NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Environmental Quality

Office of the Secretary

Legal Affairs and Criminal Investigations Division

Water Transfer Rule

(LAC 33:IX.2315) (WQ100ft)

 Under the authority of the Environmental Quality Act, R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the secretary gives notice that rulemaking procedures have been initiated to amend the Water Quality regulations, LAC 33:IX.2315 (Log #WQ100ft).

 This Rule is identical to federal regulations found in 40 CFR Part 122.3(i), which are applicable in Louisiana. For more information regarding the federal requirement, contact the Regulation Development Section at (225) 219-3985 or P.O. Box 4302, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4302. No fiscal or economic impact will result from the rule. This rule will be promulgated in accordance with the procedures in R.S. 49:953(F)(3) and (4).

 This Rule adds water transfer discharges to the list of exclusions for a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, LPDES, permit. Federal regulations, which became effective on August 12, 2008, clarified that water transfers are not subject to regulation under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program. The basis and rationale are to mirror existing federal regulations found at 40 CFR 122.3(i). This Rule meets an exception listed in R.S. 30:2019(D)(2) and R.S. 49:953(G)(3); therefore, no report regarding environmental/health benefits and social/economic costs is required.

**Family Impact Statement**

This Rule has no known impact on family formation, stability, and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

**Poverty Impact Statement**

This Rule has no known impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

**Provider Impact Statement**

This Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

**Public Hearing**

A public hearing will be held on March 1, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. in the Galvez Building, Oliver Pollock Conference Room, 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Interested persons are invited to attend and submit oral comments on the proposed amendments. Should individuals with a disability need an accommodation in order to participate, contact Deidra Johnson at the address given below or at (225) 219-3985. Two hours of free parking are allowed in the Galvez Garage with a validated parking ticket.

**Public Comments**

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed regulation. Persons commenting should reference this proposed regulation by WQ100ft. Such comments must be received no later than March 1, 2019, at 4:30 p.m., and should be sent to Deidra Johnson, Attorney Supervisor, Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs and Criminal Investigations Division, P.O. Box 4302, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4302 or to fax (225) 219-4068 or by e-mail to deidra.johnson@la.gov. The comment period for this rule ends on the same date as the public hearing. Copies of this proposed regulation can be purchased by contacting the DEQ Public Records Center at (225) 219-3168. Check or money order is required in advance for each copy of WQ100ft. This regulation is available on the Internet at [www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/1669/default.aspx](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/1669/default.aspx).

 This proposed regulation is available for inspection at the following DEQ office locations from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.: 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; 1823 Highway 546, West Monroe, LA 71292; State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101; 1301 Gadwall Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615; 111 New Center Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508; 110 Barataria Street, Lockport, LA 70374; 201 Evans Road, Bldg. 4, Suite 420, New Orleans, LA 70123.

 Herman Robinson

 General Counsel

**Title 33**

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**PART IX: WATER QUALITY**

**Subpart 2. The Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) Program**

**Chapter 23. Definitions and General LPDES Program Requirements**

**§2315. Exclusions**

 A. – A.7. …

 8. discharges from a water transfer: Water transfer means an activity that conveys or connects waters of the United States without subjecting the transferred water to intervening industrial, municipal, or commercial use. This exclusion does not apply to pollutants introduced by the water transfer activity itself to the water being transferred.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular Section 2074(B)(3) and (B)(4).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, LR 21:945 (September 1995), repromulgated by the Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 30:230 (February 2004), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 33:2069 (October 2007), LR 37:589 (February 2011), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs and Criminal Investigations Division, LR 45: