



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

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DEQ celebrates Ground Water Appreciation Week

BATON ROUGE -- The Department of Environmental Quality has several informational events planned this week concerning ground water and its importance to human health and the environment. Gov. Bobby Jindal has proclaimed this week as Ground Water Awareness Week for the state of Louisiana and DEQ is participating at a localized area in some important areas of the state.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality promotes ground water awareness through its Aquifer Evaluation and Protection section and Drinking Water Protection Program. These programs are designed to protect ground water sources of drinking water. They consist of public education and awareness events concerning ground water, forming local ground water protection committees in parishes throughout the state and helping communities find best management practices for protecting ground water. DEQ works with local governments to pass ground water protection ordinances and works with water systems to prepare an emergency plan in the event of ground water supply disruption. This week's schedule is a typical week for the Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section. However, this is an important week because of the recognition of Ground Water Awareness Week.

- The Ground Water Protection Ordinance will be presented to the Beauregard Parish Police Jury, 201 West Second Street, in DeRidder on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 PM.
- The Calcasieu Parish Committee meeting is at Saint Margaret Catholic School, 2510 Enterprise Blvd, in Lake Charles on Thursday, March 12 at 5:30 PM.
- DEQ staff will meet with the Sulphur Water System to discuss preparation of a Contingency Plan on Wednesday, March 11.
- DEQ staff will make a presentation to the American Waterworks Association, Southwest Section meeting in Lake Charles on Wednesday, March 11.
- Facilities close to public drinking water supply wells in West Monroe will be visited on Wednesday, March 11 to make them aware of the need to avoid groundwater contamination by using best management practices of products they use in their business.