

DISCOVER LDEQ

2025
NOVEMBER

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY
NEWSLETTER

Secretary

**Courtney J.
Burdette**

takes the helm

“She understands
the critical
importance of
protecting our
environment...”

– Gov. Jeff Landry

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LDEQ Welcomes New Secretary Courtney J. Burdette

BATON ROUGE — The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) proudly welcomes its new secretary, Courtney J. Burdette, following her appointment by Gov. Jeff Landry on May 2.



Courtney J. Burdette
Secretary, LDEQ

Burdette is a veteran attorney with a strong background in environmental law and public administration. She brings to the agency more than a decade of public service experience and a deep

commitment to environmental stewardship and good governance.

Burdette joined LDEQ in 2014 as General Counsel and served as Executive Counsel from 2020 to 2023. Her extensive legal career includes positions as Assistant Attorney General with the Louisiana Department of Justice and judicial clerkships with the Hon. Ralph Tyson and Hon. Brian Jackson at the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.

“Secretary Burdette’s broad experience, professionalism and long-standing dedication to public service make her uniquely qualified to lead LDEQ into its next chapter,” Gov. Jeff Landry said.

Burdette holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Howard University and a juris doctor from LSU’s Paul M.

Hebert Law Center, continuing a strong family legacy in the legal profession. Her mother and father are attorneys, with her mother having served as a judge for over two decades.

“This is a full-circle moment for me, and I’m honored to return to LDEQ as secretary,” Burdette said. “I know the caliber of professionals that work here and the impact this agency can have on Louisiana’s environment and the communities we serve.”

“Together, we will uphold the highest standards of integrity and innovation as we tackle some of our state’s most complex environmental challenges,” she said.

“*She understands the critical importance of protecting our environment while fostering responsible economic development. We are proud to welcome her back to the agency in this leadership role.*”

– Gov. Jeff Landry



The **DISCOVER DEQ** newsletter is published quarterly each year by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Current environmental news, permits, violations, and other news items can be found on our website at <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov>. For your convenience, there are links to quarterly reports on the back page of this newsletter.

LDEQ Workers Provide Essential Response to Smitty's Explosion

Since the first day of the Smitty's Supply fire and explosion in Roseland, La., on August 22, LDEQ personnel have been on the front lines protecting public health and the environment.

The explosion at the major oil and lubricants company led to a mandatory evacuation of approximately 1,100 residents, including nearby schools, and resulted in the containment of more than 11 million gallons of liquid waste to date. No injuries have been reported, and the cause of the explosion remains unknown.

LDEQ employees have put in countless hours, utilizing their technical expertise and willingness to team with other state and federal agencies to provide critical resources for the ongoing cleanup and recovery effort. Here are the actions of some key members:

“Our team’s professionalism and cooperation with our state and federal partners have been exceptional from day one.”

—Jerry Lang, Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Compliance

Incident Command, Air Monitoring & Field Operations

Kevin Borne, Christian Flucke, Daniel Lambert, Matt Hollis, and Miranda Brengartner have served in leadership roles within the site’s incident command and daily site operations.

They’ve coordinated air monitoring, directed field activities, and overseen contractors in



partnership with the EPA, U.S. Coast Guard, Louisiana State Police, and Tangipahoa Parish. Their work ensured a seamless transition of pond and river cleanup activities to LDEQ leadership.

Spotlight on Miranda Brengartner

Miranda is an environmental scientist who has distinguished herself as one of LDEQ’s lead drone operators. She is skilled at providing high-quality aerial imagery to more accurately analyze the situation in a timelier manner. Her work has been vital for site documentation, situational awareness, and SCAT (Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique) reviews. Brengartner is bringing cutting-edge tools to the response effort, thereby expanding LDEQ’s ability to control or minimize a threat.



Radiation Safety & Recovery Operations

LDEQ's Radiation Section quickly mobilized to locate and secure five sources found on-site.

This specialized team—**Karen Burgard, Paula Lang, Sal Ange, Jonathan Crain, Ethan Cramer, and Lorenza Winn**—acted swiftly to recover and safely secure these materials, ensuring compliance with all state and federal safety protocols.

