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## Video highlights LDEQ's approach to water quality management

Experience gained through waterbody studies over the last two decades has prompted changes in how states assess and report water quality. In December 2013, EPA announced a new approach to the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program. The new program, known as the "New Vision," is a collaborative model for implementing Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. According to the EPA, the program "encourages focusing attention on priority waters and acknowledges that states have flexibility in using available tools beyond TMDLs to attain water quality restoration and protection."

TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a certain pollutant that is allowed in a waterbody so that it meets water quality standards for that pollutant. A TMDL determines a target for pollution reduction. For example, one specific segment of a river might be able to accept a certain amount of a pollutant before it reaches an impairment level.

TMDLs are required by the Clean Water Act (CWA), which states that all waterbodies must be assessed every two years. Waterbodies that are assessed as impaired must be scheduled for development of a TMDL to determine whether or not that waterbody is healthy enough to sustain a pollutant.



*LDEQ Environmental Scientists Chad Keith (l) and Eric Garner measure the flow rate and verify the GPS location information at a water sampling point in a waterway in Tangipahoa Parish.*

To better explain the program, LDEQ's Communications Section recently teamed up with environmental scientists and engineers with LDEQ's Office of Environmental Assessment to produce a video for the department's YouTube channel.

Narrated by LDEQ Engineer Chuck Berger, the video highlights some of the actual work done in the waterbodies. It shows how environmental scientists enter the waterway in waders to pull water samples, evaluate and measure the flow and pinpoint locations for comparisons with future and prior findings. The team compares data from those past findings to identify possible trends in the makeup of the waterbody. They note any problem areas such as erosion, dissolved oxygen issues or intrusive elements that could be causing, or contributing to, an impairment.

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Footage from the department's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, some of the latest technology being employed by LDEQ, was included in the video during Berger's narration. Photos, graphics and filmed segments documenting Louisiana's waterways round out the video.

While the scientific processes are highly technical, the goal of the program is to thoroughly examine a waterbody to determine what pollutants it can and cannot accept. Each waterbody is different, and to ensure that waterbodies continue to meet health and safety standards, strategies are implemented that are tailored to specific waterbodies.

From about 1996 through 2012, the TMDL schedule for Louisiana, as well as many other states, was determined by court ordered consent decrees (judicially bound agreements between EPA, the individual states and the plaintiffs). In Louisiana, this resulted in the development of some TMDLs that imposed stricter requirements for those holding a water discharge permit.

"New Vision allows us to better focus the State's resources on restoring and protecting its waterbodies by providing the state with more flexibility in defining its priority areas," Berger said. This includes both healthy and impaired waterbodies.

New Vision enhances the overall efficiency of the CWA 303(d) program and encourages attention on priority waters and acknowledges that states have flexibility in using available tools beyond TMDLs to attain water quality restoration and protection. This guidance allows states to better develop tailored strategies to meet their water quality goals. LDEQ defined its priority waterbodies and parameters, which are continually subject to review and change due to the nature of environmental, industrial and human factors upon Louisiana's waterbodies.

Through increased public engagement and integration across state and federal agencies, LDEQ, along with stakeholders and partners, can develop what's known as TMDL alternatives. These alternatives work more directly to improve water quality and potentially forgo the need for future TMDLs. TMDL alternatives may include a wide range of corrective actions depending on the water quality issues that are found.

Some actions may include working with owners and operators of wastewater treatment units to ensure they are operated and maintained properly. LDEQ can also assist parishes with actions such as developing environmentally protective ordinances, outreach and other activities. LDEQ will continue to inform the public about plans to conduct public outreach in areas where an impairment currently exists. Watershed investigations will be conducted with regard to point and nonpoint sources. Investigations include water quality monitoring and data analysis, measuring flow and stream geometry and dye studies to determine flow rates.

The team will conduct inspections of potential sources where water is being negatively impacted. Researching water permit documentation is a part of the process. LDEQ plans to use the data to locate areas that are of the greatest initial impact and to track trends in water quality improvement. Subsequent lab analysis of data will help LDEQ determine what corrective action is viable for the impaired waterbody.

