



Water Permits Division e-Newsletter

A SUMMARY OF WATER PERMITTING NEWS & EVENTS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER—DECEMBER 2008

PERMITS ISSUED 11/1/07—10/31/08

Individual Minors	161
Individual Majors	41
Sewage Sludge & Bio-solids Use or Disposal	7

GENERAL PERMITS

Class I Sanitary	2498
Class II Sanitary	375
Class III Sanitary	2
Class IV Sanitary	44
Large Construction	871
Sand & Gravel	11
Petroleum UST	85
Oil & Gas Exploration	92
Autodealer	27
Hydrostatic Test	137
Exterior Vehicle Wash	84
Potable Water	7
Cement, Concrete & Asphalt	7
C&D Landfill	27
Groundwater	3
Dewater PST	2
Multi-Sector	125

% CURRENT

MAJORS	90
MINORS	96.6

Water Permits Division to Issue Newsletter

LDEQ Water Permits Division (WPD) publishes a Quarterly Newsletter to provide the regulated community, citizens, and other interested parties with updates and information relevant to water permitting issues. The first bimonthly Newsletter was published for July through August 2008. This newsletter is back on the quarterly cycle. To make the newsletter an effective means of communication, we need your comments, recommendations, and input. Please contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3073 or Melvin Mitchell at 225-219-3181/3013.

Water Permits Division Staff Update

Recent staff changes: Yvonne Baker has been promoted to Environmental Scientist Staff TMDL, Jill Saale has been promoted to Administrative Assistant 4, Industrial Permits Section. Adele Allen, Administrative Assistant 5, has been reassigned from Legal Division to Water Permits Division. Colin McCawley has been transferred from Permits Support Division, OES. Phillip Mergist has been hired as a student worker. Heather Babin has been reassigned to the Permits Support Division. Aimee Killeen left the WPD in October to pursue new endeavors.

WPD Met 2008 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting Program Goals and Objectives

LDEQ was commended by EPA Region 6 on November 24, 2008 for achieving and exceeding its permit issuance rate in Fiscal Year 2008. The overall permit issuance rate of 96.2% and the priority permit issuance rate of 116% were both above national targets. Water permits Division will continue its effort to increase the number of major permit issued annually and to issue priority permits that are greater than 10 years expired. Additional information on actual numbers and types of permit issued by LDEQ can be found on page 1 of the e-Newsletter in the Permits Issued section.

LPDES MQL Update in Process

Water Permits Division, at the request of EPA Region 6, is in the process of updating the current Minimum Quantification Levels (MQLs) in Louisiana's WQMP Guidance Document for the implementation of the State's water quality standards. Updates will be published for public comment February 2009. A list of accredited laboratories with the ability to achieve the new MQLs will be posted on the LDEQ web page commencing by February 28, 2009. For more information contact Gary Aydell at 225-219-3002 or Melvin Mitchell at 225-219-3181/3013.

WPD to teach EnviroSchool

Water Permits Division will take its turn teaching LDEQs EnviroSchool in February of 2009. Water Permits 101: Understanding the Process will take participants through the major regulations that govern the LPDES program. The Water Permits 101 session dates, and locations are as follows: February 5: Baton Rouge; February 12: New Orleans; February 19: Lake Charles; February 26: Shreveport. All sessions are from 10 AM-12 PM. More information on EnviroSchool can be found on LDEQs public website at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2601/Default.aspx> For more information contact Gary Aydell at 225-219-3002 or Melvin Mitchell at 225-219-3181/3013.

Final Vessel General Permit

On December 18, 2008, EPA issued the Final Vessel General Permit. The VGP regulates discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels operating in a capacity as a means of transportation. Recreational vessels as defined in section 502(25) of the Clean Water Act are not subject to this permit. In addition, with the exception of ballast water discharges, non-recreational vessels less than 79 feet (24.08 meters) in length, and all commercial fishing vessels, regardless of length, are not subject to this permit. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California recently signed an order providing that "the exemption for discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, contained in 40 C.F.R. § 122.3(a), is vacated as of February 6, 2009." Therefore, the regulated community need not comply with the terms of today's permit until February 6, 2009. Information can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/vessels>.