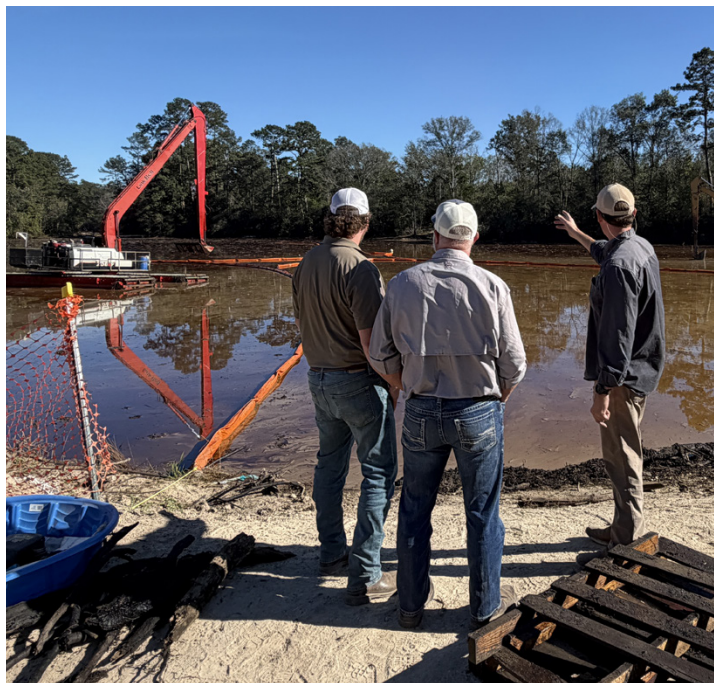


Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MAML)

The MAML Team members were deployed twice in the days immediately following the incident to conduct detailed air quality monitoring on-site and in surrounding communities. The team consists of **Pete Cazeaux, Miranda Fortenberry, Thomas Lee, Keanna Jarmon, Jacob Newgard, Hannah Laville, and Erin Lombard**. The team's continuous data collection confirmed that off-site impacts were being effectively controlled allowing nearby residents to remain safe during both response and recovery phases.

Drone Support & Documentation

In addition to Brengartner's efforts, **Jason Smith** has provided specialized drone mission support. The imagery and aerial mapping provided by him have been used for operational planning, progress tracking, and interagency coordination, enhancing visibility and decision-making in real time.



Communications & Public Information

Behind the scenes, the LDEQ Communications Team of **Gregory Langley, Meagan Molter, Matthew Day, Jeremy Bridges, Ronald Riggs, and Lizzy Vise** has been instrumental in keeping the public informed, timely and accurately. They have coordinated press releases, developed joint interagency statements, and ensured accurate, transparent messaging throughout the response, helping residents stay informed and confident in the state's professional and highly technical response to the incident.

LDEQ Employee Spotlights

Laura Thompson, Environmental Scientist 4 *Office of Environmental Services*

Laura Thompson is an Environmental Scientist 4 in the Water Permits Division where she manages the issuance and renewal of general permits for more than 11,000 facilities statewide, ensuring compliance with water quality standards and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

Recently, she led a multi-division effort to address a backlog of outdated facility files in LDEQ's TEMPO database. A TEMPO database is a specialized database service designed for handling time series data. This type of data is characterized by its time-based structure, where each record contains a timestamp and a value that can be measured in real time. By fixing the

backlog of files, Thompson helped to prevent files from being lost or creating delays in the system updates, helping LDEQ be more responsive to file inquiries.

Laura has dedicated more than 19 years of service to LDEQ. She was named the July 2025 Employee of the Month.



Gilberto Cuadra, Environmental Scientist 3 *Office of Environmental Compliance*

Gilberto Cuadra is an Environmental Scientist 3 in the Emergency Response & Radiological Services Division (ERRSD) of the Office of Environmental Compliance. His job requires him to effectively identify and resolve issues with Gauge and Radioactive Material (RAM) licenses. RAM licenses allow individuals or organizations to possess, use, store, and handle radioactive materials for specific purposes, such as research and development diagnosis and therapy, training, industrial processes, or other approved activities.

