

Celebrating Our 2024 Achievements: A Year in Review

Aurelia S. Giacometto, Secretary
December 9, 2024



Who We Are, What We Do

Est. 1984

The mission of the Department of Environmental Quality is to provide service to the people of Louisiana through comprehensive environmental protection to promote and protect human health, safety and welfare.



LDEQ Headquarters

Five Secretarial Priorities

1

Striking a Regulatory Balance

2

Building Our Future

3

Modernizing for the Next 100 Years

4

Sustainably Developing and Managing Our Natural Resources

5

Creating Trust by Being Good Stewards



“We can signal to the world that **Louisiana** is open for business. *Welcome home!*”

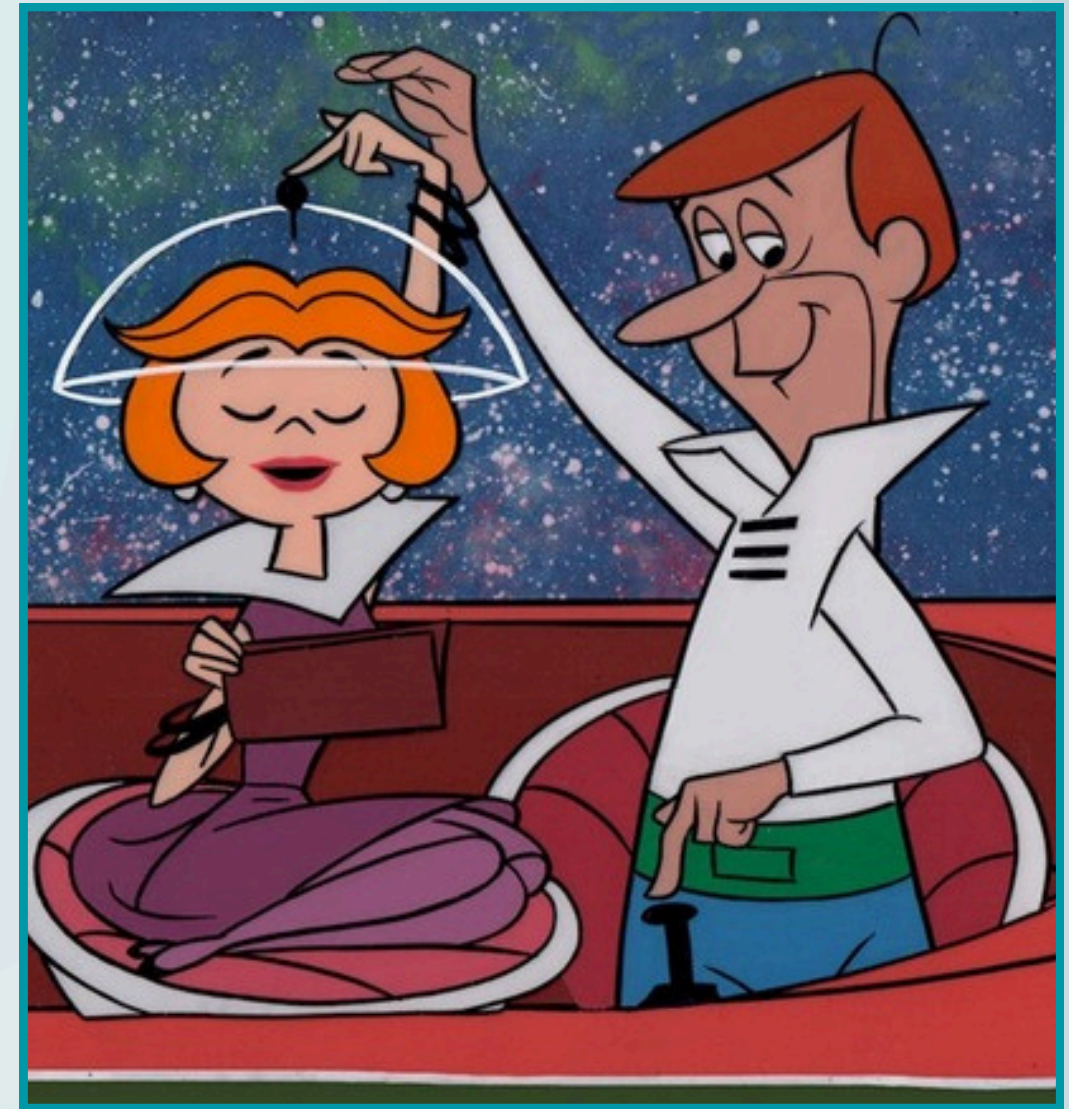
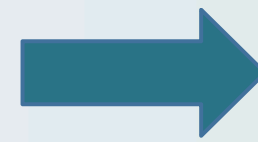
– Gov. Jeff Landry, January 2024