The goal is to restore and protect Louisiana's waterbodies for future generations. Louisiana's water resources are a tremendous economic, environmental, social and recreational asset and must be protected to ensure their usability for industry, agriculture, wildlife and the public. LDEQ encourages everyone to engage in efforts to protect water quality in their communities. The department welcomes ideas and suggestions from the public, along with any questions or concerns. Protecting Louisiana's waterbodies and engaging in the process will ensure that we maintain healthy waterbodies for today and tomorrow.

For more information, please go to: [www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/newvisionprogram](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/newvisionprogram)

Video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIJOBszsiA8&t=2s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIJOBszsiA8&t=2s)

Email us at [newvision.303d@la.gov](mailto:newvision.303d@la.gov)



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## Message from the Secretary

*Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.*

On Sept. 17, I gave the welcome address at the opening of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) Tanks Workshop (Leaking Underground Storage Tanks – LUST). The workshop was held at the Jung Hotel on Canal Street in New Orleans. It was well attended by environmental professionals from across the country. One or two of our UST people were there to represent LDEQ. I told them that our agency monitors some 400 underground storage tanks, and we have a lot of paper forms that we use to track tanks. That's why we're looking to go paperless in the very near future.

I want to continue to improve environmental education about USTs – this is one area of environmental regulation that is often misunderstood. It's an important issue. As I told the workshop attendees, we are all in this together. We all want to leave a legacy for our children .

After my visit to ASTSWMO, I headed over to Norco where I was one of the judges in the United Way Jambalaya Cook-Off hosted by Valero.

The company and its employees go all out for the United Way Drive. One hundred percent of the employees participate in various events to benefit the charity. They have a 5K run, they donate items for a charity auction, and they participate in cooking competitions in the parish and at the facility, which brings me back to the jambalaya contest.

I figured there might 9 or 10 jambalaya cooking teams in the contest. That's a lot of tasting, but I felt I could do it. There were 20 teams! That translates into 20 bowls of jambalaya, and even at two spoonfuls each, that's a lot of jambalaya to eat in one sitting. It was for a good cause, though, and I was able to sample all of them (as did the other judges) and voted for a winner. All in all, it was a good experience, but I won't be eating any jambalaya for a while.

Every so often, I like to repeat our core values here. It's good to remember the principles that inform our actions as members of LDEQ and representatives of the state of Louisiana:

- Make technically sound decisions rooted in science
- Conduct ourselves honestly and ethically
- Strive for continuous improvement
- Be accountable for our work
- Manage our resources effectively and efficiently to deliver value to the public
- Sustain our commitment to diversity
- We will be fair in all of our dealings with the public, industry and persons inside and outside the agency.

Let's keep those values in mind as we carry out our mission to protect human health and the environment.

This coming month, October, the executive staff and I will be touring the regional offices. We plan to visit most offices during the last three weeks of the month. I am excited to see all of you and especially to meet the new people who have hired on since our last tour. I hope you can all find time to come say hello while we are there.

This is my last message before the upcoming election, and I take this opportunity to remind all of you to go out and vote if you haven't already voted absentee. It's a right and a privilege to vote in America, the thing that makes our country what it is. Your vote counts, use it. Enjoy that feeling of participating in selecting your own government.



*The room was packed for the LUST workshop.*



*Picking a winning jambalaya was a more complex undertaking than I imagined.*



## Waste Management in Lake Charles transitions to clean burning fleet

With “Think Green, Think Clean” emblazoned on the side of their trash collection trucks, it was no surprise when Waste Management in Lake Charles recently announced their transition from diesel to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to fuel their entire vehicle fleet. In fact, the Lake Charles facility has already transitioned nearly half of its 50-vehicle fleet to CNG.



*At Waste Management's Lake Charles facility, each truck can park at its own designated CNG fueling station, minimizing fueling wait times while maximizing efficiency.*

Serving commercial, industrial and residential customers in the parishes of Cameron, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Allen, Jefferson Davis and Vernon, the Lake Charles location marks the company's third conversion site in Louisiana, as the Baton Rouge and Lafayette fleets have already undergone the transition to all CNG.

The CNG-powered fleet is not just a cost-saving measure. It will also boost sustainability goals by decreasing pollution while generating less diesel engine noise. “Our drivers love these trucks,” said Domenick DiPaolo, Waste Management's district manager for Lake Charles. “With this conversion, we're reducing emissions and eliminating around 8,000 gallons of diesel used per truck, per year.”

