



# DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



July 2017 Issue Number: 66

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### RELINKING DEQ WEBSITE

We recently updated the DEQ website. If you have a link to our website on your website, please make sure that it is an updated link to our new website, [www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov).

### CONNECT WITH DEQ



If you would like to subscribe to Discover DEQ, send an email to [sectcommunications@mail.la.gov](mailto:sectcommunications@mail.la.gov)

## Environmental Assessment staff featured in video about LDEQ's air monitoring capabilities

In June, members of LDEQ's Environmental Assessment Division filmed a YouTube video about the department's air monitoring capabilities.

Produced by LDEQ's Communications Section, the video is part of the agency's "Inside DEQ" YouTube series examining the department's duties and responsibilities. The videos offer the general public greater insight into LDEQ's mission of protecting human health and the environment.

Hosted by environmental scientists Vennetta Hayes and David Wagenecht, the 6-minute video is an overview of the agency's air monitoring stations, hand-held equipment used in the field and a peek inside the Mobile Air Monitoring Lab.



*LDEQ Environmental Scientist Vennetta Hayes explains an air monitoring station's capabilities at the beginning of the video.*

Hayes narrated the first part of the video from the Capital Air Monitoring station, near downtown Baton Rouge. She discusses the station's 24/7 capabilities in receiving, analyzing and recording air samples (such as Sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, ozone, particulate matter, volatile organic compounds and other chemicals), with an overview of the caché of equipment that supports that effort.

The second half of the video includes an overview of the Mobile Air Monitoring Lab, or MAML, with Wagenecht narrating that portion. From inside the MAML, he discussed the technical capabilities of the lab, and its frequent use in LDEQ's air monitoring mission – particularly when the air needs to be analyzed on short notice and mobility to the location is essential.

In addition to the MAML and more than 40 air monitoring stations positioned throughout the state, the video covers the use of handheld devices such as summa canisters and AreaRAEs which are used to grab and/or analyze an air sample with a quick turnaround of the results. LDEQ's emergency response team frequently employs these devices when responding to environmental incidents such as truck accidents, train derailments, chemical spills, facility upsets and other hazards that may involve a possible threat to air quality.

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*LDEQ Environmental Scientist David Wagenecht hosts the video while Emily Barlett, LDEQ graphic designer and videographer, films.*

Knowing the chemicals and constituents that may be in the air at any given time helps LDEQ get a picture of the potential human health and environmental impact, so these capabilities complement the responders' experience and ensure the air is continually monitored and that accurate data is collected.

For more information on LDEQ's air monitoring mission, please visit: <http://deq.louisiana.gov/subhome/air>.

To view this video and others, please check out LDEQ's YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP0mXFCk7gdZRpyAJYxDIRw>.

## LDEQ hosts classes on the Electronic Document Management System during June and July

**E**nviroschool is an environmental educational outreach tool conducted by LDEQ and designed to provide training on a variety of topics for communities, businesses and other organizations. Through the sessions, attendees receive first-hand information about issues that generally pertain to the environmental regulatory process and how to maintain compliance. Sessions are held throughout the state as well as through live webinars that can be accessed online.

The latest session was a workshop on how to navigate LDEQ's public records portal, or Electronic Document Management System (EDMS). EDMS is an online portal that contains all public records that have been created or received by LDEQ and which are available for public view.

Held in a computer lab with hands-on instruction, the workshop included an overview of how LDEQ's records are found in EDMS, along with tips on how to quickly find documents by narrowing a search in a number of ways.

"EDMS is a helpful tool that gives quick access to the environmental information you need," LDEQ Business Analytics Specialist Tomeka Prioleau said.

Sessions were held in Baton Rouge at LDEQ Headquarters June 27 and July 12, including a well-attended live webinar June 28. An additional live webinar will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9



*Attendees learn how to access public records during the Enviroschool session on EDMS in Baton Rouge June 27.*

Enviroschool workshops are free and open to the public. If you are interested in attending a future session, please feel free to register for any of our workshops. For more information, go to <http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroschool> or email Enviroschool at [Enviroschool@la.gov](mailto:Enviroschool@la.gov).



## Message from the Secretary

*Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.*

The generosity of our employees at LDEQ never ceases to amaze me. Klown Unit representatives of Acacia Shriners were in the lobby of the Galvez Building on Friday, July 21, shaking their collection cans for contributions to help the Shriners' Hospital for Children in Shreveport. In just over half a day, 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., they collected \$909. One of the Shriners soliciting contributions was our own Dorian Heroman, an engineer in Waste Permits.