From the Stone Age to the Space Age



The Flintstones



The Jetsons

Louisiana is ranked 50th out of 50 in overall ranking. *US News and World Report*

Three Priority Goals

1

Develop a “Progress Dashboard” for LDEQ

2

Cut Permit Processing Time in Half

3

Shape an Informed Public Perception

Additional Goals & Projects:

- **Louisiana Environmental Ambassadors Program (LEAP)** – Robust internship program, resulting **30% retention**
- **Energy Generation Technologies** – Developed framework to advance energy technologies, nuclear and waste innovation



Streamlining Permitting Processes in the Oil and Gas Industry

WHEREAS, the Oil and Gas Industry plays a crucial role in the economic development and energy security of our Nation, and the continued development of domestic oil and gas resources is critical to driving the economic success of our State and our Nation;

WHEREAS, more than 10% of Louisiana's employment is directly or indirectly supported by the Oil and Gas Industry;

WHEREAS, the Gulf Coast's crude oil production and natural gas production is anticipated to grow over the next decade;

WHEREAS, the current state permitting process for new energy projects and industrial expansion has become decidedly protracted, costing Louisiana high-paying jobs and commensurate tax revenue;

WHEREAS, a streamlined permitting process will enhance efficiency, promote economic growth, increase state severance tax revenues, and ensure the Nation's energy security; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of our State of Louisiana and our Nation to expedite permitting processes to encourage timely oil and gas production.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution do hereby order and direct the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to promote the streamlining of permitting processes associated with the Oil and Gas Industry as follows:

A. Establish clear and concise guidelines to expedite the permitting processes, ensuring a timely and efficient approval mechanism.

B. Identify areas where agencies can enhance coordination and collaboration to eliminate duplication, reduce inefficiencies, and ensure a seamless permitting process.

C. Explore and implement innovative technologies and approaches to streamline and eliminate duplication between agencies while maintaining environment

D. Engage in public outreach to provide detailed information and customer-friendly to applicants on the required documentation, procedures, and criteria at the beginning of the permitting process, and communicate changes in the permit

E. Develop and utilize performance metrics to accurately assess the permitting

F. No later than December 31, 2024, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality shall report to the Office of the Governor of the steps taken to comply with this Order.

G. This Executive Order is effective upon signature and shall continue in force on January 1, 2025 unless amended, modified, terminated or rescinded by the Governor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on this 4th day of February, 2024.

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Nancy Landry
Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE

From Governor to DEQ

A New Industrial South

- **Two Executive Orders: JML 24-17 & JML 24-166**
- **Oil & Gas Industry** plays a crucial role in economic development and energy security
- Streamlined **Permitting Process** promotes economic growth and the Nation's energy security, and encourages modernization
- Implement **Innovative Technologies**, for energy production and waste innovation: advanced recycling and nuclear.

MODERNIZATION AND EFFICIENCY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana is committed to fostering an open business environment that supports economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development across all sectors of the economy;

WHEREAS, Louisiana is on the cusp of an economic renaissance, with significant development opportunities poised to bring an influx of new businesses and expansion of existing businesses in various sectors and industries;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality ("Department") is this State's leading environmental regulatory body and is a critical component of the State's economic development framework, as businesses must obtain the necessary permits, modifications, licenses, registrations, or variances to operate;

WHEREAS, since the start of my administration, I have requested that the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality ("Secretary") modernize the practices of the Department to streamline the granting of permits, licenses, accreditations, and other instruments;