When all 50 trucks are converted in Lake Charles, it will reduce the amount of diesel fuel burned each year by approximately 400,000 gallons, plus it will eliminate an estimated 1,100 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually, said René Faucheux, Waste Management's manager of government and community relations.

As for the company's 120-truck fleet statewide, the completion of that conversion will result in savings of around 960,000 gallons of diesel, with an estimated 2,640 tons of greenhouse gas emissions eliminated annually. These numbers speak to the company's wider environmentally friendly approach, as Waste Management Enterprise (which covers fleets across North America) began the move to alternative fuels in the 1990s, issuing a corporate goal to convert 80% of its service fleet by 2020. Companywide, Waste Management has already replaced over 7,600 service vehicles in their North American fleet vehicles that run on cleaner burning alternative fuels. The net positive environmental impact? A reduction of almost 61 million with gallons of diesel fuel used each year, plus the elimination of more than 167,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

Efficiency in fueling is a key facet of the company's operations, too. At the Lake Charles facility, each truck has its own fueling station/parking spot where it can fuel up, day or night. The CNG is transported across an overhanging horizontal trellis which includes a dedicated hose for each fueling station.

To ensure safe operation, many fail-safe measures are in place at the facility. These include the hoses, which are anti-static equipped and impervious to lightning strikes. Each port to which the hose connects is outfitted with a spring-loaded nozzle inside the cover that serves as an important safety feature. If the hose isn't fully seated into the connection port on the truck, the truck will not start.

Safety extends to the maintenance bay as well. Should a spark occur, the bay is equipped with a spark detector that shuts off the entire system. Smoking and open flames are prohibited in the shop, and if a gas leak is detected, the bay doors

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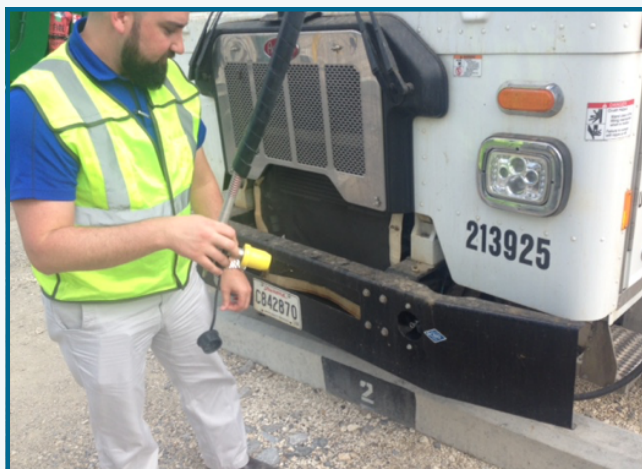


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will automatically open and the vent fan will engage, allowing rapid escape of any personnel working inside the bay.

Waste Management is a company committed to expanding the use of alternative fuels. As an example, biogas that is extracted from some company landfills is used to fuel vehicles at those sites, playing a part in the cycle of converting waste to reuse. At some CNG sites, Waste Management has invested in additional CNG filling stations for use by the general public. It is believed that increased CNG refueling options will provide more cleaner burning private vehicles and cleaner air in those communities.

The company's environmentally conscious approach doesn't start and end at CNG, either. Recycling and sustainability practices are at the forefront of Waste Management's business model, and, according to their website, the company is North America's largest residential recycler and a renewable energy provider. Part of that is exemplified by their recovery of naturally occurring gas inside landfills to generate electricity, and their maintenance of the largest network of recycling facilities, transfer stations and landfills in the industry.



*Domenick DiPaolo, district manager for Waste Management Lake Charles, demonstrates the safety features of the CNG fuel port and plug.*

For more information about Waste Management's sustainability programs, visit [www.wm.com/thinkgreen/index.jsp](http://www.wm.com/thinkgreen/index.jsp).

## Upcoming Events



### Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) Training

Hosted by Alliance for Water Stewardship North America  
Training will cover the AWS Foundation, Advanced and Specialist Levels  
Register: [www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=466526&](http://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=466526&)  
More Info: **AWS Training Flyer**

The recently released World Economic Forum 2019 Global Risks Report, yet again (for the ninth straight year), ranks water crises as one of the world's most critical business risks. The rise in concern about water has been a clear trend in recent years, and the Global Risks Report serves to emphasize the need for more responsible stewardship of water resources. Water risk is material to your organization no matter where you are located in North America, with businesses, communities and the environment all affected.

