



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### Field Guide to Environmental Compliance, innovation lead to industry improvements

BATON ROUGE – State and local agencies have worked closely with the oil and gas industry to produce the Field Guide to Environmental Compliance for the Oil and Gas Industry. With this business sector growing, environmental regulations changing and environmental technology expanding, the field guide is an attempt to help industry officials better understand the complexity of environmental regulations and create a better understanding of what regulations are applicable for certain business practices.

The field guide is just one part of the Environmental Results Program that was implemented in 2008 in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Natural Resources. The goals for the program included in-depth inspections to create a baseline for compliance with environmental regulations, implementing innovative compliance assistance programs and a streamlined, web-based permitting process.

DEQ began conducting baseline inspections of oil and gas facilities in 2009. The 2011 follow-up inspections showed a 16.9 percent compliance rate increase with air quality regulations and a 22.8 percent increase in facilities having the required permit as opposed to operating without a permit. Compliance with water regulations increased 11.7 percent, while those operating with the necessary permits increased 10 percent.

The DEQ final report on the program states: “Increased industry compliance rates after application of the compliance assistance tools developed within the ERP indicate that the approach was successful. However, it cannot be determined with certainty whether any one tool was more significant than another in achieving program goals. It is probable that no one tool alone can be credited, but rather the entire program of outreach, face-to-face workshops, the “Field Guide” development process, and web-based air and water permit applications is responsible.”

The Field Guide to Environmental Compliance 2012 is available online at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/PROGRAMS/EnvironmentalResultsProgram.aspx>. It can be downloaded and printed. The final report is available on the web at [www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov).

“This is an example of Louisiana using innovation and science to produce real results that benefit the environment and business,” said DEQ Peggy Hatch. “We have the data to show the state’s environment continues to improve and it through the use of technology, education and teamwork that we will see this trend in the future.”