Cuadra also handles Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) licenses, NORM invoices, and inspections. These issues involve naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM) that have been present since the formation of the Earth and are distributed across various

geological formations. These materials can be found in soil, rocks, water, and vegetation. The most common naturally occurring radioactive elements include uranium, thorium, and potassium-40.

Cuadra's ability to motivate and guide others has been instrumental in the efforts of the ERRSD to manage all radiation matters with sincere concern and attention. Gilberto's efforts earned him the August 2025 Employee of the Month award.



LDEQ Employee Spotlights

Fran Falke, Accountant Administrator *Office of Management and Finance*

Falke is an Accountant Administrator in the Financial Services Division of the Office of Management and Finance. For many years, she has served as the backbone of many of the LDEQ's programs and functions.

Falke is adept at managing the department's budget, finding the right coding, organizing grant applications, managing withdrawals and expenditures, and getting contracts approved or invoices paid. Most recently, she undertook the task of creating new documents and spreadsheets to analyze department expenditures for special

projects to streamline the process, creating a cleaner, more efficient audit trail. She completed

the project all while preparing for audits and spearheading the agency's FY27 budget request. Falke's extra-mile efforts earned her the September 2025 Employee of the Month award.



Radiation Inspectors Equipped with Best Technology

If you or someone in your family has a broken bone, you may need an X-ray right away. You want it done right, and you want it done safely. You want the procedure to use the right amount

The Radiation Inspection Group of LDEQ is the compliance arm for radiological activities and products within the state. This group is solely responsible for inspecting all X-ray registered equipment in Louisiana, in accordance with Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) Title 33 (Environmental Quality) Part XV: Radiation Protection.

X-ray facilities must receive certificates of registration that verify their safety, compliance, and adherence to regulatory requirements. These registrants undergo on-site inspections that assess equipment handling, emergency procedures, and overall operational integrity. Units are tested using specialized equipment to



of radiation to capture a clear image of the injury but not so much so that it impacts your health.

The RTI Mako is conveniently small.

verify they meet manufacturer specifications.

LDEQ's Radiation Inspection Group in the Office of Environmental Compliance (OEC) includes four headquarters-based inspectors and eight regional inspectors. Collectively, they inspect more than 12,700 X-ray facilities statewide — ranging from locations with a single unit to those with numerous devices.

The accuracy and reliability of LDEQ's testing tools are essential to the success of the agency's inspection program. That is why LDEQ has invested in upgrading its testing equipment, advancing to a prototype of RTI's new meter—the smaller and more accurate Mako.

“We needed to upgrade our equipment to make sure we have the best technology to certify X-ray equipment in Louisiana,” said Jerry Lang, LDEQ assistant secretary for OEC. “The acquisition of these Mako units allows us to continue to ensure that radiology patients here feel confident that the diagnostic machines

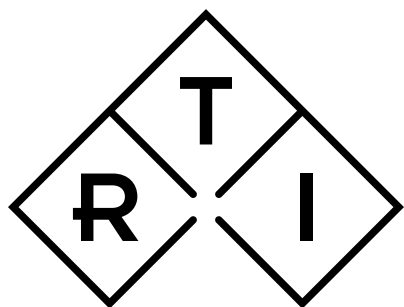


Staff and supervisors in the radiation inspection group gathered at LDEQ's Galvez Building headquarters this summer to get a mini-training session from RTI representatives Brandon Firestine, area sales manager, and Justin Hine, product specialist, on the advantages of the Mako meters.

used in their treatment are working properly and safely.”

The Mako meter is about the size of a cell phone and is part of a modular system that includes many accessories that can be used to adapt the meter to specific uses like dental X-ray calibration or CT machine calibration. A small portable probe can be plugged directly into the meter or attached using a USB C cable. All the equipment fits neatly into a carry-on sized protective case with foam cutouts inside to nestle delicate components.

At the same time, the company's software allows inspectors to transfer facility and equipment data into an all-inclusive, streamlined database, allowing the department to better manage X-ray inspection records and analytics statewide.