To address this need, AWS North America will provide three days of water stewardship training to the revised AWS Standard v2.0 in Baton Rouge, LA. The AWS Training will draw on best practices from companies that have implemented the International Water Stewardship Standard (AWS Standard) in North America. This is your chance to acquire the knowledge required for using the AWS Standard to improve water stewardship in direct operations, supply chains and watersheds.

**Dates:** Oct. 29-31, 2019 (Day 1: Foundation Training Day 2: Advanced Training Day 3: Specialist Training)  
**Venue:** Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Galvez Building Conference Center, Pensacola Room, 602 N. 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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**Parking & Entrance Information:** Free parking is available across the street in the Main Street Market/Galvez Building Parking Garage. Please take a parking voucher upon entrance to the garage and bring the voucher into the training with you to be validated by the appropriate personnel prior to departure.

For more information, email Dylan Waldhuetter, Program Manager, Alliance for Water Stewardship North America, [dwaldhuetter@thewatercouncil.com](mailto:dwaldhuetter@thewatercouncil.com) or call 414-988-8764. Visit [www.awsnorthamerica.com](http://www.awsnorthamerica.com) for more details on AWS and the International Water Stewardship Standard.



## 2019 Clean Fuels Summit

Increase your visibility and meet prospective project collaborators in Louisiana at the state's premier alternative fuels conference and expo: 2019 Clean Fuels Summit!

Co-hosted by two Clean Cities Coalitions – Louisiana Clean Fuels and the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership – this event offers an exclusive Ride & Drive on the NOLA Motorsports track, updates on the latest innovative clean fleet technologies and products and deserved recognition of leaders in the alternative fuel industry.

LDEQ's Secretary, Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, will be giving an update on the Volkswagen Settlement, and we hope to see you there.

More Information: <https://louisianacleanfuels.org/meetinginfo.php?id=61&ts=1557937100>

Purchase Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-clean-fuels-summit-general-admission-tickets-52054506430>

## LISTENING SESSIONS

### HR #231 (2019) Voluntary Environmental Compliance Audit Program Study

#### Listening Session #4: Audit Program – Program Resources

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has been hosting a series of listening sessions to study the establishment of a voluntary compliance audit program for industries regulated by our department.

The kickoff meeting was scheduled for the first week in August, with a series of meetings that followed a bi-weekly schedule thereafter. The kickoff meeting included presentations from LDEQ on federal and state laws, regulations, policies and procedures.

Meetings two and three involved presentations, which addressed individually, voluntary audit program components for future statutory consideration, such as audit privilege, confidentiality, immunity, and new owner policy. The fourth meeting will discuss the audit program resources needed. Regulated industry and their trade associations, environmental groups and community leaders are invited to participate in the listening sessions.

**Date:** Wednesday, Oct. 02, 2019 at 10:30 am

**Location:** LDEQ Headquarters, Galvez Building, Pensacola Room, 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Free parking will be available at the Galvez Parking Garage across the street. The garage's address is 504 Main St., Baton Rouge 70801. Please be sure to bring your parking ticket to the meeting for validation.

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## 2019 LDEQ Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Conference

LDEQ is hosting a two-day conference on Municipal Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). Everyone is welcome and registration is free.

**Dates:** Oct. 23-24, 2019

**Location:** LDEQ Headquarters, Galvez Building, Oliver Pollock and Pensacola Rooms, 602 N. Fifth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**More information:** <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/2019-ldeq-ms4-conference>

**Register:** <https://internet.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/ONLINESERVICES/2019-LDEQ-MS4-CONFERENCE>

## LDEQ New Vision Program - Citizens Advisory Group Meeting – Tangipahoa Parish

LDEQ is collaborating with drinking water and wastewater utility managers, trade associations, local watershed protection organizations and state and local officials to help ensure that Louisiana's precious water infrastructure is sustainable with the implementation of programs such as the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) Program, or New Vision Program.

The ultimate goal of the New Vision program is to restore and protect the state's water bodies, ensuring future growth and prosperity in the community and preventing the restrictions of water quality impairments on local waterbodies. The new program allows for partnerships or collaborative efforts to aid in cleaning a waterbody. It also includes more public education and allows community stakeholders the opportunity to offer input at the beginning of an assessment and into the restoration and protection activities.

