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Remediation completed at Bayou Trepagnier in St. Charles Parish

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has announced the completion of remediation on a large segment of Bayou Trepagnier in St. Charles Parish.

Situated just north of the Motiva Refinery, Bayou Trepagnier was the receiving waterbody for refinery wastewater before the refinery's permitted discharge was shifted to the Mississippi River in 1995. Since the mid-1980s, DEQ and its partners have been undertaking a series of investigatory projects in order to assess the ecosystem in and around the bayou. Throughout that period, DEQ has worked with various environmental groups on remediation plans and solutions that would benefit Bayou Trepagnier and bring it back to acceptable environmental conditions.

The final portion of the clean up was approved in February 2011, and remediation commenced immediately. "The Remedial Project Plan and its associated sub-plans were reviewed by DEQ and revised as needed to prepare for clean up of this segment of Bayou Trepagnier," said Tom Harris, Administrator of DEQ's Remediation Division. "The project is very beneficial for the citizens of Louisiana as DEQ continues to work with Motiva, LLC, and its partners toward returning the bayou to its typical environmental habitat so that fish and wildlife propagation may continue to thrive for future generations to enjoy."

Remediation efforts at Bayou Trepagnier entailed solidification and stabilization of approximately 6,000 feet of bayou sediments that contained oily waste residues. Affected bayou sediments were stabilized and finally capped with clay content soils. Approximately 43,000 yards of imported clay soils were used to build access roads and provide for a clay cap designed to cover the stabilized sediment. Additionally, an 800 foot-wide clean zone was created at the southern end of the bayou in order to create a potential pathway for use on any future freshwater conveyance projects.

The remediation began with the collection of soil borrow material from the Bonnet Carre' spillway for use in construction of a temporary access road on the east side of Bayou Trepagnier for vehicle traffic and work access to the bayou's affected sediment. A floating bridge was also installed across a canal in order to facilitate truck traffic for clean up operations.

Excavation, water management and solidification of bayou sediments commenced in August without any major interruptions. Stabilized bayou sediments were capped with clay soil borrow material in December 2011.

As of January 2012, the Bayou Trepagnier channel is capped and seeded with an interim rye grass cover. The planting of native vegetation species will begin in February 2012 to improve and enhance the areas existing natural resources, as well as replace vegetation lost due to construction of the remedial action.