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.S. 30:2011, the Department is the primary agency in the State concerned with environmental protection and regulation;

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.S. 30:2011 (D)(2), the Secretary has the power and duty to grant or deny permits, licenses, registrations, variances, or compliance schedules provided for in the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act;

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.S. 30:2011 (D)(1) and R.S. 30:2014.2, the Secretary is charged with adopting, amending, or repealing all rules, regulations, and standards for the protection of the environment and rules which set out the qualifications and requirements for a person to be granted

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.S. 30:2014.5, the Secretary is authorized to develop and implement a program to expedite the processing of permits, modifications, licenses, registrations, or variances for environmental permit applicants who may request such services;

WHEREAS, these permits, modifications, licenses, registrations, or variances are produced upon completion of analytical research, modeling, and other scientific examination by the Department;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Department continuously seeks to improve its processes to ensure that businesses can obtain the required instruments in a timely manner, advancing economic competitiveness without compromising the integrity of environmental standards;

WHEREAS, the Department should proactively adopt technologies and operational efficiencies to strengthen Louisiana's competitiveness for new and expanding businesses without compromising environmental standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution do hereby order and direct the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to modernize its internal systems to enhance sustainable, efficient operations in permitting and environmental standards enforcement to support growth and innovation across Louisiana's economy.

Section 1: The Secretary, in consultation with relevant public and private stakeholders, shall initiate a review of the Department's regulatory procedures and workflows, identifying priority areas for efficiency and effectiveness improvements that support timely permitting and licensing.

Section 2: The Secretary shall develop a sustainable framework to implement Executive Order JML 24-17, including conducting an independent comprehensive review of the Department's current processes for issuance of permits, licenses, accreditations, and other instruments.

Section 3: The Secretary shall develop and adopt procedures that support and advance innovative measures to resolve environmental hazards, such as waste innovation, and prepare for potential expansion of nuclear energy generation.

Section 4: No later than July 1, 2025, the Secretary shall provide a report to the Governor detailing: (1) the reforms that are planned to be introduced or that will continue in the

upcoming year and thereafter; (2) the extent to which the Department has identified and addressed existing deficiencies and increased efficiency in the Department's operation; and (3) outlining any statutory or regulatory changes that may be necessary to implement these recommendations.

Section 5: All departments, commissions, boards, offices, entities, agencies, and officers of the State of Louisiana, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate with implementing the provisions of this Order.

Section 6: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded by the Governor, or terminated by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 4th day of November 2024.

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Nancy Landry
Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE

Key Achievements and Impacts

- **SFY 24–25 Goals** – Achievable and measurable
- **Repository for All Agency Activities** – **1,065 unique activities** across the agency
- **Technology Systems** – **71 tech systems** agency-wide used and evaluated
- **Issuance Types** – Organized agency-wide *list of 225+* permits, notifications, verifications, certifications, terminations, withdrawals, etc.
 - 2023 total: **37,000+** issued
- **Waste Tire Community Town Halls** – **6 regions** statewide hosted LDEQ for town halls
- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund** – **\$136.6M** in funds awarded in **19 loans**
- **SCR 30** – Spearheading Senate Concurrent Resolution 30 on Community Air Monitoring|
- **Lake Charles Sewer Loop Project** – Funding to assist Lake Charles wastewater infrastructure
- **LDEQ Technical Domain** – Redirection of domain
- **Emergency Procedures** – Evaluated evacuations and other drills for improvement
- **Customer Service Call Center** – Revamped center
- **Ethics Accreditation** – Rep in each region
- **Volunteer Opportunities**
 - Household Hazardous Material Days
 - Keep LA Beautiful
- **Water Infrastructure Improvement**
 - Senator Cassidy bill participation
 - Senator Bass seminars – rural LA
- **Employee Engagement**
 - Employee of the Month
 - State Charitable Contributions
 - Chili Cook-off
 - Veterans Acknowledgement
 - Working lunch



Site Visits



6 Regional Office meetings within 6 months and **131** visits around the state of Louisiana



Business on Behalf of the Agency

Meeting with Louisiana Officials

5

Agency Secretaries

5

Parish Presidents

28

State Senators

29

Mayors

36

State Representatives

50+

Local Officials



Office of Environmental Assessment

01

Approved the **first ever pollutant reduction credits** certified as part of LDEQ's **Water Quality Trading program**.