"We cannot thank the department enough," Dorian said. The money has already been deposited, and a check has been sent to the hospital. The money will help fund an upgrade to a new x-ray machine, a state-of-the-art 'EOS machine,' a walk-in type that uses 80 percent less radiation to achieve the same images needed for their 'no-charge' orthopedic care. Good job LDEQ, and good job Shriners!



*Dr. Chuck Carr Brown meets with LDEQ employees.*

I have continued my informal outreach push the past few weeks. I met with members of the Alsen Community to discuss their environmental concerns and what LDEQ can do to allay their worries. It was a productive session, and I have some ideas for actions we can implement in that area. Stay tuned for more.

Communications has been busy filming more YouTube videos. Their short piece about air monitoring was well received; especially on Twitter where it was re-tweeted several times. They are working on producing another video on the topic of landfills -- how they are regulated and why they are needed. The videos are designed to give the public a quick look inside the workings of LDEQ's regulatory areas. As I have said, one of our goals is to continually inform the public about what we do. Doing so helps the public to better understand our role in protecting human health and the environment.

Just a reminder: we are entering the most active period of Hurricane Season. Don't be lulled into complacency by the quiet season we've had so far. Our worst storms have historically occurred in August. Be ready. Have a plan, not just at work, but at home too. Know the evacuation routes and have supplies on hand. Keep your gas tank topped off. Watch the weather reports and internet weather sites.

Keep your heads up and be aware as go about your day. Stay safe out there!



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## New Orleans Environmental Advisory Committee brainstorms ideas to reduce litter and increase recycling



*Liz Sheppard (middle), chair of the New Orleans Environmental Advisory Committee, opens the meeting on recycling and litter in the Metro Council Chambers in New Orleans.*

The recently formed Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) for the city of New Orleans held a listening session to put forth and receive ideas on recycling and litter. The EAC was created to help advise the City Council’s Subcommittee for Public Works, Sanitation, and the Environment on methods to work towards a greener New Orleans. It seeks to support increasing recycling and reducing litter in our community.

The meeting addressed the following categories: The city leads the way: how the city itself can increase recycling practices/reduce litter; Increasing incentives: how the city can increase incentives for recycling/reducing litter; and removing barriers: how the city can remove barriers for recycling/not littering.

The committee presented their ideas on these topics and then took comments and ideas from the public. “Waste is a business opportunity,” committee chair, Liz Sheppard said.

LDEQ’s Don Caffrey attended the meeting and offered LDEQ’s help with their projects. The next meeting of the EAC will be in September.

## LDEQ participates at the 32nd Annual Louisiana Rural Water Conference

The Louisiana Rural Water Association Annual Conference (LRWA) was held in Lake Charles and is a key factor in training, on-site technical assistance, and state operator certification. Our assistance is geared toward the operation and maintenance of water and wastewater systems and to assist them in understanding the rules and regulations of said operation. The conference is designed to bring together water and wastewater utility systems – large and small, municipal and rural – for sessions in operations, management, boardsmanship and governance.

The mission of the LRWA, formed in 1978, is to provide water and wastewater utility members with the highest quality of leadership, representation and support services.

More than 1400 participated in the conference, attended certification classes and perused the many informational booths set up in the exhibit hall. LDEQ employees manned two booths – one for the Outreach and Small Business program and one for the Drinking Water Protection Program. LDEQ environmental scientists Jesse



*Jesse Means, LDEQ geologist and member of the Drinking Water Protection Team, gives a presentation on the water operator’s role in the Drinking Water Protection Program at the Louisiana Rural Water Conference in Lake Charles.*

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*Jeff Jackson, Mary Gentry, Jesse Means and Shanna Mason (l to r), LDEQ environmental scientists, man the LDEQ booth and talk with participants at the Louisiana Rural Water Conference.*

Means, Kathy Huddle and Wayne Slater gave presentations on the certification classes on Storm Water Pollution Prevention, the Drinking Water Protection Program and NetDMR (LDEQ's online electronic discharge monitoring reporting tool). From the LDEQ Criminal Investigation Section, Mike Daniels, Ryan Brignac and Maureen Kennedy presented two classes on State and Federal Wastewater Environmental Related Crimes. LDEQ employees filled other slots such as moderating the sessions.

Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA) is governed by a membership elected board of directors. LRWA is a non-profit organization established in 1978 to assist small water and wastewater systems through training, on-site technical assistance, and state operator certification. Assistance is geared toward the operation and maintenance of water and wastewater systems and to aid them in understanding the rules and regulations of said operation.