INDEPENDENT X-RAY
QUALITY ASSURANCE





Waste Tire Issues Being Better Managed

New Online Tool Allows Reporting and Payments, Pilot Program Addressing Unauthorized Disposals

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has launched a new online portal designed to make monthly waste tire fee reporting faster, simpler, and more accessible for waste tire generators across the state.

At the same time, the department is working with four parishes and two municipalities to pilot a Waste Tire Pilot Program designed to address unauthorized waste tire disposal.

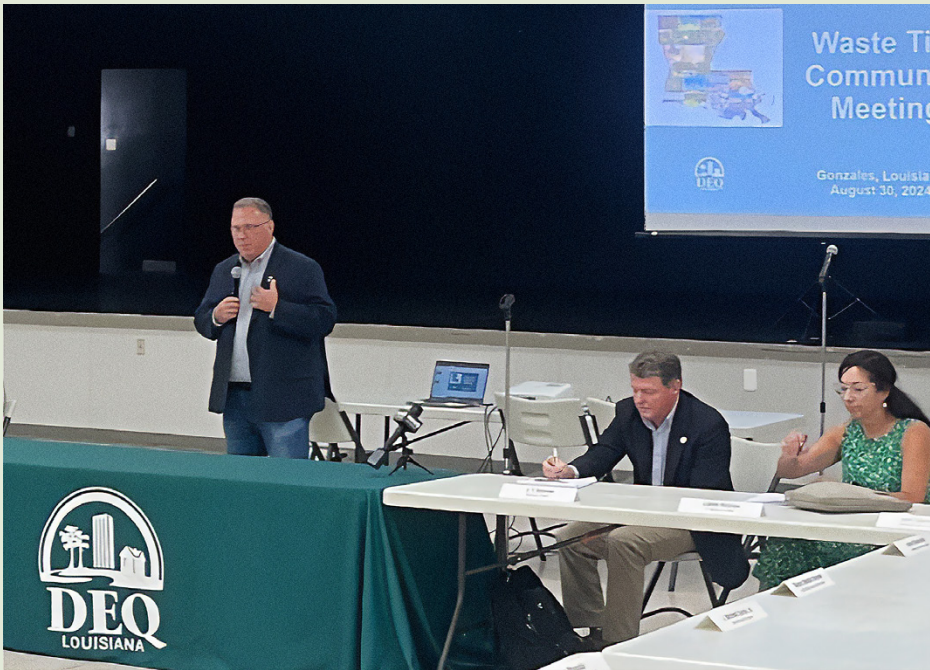
“These programs are wins for Louisiana’s environment and for the communities we serve,” LDEQ Secretary Courtney J. Burdette said.

Through the new online portal, waste tire generators can submit monthly reports and payments through a secure digital form. The new system was developed in partnership with Tyler

Technologies, Inc., to modernize reporting and streamline compliance with Louisiana’s Waste Tire Management Program (WTMP).

The new online form contains convenient features, such as:

- Auto-calculated totals and built-in validation for accurate reporting.
- The ability to save progress and return later by creating a free account.
- Secure, instant payment options using a credit card, debit card or e-check.
- Automatic email confirmation with a PDF copy of the completed form and payment receipt.
- Full mobile accessibility, allowing users to submit reports from any device, anywhere.



The Waste Tire Pilot Program has awarded funding to the City of Gretna, City of West Monroe, Iberville Parish, Lafourche Parish, Ouachita Parish, and Terrebonne Parish.

Each entity can receive up to \$20,000 to support their efforts to combat unauthorized waste tire disposal.

Eligible uses of funding include equipment purchases related to cleanup or prevention, costs for municipal or parish workers handling enforcement or collection, installation of

barriers or fencing, and cleanup of newly discovered unauthorized dump sites.

“For too long, unauthorized tire dumping has created health, safety and environmental concerns across our state,” Burdette said. “By partnering directly with local governments, we’re putting resources where they are most needed and working together toward cleaner, safer communities.”

