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For Immediate Release

*City of Alexandria, DEQ, DHH, LMA, LDAF and LA Rural Water Host
Municipal Environmental Conference*

Alexandria, Louisiana (January 6, 2012) – After a very successful conference in 2011, the City of Alexandria, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA), Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) and Louisiana Rural Water will host the 11th annual Environmental Regulatory Compliance Conference. The conference is scheduled for January 25 and 26, 2012 at the Alexandria Riverfront Conference Center, Alexandria, Louisiana.

The 2012 agenda includes presentations regarding state and federal environmental updates, regulatory requirements for solid waste, hazardous waste, water, wastewater, and water systems, Brownfields, bid law, ethics and many other timely environmental issues. Fifty-two exhibitors will be at the 2012 conference. Continuing education hours for elected officials (1 hour ethics), engineers (13 CEUs), water operators (12 CEUs), wastewater operators (12 CEUs), solid waste operators (10 CEUs), attorneys (12.5 CLEs, including ethics and professionalism), and sanitarians (12 CEUs) are available.

The cost to attend the conference is \$110 per person. Online registration is available until January 20, 2012 at www.erccla.com. After January 20, 2012, persons can register on site at the conference for \$125 per person.

This year's conference, "Protecting Yourself and Your Government from Environmental Liabilities," will focus on environmental concerns of particular interest to municipal and parish governments.

The keynote speaker for this year's conference is Dr. Alfredo "Al" Armendariz, Regional Administrator with the US Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 in Dallas, Texas. As Regional Administrator, Dr. Armendariz is responsible for managing the Agency's regional activities under the direction of EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson.

Representatives from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Board of Ethics, US Army Corps of Engineers, Office of Louisiana Attorney General and the private sector will participate. Numerous positive comments were received about the quality and usefulness of previous conference presentations, the overall organization of the event and exhibitors.

“The Environmental Regulatory Compliance Conference in Alexandria provides a wealth of information. This DEQ administration has tried to be proactive in meeting and assisting local officials and we will continue to be in the field to provide assistance. The conference in Alexandria provides yet another outlet for representatives of local government to learn how to protect the environment while providing the best possible leadership for their constituents,” said Peggy Hatch, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

Peggy Hatch, Secretary of LDEQ, will address the conference on the summary of the Department’s accomplishments and her view of the agency’s path forward.

For more information about the conference, including the full agenda, visit the ERCC website at www.erccla.com or you may call Ann Wilson, City of Alexandria, 318-441-6251.

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