



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### **DEQ issues emergency declaration in wake of hurricane**

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality issued an emergency declaration today in an effort to help accelerate emergency response and disaster-recovery efforts related to Hurricane Katrina. The order provides emergency relief from many of DEQ's regulatory requirements.

Parishes affected by the 90-day variance are: Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, St. Martin, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana.

"After such a terrible disaster, the No. 1 priority is human health and emergency response," Secretary Mike McDaniel said. "This authorization will allow areas impacted by the hurricane to recover, cleanup and rebuild faster because the regulatory process will be reduced."

The order is intended to expedite repairs to facilities like sewage treatment plants and drinking water facilities. Also, clean-up efforts such as those associated with solid wastes, burning debris and animal carcasses can be tended to without DEQ's oversight.

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