The pilot program grew out of a series of town hall meetings

hosted by LDEQ in 2024, followed by the release of a comprehensive report in March 2025. The pilot program is funded through fees collected under WTMP, consistent with statutory requirements to further the program’s environmental goals.



Monthly Waste Tire Report Form

<https://la.accessgov.com/deq/Forms/Page/deq/deq-waste-tires/1>



Assistant Secretary Dr. Amanda Vincent honored by ACWA



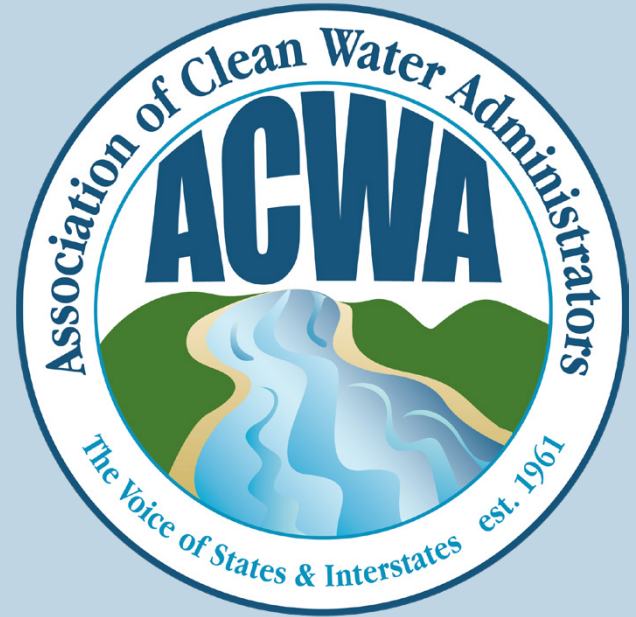
Dr. Amanda Vincent
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Services

Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Services Dr. Amanda Vincent has been presented with the Association of Clean Water Administrators' (ACWA) most prestigious honor — the 2025 Environmental Statesman Award.

The ACWA's award recognizes only two individuals each year for their outstanding leadership, dedication, and service in advancing clean water policy and environmental protection. Vincent received the award during the organization's national conference earlier this year in Madison, Wisconsin.

"I'm honored," Vincent said. "ACWA has been around for more than 60 years, and it's been a privilege to be a part of its mission throughout my time at LDEQ."

Vincent noted that ACWA strives to protect and restore watersheds and advance the goal of clean water everywhere for everyone. She has



been an active member of the organization, serving as board member for Region 6, treasurer, vice president, president, and past president.

Vincent has held leadership roles across the Office of Environmental Compliance, Office of Environmental Services, and Office of Environmental Assessment. Her in-depth expertise in water policy and science led her to serve as the department's lead for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) program during the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill and other major incidents.

Vincent began her career at LDEQ in 2007 that has included key roles in the Water Permits Division and Water Planning and Assessment Division, where she served as Environmental Scientist Manager. She was named to her current position in April 2024.

Executive Staff Includes Seasoned, Talented Professionals

Secretary Courtney J. Burdette has assembled a leadership team that is well versed with LDEQ and their fields of expertise, having served many years in strategic roles across the agency.

Undersecretary Theresa Delafosse joined LDEQ in 2016 as the Financial Services Division



**Theresa
Delafosse**
Undersecretary

Administrator. She has nearly two decades of experience in public finance and state government, beginning in the Performance Audit Division of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office. She later served as a Revenue Tax Director over the Budget & Financial Services Division of the Louisiana Department

of Revenue, where she led critical financial initiatives and oversaw statewide budgeting operations. Delafosse holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from LSU, a Juris Doctor from the LSU Law School, and a Certified Public Accountant designation.

Press Secretary Meagan Molter had previously served in her same role at LDEQ in 2024 but took the position of legislative assistant for the Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services for a short time before returning. She also has experience as the Manager of Public Affairs and Communications



**Meagan
Molter**
*Press
Secretary*

for the Louisiana Chemical Association (LCA) and the Louisiana Chemical Industry Alliance (LCIA), where she managed communications strategies, media relations, and public outreach efforts. She also worked for U.S. Congressman Garret Graves as a staff assistant in Washington, D.C., and community liaison, caseworker, and grants coordinator in the Baton Rouge office. Molter is a graduate of LSU, where she earned a degree in Mass Communication with a focus on political communication and a minor in Arabic.

