



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

PEGGY M. HATCH
SECRETARY

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Contact: Tim Beckstrom
Phone: 225-219-3967

DEQ Secretary Hatch makes changes to executive staff

BATON ROUGE – Today, DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch announced changes to her executive staff that will place Beau James Brock as Assistant Secretary of the Office of Environmental Compliance and have current Assistant Secretary Paul Miller join her as her Special Assistant, effective Aug. 10.

“Under this administration, Paul has led this office through the restructuring of the Office of Environmental Assessment and I look forward to drawing on his years of industry experience as my confidential assistant,” Hatch said. “Beau will be an effective leader using the experience gained working eight years for the Environmental Protection Agency, and as special assistant under two DEQ Secretaries. As the department faces new challenges, Paul and Beau’s leadership skills will be essential in moving this department forward. DEQ’s enforcement strategy will be unchanged and continue to be firm, but fair.”

The mission of the Office of Environmental Compliance, which consists of the Surveillance, Enforcement, Emergency and Radiological Services, Air Quality Assessment and Water Quality Assessment Divisions, is to ensure the human health, occupational safety and welfare of the citizens while protecting the environmental resources of Louisiana. The office conducts inspections of facilities, monitors air and water quality standards for compliance, and responds to environmental incidents, such as unauthorized releases, spills and citizen complaints. In addition, the office provides compliance assistance to the regulated community, when appropriate.

In 2008, incoming Secretary Dr. Harold “Hal” Leggett, appointed Brock as the Assistant to the Secretary. He was re-appointed to that position in January 2010 by Leggett's successor, Peggy Hatch. As such, he performs his duties in environmental law and policy as a member of Secretary Hatch’s executive staff. Brock served as the Regional Criminal Enforcement Council for the EPA Region 6 from March 1999 through February 2008. In that capacity, Brock provided in-house legal oversight to Federal criminal investigations conducted in Louisiana by EPA. Prior to joining EPA, he served as an Assistant District Attorney for East Baton Rouge Parish. Brock graduated from Louisiana State University in 1988, and from the LSU Law Center in 1991. He is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association and the Dean Henry George McMahon Chapter of the American Inns of Court.

Paul Miller is a Professional Engineer and a civil engineering graduate of Louisiana Tech University. He began his environmental career as an Assistant Regional Engineer with the Department of Health and Hospitals in 1979. In 1983, he transferred to the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Environmental Affairs, which became the Department of Environmental Quality in 1984. In 1989, he moved over to the private sector as a consultant, then as an employee in the timber and wood products and utility industries. Miller returned to DEQ with nearly 30 years of environmental experience in air quality, water quality and waste issues. Prior to his current position, he served as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Assessment.

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