Miscellaneous Solid Waste Management

Emergency Debris Management

As a result of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, the LDEQ prepared it first debris management plan in 2005. The 2006 Regular Session of the Legislature directed the LDEQ to develop and implement a comprehensive debris management plan for debris generated by natural disasters (LA R.S. 30:2413.1). The goal of the comprehensive debris management plan is to "reuse and recycle material, including the removal of aluminum from debris, in an environmentally beneficial manner and to divert debris from disposal in landfills to the maximum extent practical and efficient which is protective of human health and the environment." Among other things, the statute dictates the use of the following debris management practices, in order of priority, to the extent they are "appropriate, practical, efficient, timely, and have available funding: recycling and composting; weight reduction; volume reduction; incineration or co-generation; and land disposal."

As part of the comprehensive planning, the LDEQ has encouraged local governments and state agencies to utilize temporary sites known as Emergency Debris Management Sites. This type of solid waste management and control has been especially useful for the management and reduction of the large volumes of vegetative debris generated by disasters. Site operations must conform to the requirements of R.S. 30:2413.1 in that "the total green and woody debris intended for final disposal in a landfill, fifty percent (50%) shall be reduced by weight and fifty percent (50%) by volume prior to transport to a landfill" (for disposal). The law states, "The management plan shall be to reuse and recycle material and to divert debris from disposal in landfills to the maximum extent practical, efficient, and expeditious in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment." Since 2005, vegetative debris has been processed by burning and chipping, and used as fuel, mulch, and daily landfill cover. Other materials, such as damaged white goods and electronic materials have been staged at some of these areas for later recycling or proper disposal.

Based on the success of these emergency debris sites, the LDEQ has begun issuing pre-approvals for emergency debris management sites to local governments and state agencies. These sites can be activated immediately when needed after an emergency declaration is issued. This allows for very efficient and effective management of future storm related debris. The LDEQ maintains close scrutiny of these sites via surveillance inspections and reporting requirements. Most of these emergency debris sites are used for staging of debris or for burning or chipping of vegetative debris.

Recycling

The solid waste regulations²⁷ require each parish, in conjunction with its municipalities, to prepare and maintain a recycling and reduction plan detailing educational programs; recycling programs; incentives to promote recycling and waste reduction; review of recycling products, markets, and backup markets; a review of existing recycling programs; contingency measures; and a mathematical formula detailing how the parish intends to calculate the percentage of waste reduction. The plans must be reviewed annually by the local governing institution that prepared the plan and the LDEQ. Annual progress reports are required to be submitted to the LDEQ by December 31 of each year.

Waste Tire Processing

Improperly discarded waste tires may pose a health and safety risk to humans. Disease carrying pests such as rodents can inhabit especially waste tire piles and mosquitoes can breed in the stagnant water that collects inside tires. Several varieties of mosquitoes can carry deadly diseases, including encephalitis, West Nile, and dengue fever.

The LDEQ has regulations²⁸ in place that enable it to track waste tire generation and processing so that whole tires are not placed into a landfill and are recycled to the maximum extent possible. Louisiana has six permitted waste tire processors. For the combined Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 (FY14 & FY15) which ended June 30, 2015, a total of 263,008,720 pounds of waste tires were processed and a total of 251,656,610 pounds of material were marketed for recycling. This resulted in more material being processed than marketed. Uses for processed waste tire material include, but are not limited to, crumb rubber products, rubberized asphalt and boiler fuel.

²⁷ See LAC 33:VII.10307.A.

²⁸ See LAC 33:VII.10501.

Summary

When determining whether to grant or deny a permit application for a solid waste facility, La. R.S. 30:2162(B)(2) requires that permitted capacity along with other relevant factors be considered in the final permitting decision. Other relevant factors include service area, zoning, ability to meet regulatory requirements, and compliance history.

Consideration of the service area of a facility is important in final determinations because transportation costs may limit the ability of a generator of waste to send the waste for proper disposal if the only existing capacity is at a great distance. This tends to increase improper disposal and promiscuous dumping. Where service areas overlap, capacity becomes more significant in final determinations to issue or deny a permit.

Zoning allows local governances the ability to control the location of waste facilities within their jurisdictions. The LDEQ regulations²⁹ require all permit applicants to disclose the zoning of the proposed or existing facility at the time of the submittal of the permit application in order to ensure that existing land-use requirements are not violoated. The LDEQ is very dedicated to working with local governments to determine the most useful and appropriate places to locate solid waste facilities.

Compliance history must also be considered for any final permit decision.³⁰ Facilities that have repeatedly shown recalcitrance or an inability to meet the regulatory requirements may cause the expenditure of public funds at a later time to clean up sites that were improperly managed. Because of this, compliance history is also one of the required measures in determining whether or not to grant a permit for a solid waste facility to operate.

The LDEQ has determined that solid waste capacity in Louisiana is being successfully managed and given the appropriate weight in solid waste permitting decisions. Statewide solid waste disposal capacity is not excessive relative to annual waste generation and anticipated increases for municipal and industrial solid waste. The management of post-hurricane vegetative debris is a good example of waste reduction and reuse being encouraged by programs the LDEQ has undertaken.

²⁹ See LAC 33:VII.519.B.1.m.

³⁰ See La. R.S. 30:2014(A)(2).