



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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This is a drill: Nuclear preparedness

The Federal Emergency Management Agency requires operators of nuclear power plants to hold periodic drills to train for response to nuclear incidents. Every two years, each plant must hold a graded drill in which a scenario involving a release of radioactive materials is acted out. While LDEQ doesn't regulate the three nuclear plants in and near Louisiana, the agency is a designated offsite responder in the event of a nuclear incident. So are local law enforcement agencies, state health agencies, state police and many other agencies.

"If we can't support the plant, the plant can't operate," said Brad Schexnayder, supervisor in LDEQ's Radiological Emergency Planning and Response section (REP&R).

So, Dec. 5-7, approximately 30 to 35 personnel from LDEQ, all volunteers, stepped up to help man the Waterford 3 Ingestion Pathway Exercise. The Waterford 3 Steam Electric Station is located near Taft, on the west bank of the Mississippi River between New Orleans and LaPlace, but some of the drill activity occurred at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) facility on Independence Boulevard in Baton Rouge where the Joint Information Center (JIC) and State Emergency Operations Center were located.

As the scenario unfolded the first day of the three-day event, drill participants responded to the "plume phase" emergency where there is a release of radioactive gas/material that forms a plume. LDEQ field teams took readings (simulated) to determine the location and strength of the plume. That information was provided to local authorities in the form of a protective action recommendation (PAR). If the local officials accept the PAR, they can issue a protective action decision which can include actions such as evacuations and shelter-in-place orders.



Tabletop drill participants examine maps to develop post-release strategy after a simulated release from Waterford III nuclear power plant.

Back at the JIC, LDEQ personnel participated in mock press conferences and gathered information to reassure the public and inform the media. All the actions were assessed by FEMA evaluators. Schexnayder said the players were evaluated on 87 different criteria and passed the test.

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On the second day of the event, activity shifted to a tabletop exercise at the Galvez Building in downtown Baton Rouge where LDEQ is headquartered. In this phase of the drill, players were asked to evaluate data from a period after the release has been secured. Decisions about re-entry times, access to restricted zones and livestock sheltering were discussed and debated.

On the final day of the event, the scenario shifted further into the future, six months or more, and decisions were reached about how to evaluate the effects of the release and what further actions should be taken to map out a path forward.



EPA Radiological Emergency Response Trailer parked outside LDEQ for use in the Ingestion Pathway Nuclear Drill.

REP&R's mission is to protect the health and safety of the public and environment in the event of a radiological incident. In order to fulfill this mission, the REP&R program is responsible for developing and maintaining the Louisiana Peacetime Radiological Response Plan for any potential incidents at nuclear power plants affecting the citizens and environment of the State of Louisiana.

Ji Young Wiley, staff scientist in REP&R, said the agency must participate in the drills to keep the responders' skills sharp. "Unless you actually practice it and use it, you will not be able to verify if you have missed something," she said.

Wiley said REP&R has been fortunate to draw volunteers from across the agency to help with the drills. "They get to be out of the office for a while," she said "they get some new skills and meet some new people." Those people may include staff from GOHSEP, Louisiana Department of Health, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, St. John the Baptist Parish Emergency Operations

Center, St. Charles Parish Emergency Operations Center, WWL-New Orleans, Waterford 3 Steam Electric Station, Texas State Department of Health, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, Arkansas Department of Health and FEMA.

The big winners in the process are the people who live near the plants. "Our participation provides a reasonable assurance that in the event of an incident, public health and safety could be protected," Schexnayder said.



Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.



LDEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

This past year has been an exciting one, presenting many challenges and changes. Our food donation effort during a month-long drive provided more than 11,000 meals for the food banks across the state (through monetary donations as well as perishable and non-perishable food donations). This means that the efforts at LDEQ provided thousands of families with meals that they may not otherwise have had. I cannot adequately express the gratitude and pride I have in working side-by-side with such generous employees. The result of the mission to feed the hungry is a testament to our compassion to the less fortunate citizens of Louisiana. Hats off to you all!

Our internal moves at the headquarters building in Baton Rouge are underway. Some of those moves have been completed, while others are ongoing. Please continue to be patient as we make these adjustments, including new phones. The moves will streamline our internal communication channels, which will, in turn, facilitate our work processes. Just give everything time. It will all work.

For those of you who are moving temporarily then moving again, this goes double for you. I appreciate your patience. The end result of all the upheaval will be money savings for the agency. With the fiscal cliff looming this coming year, every penny counts.