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LDEQ Commended for Biomonitoring Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Limit

LDEQ was commended by EPA Region 6 on November 24, 2008 for being the first and only NPDES delegated State in EPA Region 6 to adopt and establish revisions to its WET implementation procedures. LDEQ will continue its efforts to implement biomonitoring templates for determining reasonable potential for Wet limits or potential for WET limits. For more information contact Melissa Reboul at 225-219-3076

New Application Policy

Reduction in number of paper copies down from 3 to 2. When submitting application documents (to include NOIs) to LDEQ, potential permittees only need to provide the original application plus one paper copy. All applications and NOIs are contained on Water Permits Webpage. The applications will be updated April 2009. For more information contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3073.

Nutrient Removal Reference Document

The EPA Office of Wastewater Management released a new technical reference document that will help permit writers, state and regional regulators, utility owners, and other local decision makers plan or evaluate cost-effective nutrient removal projects for municipal wastewater treatment facilities. The Municipal Nutrient Removal Technologies Reference Documents is available on the EPA Office of Wastewater Management's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/mtb/index.htm>. For additional information contact Scott Stine at 214-665-7182 or stine.scott@epa.gov

Sewage Sludge Hauler Licensing coming to DEQ Update

Effective July 1, 2009, the 2008 legislative session authorized the move of the state's sewage sludge hauler licensing program from LDHH to LDEQ. This means that the regulation of sewage sludge generation, transportation and disposal will be contained within one agency. Transition coordination meetings have been conducted internal to LDEQ and between Water Permits Division LDEQ and Office of Public Health LDHH. Additional information will be provided during the February 2009 WPD EnviroSchool sessions (See article in this e-Newsletter). Watch for more information on the WPD website or contact Kilren Vidrine at 225-219-3012.

Reduced Interest Rate for State Revolving Fund Loan

LDEQ Secretary Hal Legget approved the reduced interest rate for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to 0.95% today January 26, 2009. The fund may be used for Water Quality improvement project to include waste Water Treatment plant upgrades. For More information contact Melvin Mitchell at 225-219-3181/3013.

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Class II Sanitary General (LAG540000) Reissued

The LAG540000 master general permit was reissued with an effective date of 7/1/08. All permit reauthorizations have been mailed to facilities covered under the previous LAG540000 as of 1/5/09. If you are currently covered under the LAG540000 and have not receive reissued coverage, please contact Eura Dehart or Rachel Davis at 225-219-3181.

General Permits Updates

LAG260000—The public comment period ends 3/9/09 for the reissuance of Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Activities In Territorial Seas Master General Permit. If you have any questions, contact Valerie Powe at (225) 219-3135

LAG560000— The public comment period ended 11/12/08 for the reissuance of Class III Sanitary Master General Permit. The final permit is currently under review. If you have any questions, please contact Eura Dehart at (225) 219-3102.

LAG570000— The reissuance of the Class IV Sanitary Master General Permits is currently under review. If you have any questions, please contact Eura Dehart at (225) 219-3102.

LAG750000—The public comment period ended 1/12/09 for the reissuance of Exterior Vehicle Wash Master General Permit. The final permit is currently under review. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Gauthier at (225) 219-0801.

LAG110000— The public comment period ended 1/12/09 for the reissuance of Cement, Concrete, and Asphalt Master General Permit. The final permit is currently under review. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Gauthier at (225) 219-0801.

Septage Haulers Must Registrar

The Permit Support Services Division plans to send two reminder letters to septage haulers currently registered with the Department of Health and Human Resources. Soon, we will advise haulers that the Department of Environmental Quality will assume the program effective July 1, 2009. The second letter with an attached application will be sent in early April advising the septage haulers that applications need to be submitted by May 1st to ensure that the forms can be processed and the hauler are registered by July 1, 2009. For more information contact Nathan Levy at 225-219-3241.

Biosolids Applications Due

The Water Permits Division plans to send a letter to all "Major" sanitary wastewater treatment facilities (POTW and Privately-owned) informing the owners/operators that, as per LAC 33:IX.7301.D.1.b.iv, a completed Sewage Sludge & Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit Application must be submitted to LDEQ by June 1, 2009. For more information contact Kilren Vidrine at 225-219-3012.