The Yellow Water and Natalbany River watersheds of Tangipahoa Parish have created a Citizen's Advisory Group, Our Tangi Waters, to work with LDEQ to ensure their watersheds come off the program's priority list.

If you'd like to get involved, please join us for the next citizen advisory group meeting on Thursday, Oct. 17. For more meeting details, email [newvision.303d@la.gov](mailto:newvision.303d@la.gov).

## Village Blue Lake Pontchartrain project discussed by stakeholders in New Orleans

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and The U.S. Geological Survey have initiated a program in Lake Pontchartrain called Village Blue Lake Pontchartrain, in New Orleans. The Village Blue site is a 630-square-mile estuary. Swimming, boating, kayaking, camping and fishing are some of the uses of the area. One of the goals of this program is to provide real-time water quality data to the public, to increase public awareness and to aid in research. Real-time water quality monitoring will help provide the public with more knowledge and understanding of Lake Pontchartrain's water quality.

Beginning in Fall 2019 and for the following two years, the project will provide real time water quality information on nutrients and potential algal blooms. This information can be used to develop a greater understanding of water quality issues, such as the ways that heavy rainfall can contribute to changes in nitrate, turbidity and dissolved oxygen levels in water bodies.

In a stakeholder meeting in New Orleans in September, Kevin Oshima, research director from EPA Office of Research and Development, and Danny Wiegand, EPA Gulf of Mexico Program, told the group about the project, about the goals and hoped

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for results of the 2-year Village Blue sensor plan. LDEQ is a stakeholder assisting with local information and knowledge. The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation is also a stakeholder as well as local governments, environmental groups and water recreational water users around the lake.

EPA and USGS plan to install the new water sensor site near the New Canal Lighthouse on the southern shore of Lake Pontchartrain in the fall of 2019. The sensor will measure phycocyanin and chlorophyll-a (two indicators of algae), dissolved oxygen, pH (acidity of the water), temperature, turbidity, salinity, conductivity and nitrate concentrations every 30 minutes. USGS will maintain the monitors as needed to ensure accuracy of the data.

Data from two sensors, the new site and an existing USGS site on the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge, will be combined and displayed in near real time on EPA's Village Blue website. The two measurement sites will allow river and lake conditions to be evaluated separately under normal conditions on the river and in combination when river and lake waters come together during openings of the Bonnet Carre Spillway.

The involvement of the public, non-profits and community partners will be an important factor when deciding whether or not the project should extend beyond the two year, startup period. Therefore, the Village Blue Lake Pontchartrain partners are planning to work closely with local organizations.

The goals of the project are:

1. To characterize the performance of the sensor
2. Analyze real-time data
3. Identify potential impacts on humans and the ecosystem
4. To provide real-time data on the website
5. To develop community partners

The monitor will provide a continuous presence, which may help in research, modeling and predicting trends. The real-time data on the website will be a tool to help educate the public on conditions in the lake. It will be a good tool to allow younger minds to learn about monitoring.

An addition to the mix is ProDSS handheld sensors that can be used at other locations in the lake such as in inflows of freshwater rivers into northern Lake Pontchartrain, swimming beaches, New Orleans stormwater canals and other places of concern.

The monitor's value for investigating possible precursors to hazardous algal blooms (HABS) was also discussed, as well as the value of predicting blooms, modeling and research. Village Blue will benefit the community by informing its members with data collected by the Village Blue Lake Pontchartrain sensors displayed on the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS) website, <http://www.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>.

It will also be visualized on EPA's Village Blue monitoring application (app) — which does not require a download and is compatible with all operating systems. The app will display the data in a mobile friendly, easy-to-understand format to provide the community with insights on the relationship between water quality and environmental conditions.

Learn more at the Village Blue Website: <http://epa.gov/water-research/village-blue>.



*Photo Credit: Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation  
Proposed sensor deployment site on the south shore  
of Lake Pontchartrain*





## Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference tackles many issues

How to prosecute illegal dumping, how to tackle food waste, involving citizens in cleanup and building a strong coalition to clean up our state of Louisiana are just a few of the topics addressed at the Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) Conference in September. More than 125 affiliates of KLB and other interested parties attended.

Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser and KLB Executive Director Susan Russell opened the annual conference, held at the Hilton Hotel in Baton Rouge. Nungesser pointed out how important keeping our state uncluttered by litter can be for tourism and enjoyment of our resources. Videos were shown that were produced to show Louisiana's many diverse experiences that "Feed your soul." Keynote Speaker Jane Polson of Keep America Beautiful spoke on Food Matters: Empowering communities to tackle food waste. Polson considers the amount of food that is thrown away throughout our communities to be one of this country's most important issues. A panel discussion on some of the ways to deal with food waste followed the keynote. The panel included the black fly project for composting food waste from LSU.

Mike Daniels, criminal enforcement counsel for the LDEQ Criminal Investigation Section, and Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, director of the New Orleans Department of Sanitation, spoke about what it takes to secure a prosecution for illegal dumping and how important it is for cities and the state to work together to accomplish this. Securing the cleanup of the copious amount of waste tires and litter is the goal.

The second day of the conference addressed cleanups in communities, innovative programs, organization building and the Louisiana Recycling Coalition recycling sessions.

The conference also acknowledges the work done in our communities with the "Everyday Hero Awards," presented at the evening banquet. These are awards to recognize the outstanding work done by individuals and groups to keep Louisiana litter-free. The awards are as follows: Youth Leadership Award - Rapides High School Jag; Litter Enforcement Award - Barbara Acremont; Most Innovative Program Award (a tie) - Union Parish Library and West Monroe Recycling Center; Outstanding Affiliate (of KLB) - Shreveport Green; Outstanding Affiliate Director - Christy Delgado; Corporate Leadership - Audubon Nature Institute; Golden Can Award - Timothy Kerner; Alice Foster Award - Matthew Stuller; and the Cox Conserve Heroes Award Presentation - Lenny Lemoine.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful is a state anti-litter and beautification organization that brings people together to build and sustain vibrant communities. KLB's Love the Boot week, April 20 - 26, 2020, is calling all Louisiana citizens to band together to Love the Boot. Many activities will be held statewide to promote community engagement and behavior change. Daily activities are planned, and a website dedicated the Love the Boot week will be available to sign up, volunteer and help in many ways. Watch for it.

Visit [keeplouisianabeautiful.org](http://keeplouisianabeautiful.org) for more information.



Mike Daniels, LDEQ Criminal Investigation Section, addresses the KLB Conference on Prosecuting Illegal Dumping.



LDEQ Environmental Scientist Manager Linda Piper talks to a participant at the LDEQ Booth at the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference in Baton Rouge.



## Public hearings offer a forum for public comment on permit matters

Citizens have an opportunity to provide comments on most proposed permits or permit modifications that a facility seeks to obtain. Conducted in a forum known as a public hearing, LDEQ will typically host a hearing at the request of the community or the facility, to provide an open forum where citizens can submit comments on the proposal.

All comments, whether in approval or opposition to the permit issue, will be recorded and added to the public record. Every comment is taken into consideration before LDEQ issues or denies a permit or permit modification. LDEQ also responds to all comments in writing, if the citizen requests notification, when the decision on the permit is finalized.

The public hearing is not a question-and-answer session, but simply an opportunity for anyone to provide their comments to be entered into the public record. Anyone wishing to speak signs up on a list.

An attorney from LDEQ's Legal Division serves as the hearing officer who manages and moderates the process and ensures that civility and order is upheld.

The hearing officer taps the gavel to officially call the hearing to order. The officer will then provide an overview of the public hearing process, explain the rules and go over housekeeping matters. If in attendance, the first speaker will be a representative from the permit seeker, who will receive 30 minutes to explain the facility's request for a permit or permit modification.

Priority to speak is then offered to any public officials in attendance, followed by citizens residing within a two-mile radius of the facility. Anyone working within that two-mile radius will be next in the speaking order, followed by those living within the parish. Finally, the podium will be open to anyone else who wishes to provide comments. Once everyone has been given an opportunity to speak, those who've already spoken can return to the podium to offer additional comments. Speakers are typically given five to ten minutes each, as designated by the hearing officer.

Should anyone be unable to attend the hearing, they still have an opportunity to submit written comments to LDEQ during the open comment period. All comments are entered into the official record, along with any notes, photos, correspondence, etc., that a speaker may provide during the public hearing. In such a case, those items will be entered as an exhibit into the public record by the hearing officer, who will assign an exhibit number to each respective item.