As 2017 comes to a close and the holiday season greets us, it's a time for sharing laughter and memories with friends and loved ones. It's also a time to reflect on the great work we've accomplished over the year. As we move into 2018, new questions and concerns will need to be addressed through the course of our extensive, multi-faceted mission. Meeting the needs of the state through technical decisions backed by science is our foundation. Professionalism is our foremost asset as we conduct business through ethically and scientifically sound decisions that promote human health and the environment in Louisiana. We were guided by our core values in 2017. This year will be no different.

Thank you again for your hard work and dedication!



Former LDEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel retires as facilitator of the Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition

Colleagues and friends of Mike D. McDaniel, Ph.D., former secretary and assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), surprised him with a small ceremony and party at his last Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition meeting as facilitator in December at LDEQ. The group consisted of those he has worked with in the past and current colleagues and friends. LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown honored McDaniel with recognition of his work in the form of a certificate signed by Gov. John Bel Edwards.

Beyond the official recognition, “we are here as your friends as well as your colleagues,” Brown said.

McDaniel was founder and facilitator of BRAC for many years. He is retiring from the position of facilitator.

McDaniel has been in the forefront of improving air quality in the state of Louisiana. His many accomplishments include a Ph.D. in biology from North Texas State University; he served as assistant secretary for the Office of Air Quality and Radiation for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality from 1988 to 1992; LDEQ Secretary from 2004 to 2008; served as principal and facilitator the joint LDEQ and industry Ozone Task Force; formed and facilitated the Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition until his retirement this month; president at the Baton Rouge Clean Cities Coalition; and much more.

“When I look back on the accomplishments of the Clean Air Coalition,” McDaniel said, “we did something that hadn’t been done before. A small group of us went to Washington and met with the head of the EPA and got a rules change.” That trip was prompted by a change in the 1-hour ozone standard requirements for the Inspection and Maintenance program that would have had onerous consequences for Louisiana. The contingent met with the EPA director, talked to Congress and former Sen. John Breaux and got the rule rewritten.

During the time that McDaniel served LDEQ as Assistant Secretary, he was principal in the development of the Louisiana Air Toxic regulatory program that was one of the first air toxics programs in the nation. During his tenure as secretary of LDEQ, he oversaw the emergency response, cleanup and recovery from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, worked with the Louisiana Mercury Risk Program, instituted fence line monitoring in the Baton Rouge industrial corridor and testified before the U.S. Senate Public Works Committee and the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security on matters concerning hurricane response.

He has been instrumental in creating solutions, bringing stakeholders together to address air quality issues and facilitating progress. His leadership in all areas of improving air quality has been effective in reducing ozone pollution in the state.

Louisiana owes much of the improved air quality and environmental improvement to his efforts and dedication to the people and the state of Louisiana.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown presents Mike McDaniel with a certificate of recognition signed by Gov. John Bel Edwards.



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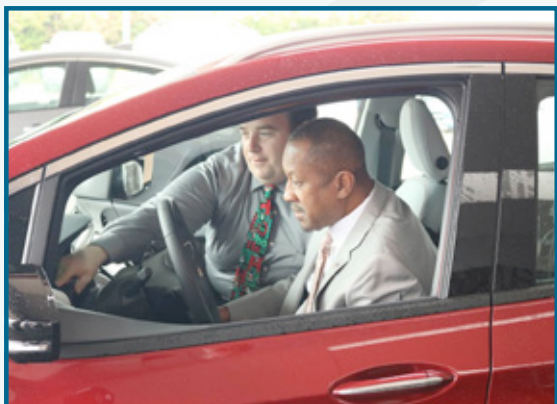
Former LDEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel



The Chevrolet Bolt EV is a fully electric vehicle powered by a rechargeable battery.



Louisiana Clean Fuels' Ann Vail, left, and LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, center, examine the engine of the Chevrolet Bolt EV as Gerry Lane Sales Professional T.J. Bryan explains where everything is located under the hood.



T.J. Bryan, Gerry Lane Chevrolet sales professional, explains controls on the Chevrolet Bolt EV to LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown tests drives the new Chevy Bolt Electric vehicle

It's quick but maybe it can't pass a Corvette. Then again, it can pass one thing a Corvette can't: a gas station. LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown test drove a new Chevy Bolt Electric Vehicle at Gerry Lane Chevrolet in Baton Rouge Nov. 19. He found himself pleasantly surprised.

"It is quicker off the line than a Corvette," Brown said. "It has 200 horsepower and it's all there instantly."

Brown was driving the EV as part of his continuing push for more alternative fuel vehicles. He is especially keen on EVs zero emissions.

"It has a range of 238 miles per charge," he said. "And you can charge it up at your house."