Assistant Secretary for Environmental Services

Dr. Amanda Vincent has worked at the agency since 2007 in leadership positions within the Offices of Environmental

Compliance and Environmental Services. During the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and other oil spills, she served as the agency's lead for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) program. Her expertise within the field of water quality led to her positions in the Water Permits Division and Water Planning and Assessment. Vincent has been an environmental scientist manager and was named assistant secretary in April 2024.



**Dr. Amanda
Vincent**
*Assistant Secretary
for Environmental
Services*

Assistant Secretary for Environmental Compliance Jerry Lang

is a native of Hattiesburg, Miss. He graduated from LSU with a bachelor's degree in renewable natural resources and has worked at LDEQ since 2014, beginning in the water surveys section



**Jerry
Lang**

*Assistant Secretary
for Environmental
Compliance*

then transferring to the Emergency Response Section (ER). Prior to his employment at LDEQ, Lang was a research associate at LSU and a supervisor in research and development for private industry. He was a fisheries biologist for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for four years before joining LDEQ.

Assistant Secretary for Environmental Assessment Scott Guilliams

has worked at LDEQ for more than 34 years. He was administrator of waste permits for two years, then administrator of water permits for 11 years. He retired from the agency in 2023 but returned in his current role earlier this year. Guilliams holds a bachelor's degree in zoology from LSU.



**Scott
Guilliams**

*Assistant Secretary
for Environmental
Assessment*

Executive Counsel Jéne Clayton joined the agency in 2021 as an attorney in Regulation Development and General Law but left after one year to serve as a federal prosecutor and work in the private sector before returning to LDEQ in her current role in 2025. Clayton earned her undergraduate degree from Southern University and her Juris Doctor degree from the Southern University Law Center before completing a specialized Master of Laws degree in Energy and Environmental Law at the Georgetown University Law Center.