Upon conclusion of the comment period, LDEQ will review each comment and provide written responses to each. A copy of all questions and answers will then be mailed to everyone who submitted comments or requested a copy of the comments. After all data and comments have been analyzed, LDEQ's Office of Environmental Services will then make a decision regarding issuance or denial of the permit.

For more information of the public hearing process, please visit: <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/the-public-participation-group>.



*Public hearings offer an opportunity for anyone to submit comments for the public record to LDEQ on a proposed permit or permit modification being considered by the department.*



## LDEQ encourages invitees to participate in the Capital Region Transportation Survey underway this fall

The Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC), in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), has launched a survey of how people travel across the greater Baton Rouge region.



According to a Texas A&M Transportation Institute study, the annual cost of America's traffic congestion is estimated at \$160 billion, which includes 7 billion hours lost to sitting in traffic and an extra 3 billion gallons of fuel burned. Greater Baton Rouge area citizens can undoubtedly attest to the nuisance traffic congestion causes drivers, but the issue goes beyond inconvenience. Traffic is also a public health hazard and bad for the economy.

As the region's population continues to grow and challenges like traffic congestion increase, transportation planners need to collect current travel data to inform future transportation investments and prioritize improvements.

Thousands of households across the five-parish region (Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, West Baton Rouge) are encouraged to participate in the survey from September – November of this year. Randomly selected households will be invited to participate by mailed invitation.

Invited households have the option to complete the survey online, by phone or through a smartphone app developed by the project consultants, RSG. When complete, this survey will help the region plan for a more efficient future transportation system.

We can all play a part in helping reduce traffic congestion in the Capital Region. Less traffic means fewer individual vehicles on the road, which ultimately results in less air pollution, fewer carbon emissions, and less greenhouse gas emissions.

Your input matters! If you receive an invitation to the Capital Region Transportation survey, LDEQ encourages you to please participate and do your part in helping our region.

For more information, please visit the study website: [www.capitalregionsurvey.com](http://www.capitalregionsurvey.com).





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## Who's Who At LDEQ?



**Macy Blanchard - Environmental Scientist, Emergency and Radiological Services Division, Office of Environmental Compliance**

A native of Pierre Part, Blanchard moved to Baton Rouge in 2014. In August 2016, she began working as a student intern at LDEQ with the Waste Tire Program. She work at LDEQ for two years before moving to Wisconsin for a post-graduation internship at the Northwoods Wildlife Center. In 2018, she graduated magna cum laude from LSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resource ecology and management, concentrating in wildlife ecology. Blanchard returned to LDEQ in February 2019.

In her free time, Blanchard enjoys exploring nature, birdwatching and cooking. She also enjoys spending time with her pet snake and bringing other people's dogs to the dog park.

**Jamie Phillippe - Senior Environmental Scientist, Water Quality Standards and Assessment Section, Office of Environmental Assessment**

Phillippe earned a Bachelor of Science degree in geography from LSU in 1996 and worked for the university for two years after graduation, monitoring erosion rates along the Gulf Coast. He has over 20 years of experience with the agency in various water programs, beginning in Water Surveys. He is currently working with the U.S. Geological Survey to design a toxicity study that will help to reevaluate dissolved minerals found in surface water that required water quality criteria in the state and nationally. He is also overseeing the completion of the current (and initiation of the next) cycle of the Triennial Review of the state's water quality standards.

Phillippe enjoys traveling, reading, listening to music, watching films, researching his family tree, studying foreign languages, solving puzzles and spending time with his daughter.



**Karley Vinson – Environmental Scientist IV, Emergency and Radiological Services Division, Office of Environmental Compliance**

Originally from Lake Charles, Vinson moved to Baton Rouge in 2010 for undergraduate school at LSU. In 2014, she earned a B.S. in environmental management systems with a minor in business administration. Vinson worked briefly as a production assistant for MTV's "Scream" and was a program specialist for Louisiana Coastal Protection and Recovery Authority (CPRA) before joining the chemical accident prevention program section with LDEQ in 2016.

She enjoys spending time with family and friends, yoga, tennis, cooking, gardening, traveling and hiking.





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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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## Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Second Quarter Summaries

**Second Quarter 2019 Enforcement Actions:**  
<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions>

**Second Quarter 2019 Settlement Agreements:**  
<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division>

**Second Quarter 2019 Air Permits:**  
<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter>

**Second Quarter 2019 Water Permits:**  
<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes>

**Second Quarter 2019 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:**  
<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits>