Technical assistance is a key ingredient in LRWA's effort to improve the quality of utility services in rural Louisiana and America. More than

2,700 water and wastewater systems benefit from this assistance each year. More than 7,700 on-site visits annually assist systems with their efforts to comply with complex regulations and to protect the public's health. LRWA provides assistance by telephone, on-site technical assistance, and classroom instruction training. LRWA can be reached by calling 800-256-2591 or 337-738-2896.

## LMOGA hosts meeting on industry issues

DEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown was a guest at the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (LMOGA) meeting of refinery managers on July 25 in Baton Rouge. The group met for breakfast and a discussion of industry issues. Brown spoke about 20 minutes as the group sipped coffee and occasionally floated questions.

"My philosophy -- I believe in environmental education," Brown said. "I believe in educating the general public so they can make informed decisions."

Brown touched briefly on the issue of Reid Vapor Pressure gasoline requirements for some parishes in Louisiana. The requirement is now under review by EPA. In a wide ranging 20-minute briefing, he talked about media relations and the need to keep information flowing freely, recent discussion of reportable quantity numbers for plants and refineries, cooperative federalism as proposed by EPA Director Scott Pruitt and the importance of training plant and refinery personnel in emergency response protocols.

Brown said his participation in the Environmental Council of the States, an organization of environmental directors from across the country, provides him with perspectives on common environmental issues in other states. Brown is the vice president of the ECOS Waste Committee, and he told the group he wants them to explore more recycling options and other ways to reduce the amount or waste going to landfills.



*LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown gestures as he makes a point during a short address to refinery managers at LMOGA July 25.*



## LDEQ On The Move



LDEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown got to see his name in lights when he visited the Honeywell Corporation Offices in Washington, D.C., June 6. The secretary was there to hear about the company's environmentally friendly products and to discuss its operations in Louisiana.



LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, second from left, makes a point during a stop in a neighborhood adjacent to a wood treating plant in Alexandria. The secretary conducted a July 5 outreach visit accompanied by LDEQ staff, State Rep. Jeffery Hall, second from right, and Agnes Francisco, local activist. Special Advisor to the Secretary Bijan Sharafkhani is on the left.



Geologist Shanna Mason, left, and Environmental Scientist Greg Waldron greet visitors to LDEQ's display at the New Roads Town Hall Meeting July 12.



## LDEQ On The Move



Malcolm "Lee" McNabb retires from LDEQ June 30 after 14 years of service. McNabb served as an Environmental Scientist III in the Hazardous Waste section, as well as serving in various capacities including floor safety coordinator and First Aid/CPR instructor.



Linda Hardy, LDEQ manager of the Small Business and Outreach group, demonstrates kitchen chemistry to participants in the Big Buddy Summer Program. The group came to LDEQ for the demonstration as well as one with the Enviroescape.



## Who's Who At LDEQ?



### **Jillian Gautreaux – Environmental Scientist II, Industrial Water Permits Division**

Gautreaux, a Baton Rouge native, graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, followed by a Master's degree in Biology in 2016. In April 2017, she began working with LDEQ in the Water Permits Division.

While in graduate school, she volunteered with Dr. Gary Shaffer and aided in the development of a Bald Cypress/Water Tupelo nursery at the Hammond Wetland Assimilation Site. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her fiancé, playing with her dogs, and visiting family in Slidell and Tuscaloosa, Ala.

### **Josh Robichaux – Environmental Scientist, Surveillance Division, Southeast Regional Office**

Robichaux grew up in Raceland and attended Central Lafourche High School. He graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science in Renewable Natural Resource Management and Ecology in 2017.

Robichaux held three summer college internships which included work with the Lafourche Parish Port Commission, as an Environmental Technician with NaturChem Inc., and as a Research Assistant with Penn State University.



### **Edwin Akujobi – Environmental Scientist Manager, Remediation Division, Office of Environmental Assessment**

Akujobi has a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry (Texas Southern University) and chemical engineering (LSU). He also holds a Master of Science degree in environmental science from Southern University. He joined DEQ in 1990 as an environmental intern in the Inactive and Abandoned Sites Division (currently Remediation Division) and has served in various positions in the Division, including as a supervisor. He worked as an Instructor in the Chemistry Department at Southern University prior to securing a position at DEQ.

Akujobi and his family are long-term residents of Baton Rouge.



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## Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's First Quarter Summaries

### First Quarter 2017 Enforcement Actions:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions>

### First Quarter 2017 Settlement Agreements:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division>

### First Quarter 2017 Air Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter>

### First Quarter 2017 Water Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes>

### First Quarter 2017 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits>