A Gerry Lane spokesman said the Bolt vehicle has a "luxury feel" because of the way it is appointed. It's small, yes, but the vehicle Brown drove comfortably accommodated four people, including two representatives of Louisiana Clean Fuels who occupied the back seat. This model has all the bells and whistles too: air conditioning, stereo, voice activated accessories. With no oil changes and very simple low maintenance (check fluids and rotate tires) and a sticker price in the low \$40,000s, you'd expect the Bolt to have wide appeal. Sales people at the auto dealer said the Bolts sell out almost as soon as they get them onto the lot.

EVs like the Bolt fit nicely into Brown's vision of an alternative fuels corridor in Louisiana. "It will be centered around fueling hubs where you can stop and charge your EV, fill up your compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicle or propane vehicle or whatever alternative fuels prove popular. If you are charging your EV, you will be able to shop at a store or eat at a restaurant attached to the hub."

As more alternative fuels vehicles become available, there will be more demand for fueling hubs, Brown believes. "It's the chicken or the egg question," he said. "But it's coming. This is the future."



LDEQ air permit inspections ensure regulatory compliance

Inspecting minor and major emissions sources in the state falls under LDEQ's purview, so inspectors from the department's regional offices are tasked with visiting those locations to verify compliance with the Clean Air Act and other regulations identified in the facility's permit.



Kelly McDermott examines the facility's fire pump and diesel engine unit during an inspection.

Facilities are classified as major sources or minor sources based on the amount and type of constituents that can be released based on their annual emissions output. Major sources fall under Title V of the Clean Air Act when their air emissions are at a threshold of 100 tons per year. This is a default value, so lower thresholds may apply given the location and specifics of the emissions source. Sources emitting hazardous air pollutants have a much lower threshold of 10 tons per year for a single constituent, or 25 tons for a combination of constituents.

Under the EPA's definition, Title V requires major sources of air pollutants and certain other sources to obtain and operate in compliance with an operating permit. Every permit holder must certify compliance with the permit's requirements on an annual basis.

LDEQ Environmental Scientist Kelly McDermott, based in the Northwest Regional Office in Shreveport, is one of several inspectors with the department tasked with conducting air permit inspections – one of which was a Title V inspection at a wood processing facility in central Louisiana Nov. 3.

Inspections are generally unannounced, but sometimes advance notice may be needed for access to the site and to ensure that a representative is available to provide records and conduct a site tour.

Title V inspections can be conducted randomly, but generally take place every two years based on scheduling set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Facilities emitting a lower amount of constituents are typically inspected every five years, per the federal fiscal year schedule.

While it's up to facilities to determine what their compliance requires (i.e., record keeping, testing, monitoring, etc.), those requirements still must fall within the applicable federal and state regulations.

"Under a specific regulation, the requirements will differ from facility to facility, as they are based on a facility's specific equipment, process and materials (and oftentimes age of equipment)," said McDermott. "That same regulation may require a different set of criteria for another facility, so it is up each facility to know what that criteria is, and determine if they are exempt from meeting a specific requirement."

Since interpretations of the regulations can sometimes vary, it's important to ensure that the state and the facility are on the same page. "For any exemptions claimed by a facility in their air permit, I want to see documentation on how they arrived at that conclusion."

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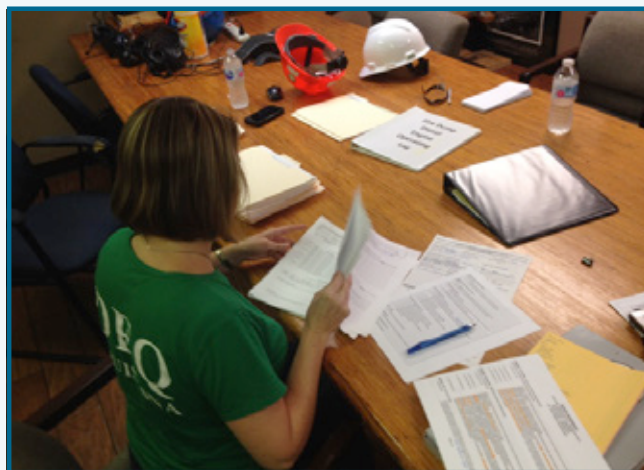
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After reviewing the documentation and conferring with the facility representative, a tour of the site will occur, and key operational areas are observed. Checking on the functionality of the vent and emissions systems is an essential part of the tour. “We (inspectors) should physically see every emissions point at the facility,” McDermott said.

Operating logs and maintenance reports are reviewed by the inspector, and any breaks or omissions in those records along with down periods or emergency measures are noted and called into question.

Weekly monitoring around the fence by the facility is another requirement, and maintaining accurate and complete air monitoring records is a key component of the permit.