02

Brownfields Program issued over **\$1,840,000** to support assessment, cleanup and reuse of **5 major sites** throughout rural Louisiana

03

Grant awarded for additional equipment for **air monitoring** sites

04

Nitrogen and phosphorous pollutants reduced through bald cypress reforestation project plantings completed on **1,706.6 acres** in the **Salvador Wildlife Management Area**

05

UST Legislation and Grants – **17 projects** awarded for a total of **\$2,550,000** in funds



Office of Environmental Services

- Issued **air permits** for significant **greenfield projects**
- Issued **2800+** permits for fiscal year
- In progress for permitting large economic projects: **Meta and Shintec**
- **Rules (Final, Proposed)**
 - Revised the **Minor Source Air General Permit for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production (MSOG)** to address new EPA regulations and establish legally and practicably enforceable limits
 - Along with Water Planning, Water Permits has completed finalization of the **Freshwater Ammonia Criteria** and updates
 - Updated **Industrial Permit Application (IND Form)** for **industrial wastewater** and developed a new instructions document
 - **Import/Export Rule** – Adopts 4 mandatory federal rules regarding Import/Export of Hazardous Waste and the e-Manifest system
 - **Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) Rule** Incorporates the Federal 2015 CCR Rule by reference



Office of Environmental Compliance

1

Completed the launch of the **Self Audit Website and Program**

2

Enforcement Division completed **reduction of enforcement backlog by more than 300 cases**

3

Automation of documents during inspections to **accelerate** the completion of **Radiation inspections** and report

4

Created **guidance documents for our SOPs** to fill in existing gaps

5

Disaster Response Team – Established new protocols for weather-related emergencies



Office of Management & Finance

1

Initiative cost coding differently so expenditures are shown for cost/program

2

New Employee Orientation implementation

3

In FY 2024, the **Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund** closed **19 loans** for **\$136,582,212** in total funding

4

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State Treasurer's Office to separately invest in **Motor Fuels Trust**, which should significantly increase amount of interest earnings/year

- For 2024, earned **\$318,558** and slated to earn in excess of **\$5M** during Fiscal Year 2025
- This represents a projected increase of over **1,400%**



Office of the Secretary

1

Small Business helped **1,285 small businesses & communities, resulting in 5,905 assists**

2

Audit Services prioritized a backlog of **374 waste tire fee audits**. To date, reduced its **backlog** of waste tire fee audits review by **72.46%** and sent demand letter for a total of **\$ 772,170**.

3

Legal Regulation development of **8 proposed rules, 7 final rules, 11 potpourri notices, and 1 emergency rule**

4

In Ohio, et al. v. Environmental Protection Agency, et al., No. 23A349 U.S. 6/27/2024, the **U.S. Supreme Court cited LDEQ's comment on an EPA rulemaking**, including language drafted by LDEQ Legal

5

- Communications team:
 - Published **64** press releases and media advisories
 - **95** LinkedIn posts driving **1,062** interactions and **64,781** organic impressions.
 - In the 3rd quarter, **42** Instagram posts drove **9,399** organic impressions
 - **157** X posts drove **246** likes and reposts
 - Responded to **67** media requests and published **2** National Op-Eds by Secretary Giacometto



Other DEQ Initiatives

Serving the People of Louisiana

Cost-cutting \$93,000 and counting

Tiger Teams

- L'Alumina
- Cottonport Monofil Tire Processor
- Carencro Water Infrastructure
- Delta Biofuel
- Distinctive Dry Cleaners
- Old Marler Ford

Online Permitting & Dashboard

- Regulatory Team
- Technology Team
- 19 data systems
- 5600 hours

Louisiana Military Environmental Alliance (LMEA)

- Partnership with Department of Defense (DOD) and Louisiana National Guard
 - For military readiness and national security

Volkswagen

St. Helena Parish buses
LDAF fire suppression equipment
\$147,855 in grants





Greatest Asset of DEQ... Its Employees!