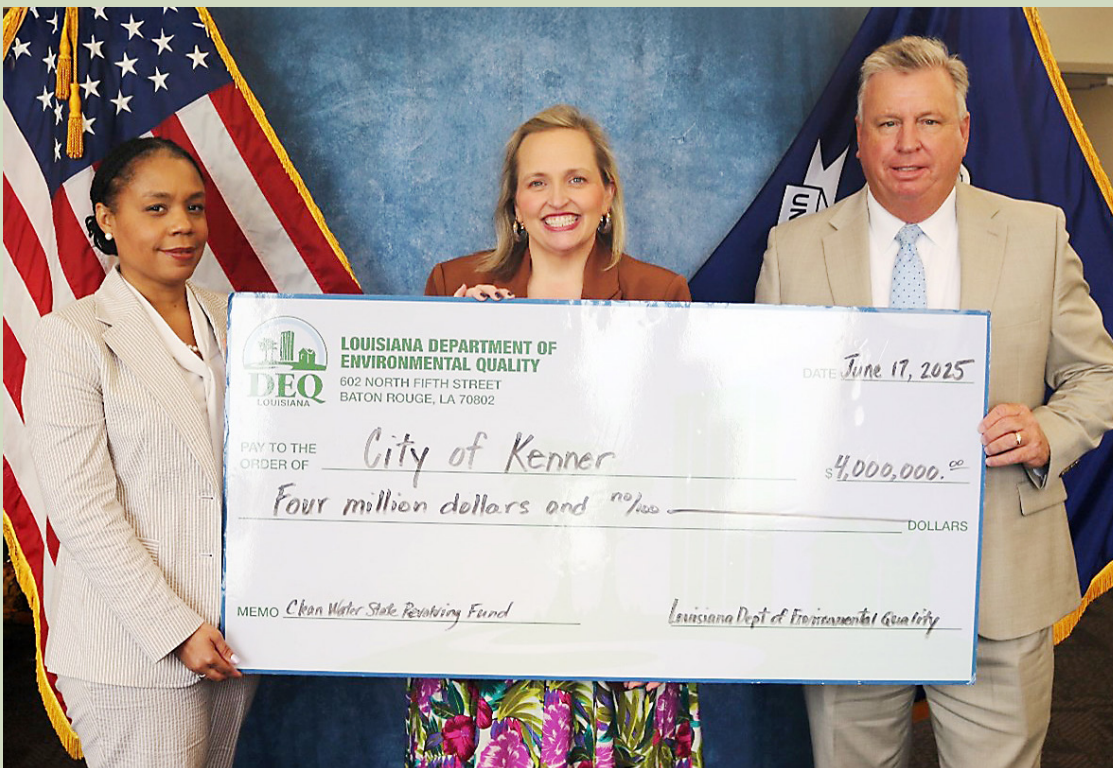
**Jéne
Clayton**
*Executive
Counsel*



LDEQ staffers show their support for Breast Cancer Awareness by wearing pink during the month of October. Pictured above are (standing) Reina Dunkin, Sarah McFarland, (sitting) Donia Gillespie, Dawn Dufrene, Felecia Franklin, Theresa Delafosse, Kierra Smith, Frances Falke, and Heidi Dorward.



LDEQ Secretary Courtney J. Burdette visited with Ascension Parish elected officials to review progress on mitigating red dust concerns at the closed LAlumina aluminum facility. Pictured are State Sen. Ed Price, District 2; Ascension Parish President Clint Cointment; Burdette; State Rep. Jeff Wiley, District 81; and State Rep. Ken Bass, District 58.



LDEQ Secretary Courtney J. Burdette and LDEQ Undersecretary Theresa Delafosse present Kenner Mayor Michael J. Glaser with a \$4 million loan to improve the city's lift stations.

City of Kenner Receives \$4 Million for Civic Improvements

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) officials recently presented City of Kenner Mayor Michael J. Glaser with a \$4 million check from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program. The funds will be used to make improvements and upgrades to the city's three lift stations.

The planned improvements include new wells, submersible pumps, discharge piping and valves, control panels with generator hookups, and an emergency pump out for each station.

"By collaborating with local parish officials, we're building partnerships that safeguard Louisiana's water and its citizens," LDEQ Secretary Courtney J. Burdette said. "These essential infrastructure investments will create lasting benefits for the people of Kenner."

The CWSRF Program plays a critical role in helping parishes facilitate compliance with the Clean Water Act through low-interest loans for eligible water and wastewater projects. The CWSRF offers an attractive interest rate of 0.95% and, in some cases, includes provisions for loan forgiveness. The program is designed to support municipalities in advancing their infrastructure needs while ensuring sustainable financial assistance for future projects across Louisiana.



CLEANWATER
STATE REVOLVING FUND
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

LDEQ Quarter Summaries

The LDEQ website, [DEQ.Louisiana.gov](https://deq.louisiana.gov), has lists of all enforcement actions, settlement agreements, air permits, water permits, and solid and hazardous waste permits.

Enforcement Actions



<https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions>

Settlement Agreements



<https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division>

Air Permits



<https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter>

Water Permits

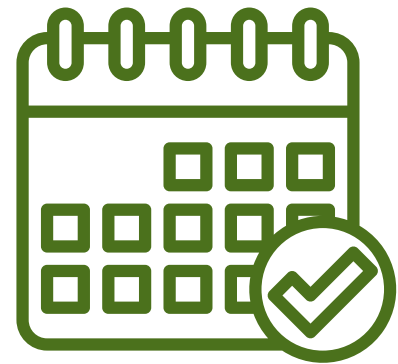


<https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes>

Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits



<https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits>



Important Dates

Nov 5: The LDEQ Environmental Geoscience and Engineering Seminar was held at LDEQ

Nov 18: Brownfield Awards

Public Hearings

Nov 18: Entergy Louisiana, Franklin Farms Power Station – Rayville

Nov 20: CF Industries Blue Point – Low Carbon Ammonia Plant – Donaldsonville

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