While each inspection’s specific requirements differ based on the facility’s size, output, production type and compliance history, all visits will include a sit-down with a facility representative to view their annual compliance report and certification, production reports, the safety/housekeeping plan and other site-specific documentation such as annual capacity factors (showing fuel use limitations) and any boiler tune-up schedules.



After a site tour and a review of the facility’s records, Kelly McDermott documents the visit on a Field Interview Form, which becomes part of the public record.

Once the facility tour and required paperwork has been reviewed, the inspection concludes with the completion of a Field Interview Form, which is filled out by the inspector to document the visit and identify any areas of concern, if applicable. It is signed by the inspector and the facility rep, and is subsequently entered into the public record. LDEQ keeps the original, while the facility receives a copy.

Follow-up visits to the facility will be undertaken should a compliance issue need to be corrected, and attempts are made to ensure that a facility is operating within the regulations. The regulations are written to be protective of human health and the environment, so safety, emissions and operational standards must fall within those guidelines.

Should a facility have difficulty maintaining compliance, LDEQ’s Enforcement Division will communicate with the facility with a plan to meet compliance. Ultimately, a notice of potential penalty, further enforcement action or possible legal action may result in the event that attempts to reach compliance are unsuccessful.

For more information on air permits and associated regulatory questions, please go to: <http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/air-permit-procedures>.



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LDEQ hosts live webinar on Understanding Environmental Regulations

Understanding Environmental Regulations is a topic that requires continual attention – particularly for those engaged in daily tasks that involve those regulations.

To address the issue, LDEQ hosted a 2-hour enviroschool session on the subject Dec. 7. While some sessions are classroom-based, this session was in the format of a webinar. All EnviroSchool sessions are free and open to the public.

The webinar explored environmental regulations and what they are designed to do. The session included an overview on understanding state and federal environmental regulations, including the rulemaking process, programs delegated to LDEQ and how regulations govern these programs.

Status updates on future regulation changes were also discussed.

Enviroschool sessions cover a variety of environmentally based topics and are held periodically throughout the year.

Please go to: <http://deq.louisiana.gov/form/enviroschool> to register.

For answers to questions, please contact Tomeka Prioleau at (225) 219-0877, or email: Enviroschool@la.gov.



Enviroschool sessions are presented online through webinars or in classroom settings, depending on the course.



LDEQ On The Move



Erin Folse and Andy Messina, LDEQ UST Division, move their cubicles from the 7th to the 9th floor of the Galvez Building.



Gary Fulton, LDEQ UST division administrator carries a box to his new office on the 9th floor of the Galvez building.



Brady Beacom and other LDEQ employees enjoy pizza to celebrate the success of the LDEQ food drive for the Food Bank.



LDEQ employees sang Christmas carols throughout the building.



Who's Who At LDEQ?



SP Davis, Jr., Ph.D. – Environmental Scientist III – Waste Permits Division, Hazardous Waste Section

Davis is a native of Shreveport, and a graduate of Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science pre-vet. Davis also obtained a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in urban forestry and natural resource management from Southern University.

In his spare time, he enjoys mentoring the youth of Caddo and Bossier Parishes through the Kappa League (Training for Leadership) program, a Guide Right Initiative of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated. Davis enjoys traveling stateside as well as internationally, experiencing new cultures.

Shane Miller – Environmental Scientist Senior – Acadiana Regional Office

Miller, a 21 year employee with the LDEQ, was recently promoted to environmental scientist senior in water compliance at the Acadiana Regional Office.

Miller received a Bachelor of Science degree from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches in biology with an emphasis in microbiology. In his early years at LDEQ, he worked as part of the Mercury Program collecting fish samples and sediment samples from water bodies around the state to be analyzed for the presence of mercury. For the past 16 years, he has worked in the Surveillance Division in both underground storage tanks and water compliance.

Miller has extensive experience in water compliance, and in 2009, he became the Staff Scientist in water at the Acadiana Regional Office in Lafayette. He was also part of the BP Deepwater Horizon response, serving as a state field representative and as the Environmental Unit Liaison/Coordinator for field response.



Kay Clark – Environmental Scientist – Air Field Services

Clark graduated from McNeese State University in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science with a concentration in equine. She recently married her best friend, Justin Clark. Clark loves animals, nature, squirrel/deer hunting and being outside, which makes LDEQ field work fun and exciting.

“Working as an environmental scientist in the air field services division as an ambient air site monitor has taught me so much in the few weeks I’ve been here so far. I look forward to the years of learning that lie ahead!”



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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

Third Quarter 2017 Enforcement Actions:

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

Third Quarter 2017 Settlement Agreements:

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

Third Quarter 2017 Air Permits:

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

Third Quarter 2017 Water Permits:

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

Third Quarter 2017 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

