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EPA commends DEQ on electronic discharge monitoring report program

BATON ROUGE – According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is leading the nation with 31 percent of the electronic Discharge Monitoring Reports (eDMRs) submitted by regulated parties.

EPA lauded DEQ's effort in a March 6 letter to DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. John Blevins, Director of Compliance Assurance and Enforcement for EPA Region 6, noted that the DEQ staff has been actively involved in the NetDMR process including outreach. "Your staff has been actively involved in the entire NetDMR process, including outreach, participation in national workgroups, training, enhancement recommendations, and providing technical assistance to permittees and other states that are considering the program," said Blevins. "The Region has come to rely on your expertise in helping to improve the NetDMR program, and in providing guidance for other states that are considering using the program."

NetDMR online applications are for the electronic submission of discharge monitoring reports, known as DMRs. They are a self-reporting document that is generated by permittees that have a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. The DMR contains information pertaining to water discharges into waters of the state.

In addition to DEQ's participation in community outreach through workshops, technical assistance and program guidance, DEQ's Discharge Monitoring Report program staff has expanded the capabilities of the national system by designing an efficient, user-friendly tool which uploads the official DMR to the electronic filing system.

DEQ has developed and presented to permittees a hands-on training session on how to most effectively use the submittal system. They have already presented two training sessions, including a session scheduled in Baton Rouge on March 15, and one in Alexandria on March 22. Other states have consulted the staff regarding implementation of the program and in using the submission tool.

"We appreciate EPA's recognition of the dedication to excellence, innovative efforts and hard work that our staff has undertaken in the DMR program," said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. "It is gratifying to know that our DEQ employees have once again gone above and beyond to set the standard for performance in this critical area."

For more information on the NetDMR program, email deqnetdmr@la.gov, or visit DEQ on the web at: www.deq.louisiana.gov/netdmr.