DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

August 2021 Issue Number: 115

What's Inside?

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Mercury and fish consumption advisory updates issued for six areas in Southeastern Louisiana

The Louisiana Departments of Health, Environmental Quality, and Wildlife and Fisheries have issued a series of updates to six existing fish consumption advisories. The state issues precautionary advisories when unacceptable levels of mercury are detected in fish or shellfish.

LDEQ conducts fish sampling. LDH then uses this data to determine the need for additional advisories or to modify existing advisories. Each advisory lists the specific fish, makes consumption recommendations and outlines the geographic boundaries of the affected waterways. To view the advisories on an interactive map, visit ***www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/fishing-consumption-and-swimming-advisories***.

Amite River Drainage Basin

- Includes Amite River from the Mississippi State Line to its confluence with Lake Maurepas, Colyell Creek, the Amite River Diversion Canal and the Petite Amite River
- Women of childbearing age and children less than seven years of age should consume no more than one meal per month* of bowfin (choupique, grinnel), freshwater drum (gaspergou), largemouth bass and warmouth combined from the advisory area; OR should consume no more than two meals per month of bigmouth buffalo, crappie (sac-au-lait), flathead catfish, redear sunfish and spotted bass combined from the advisory area.
- Other adults and children seven years of age and older: no advisory

Interactive Fish Consumption and Swimming Advisories Map screenshot

Bayou Liberty

- Includes Bayou Liberty only
- Women of childbearing age and children less than seven years of age should not consume black crappie; AND should consume no more than one meal per month of bowfin (choupique, grinnel), flathead catfish, largemouth bass and white crappie combined from the advisory area; OR should consume no more than two meals per month of bluegill, freshwater drum (gaspergou), redear sunfish and white bass combined from the advisory area.

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- Other adults and children seven years of age and older should consume no more than two meals per month of black crappie; OR no more than three meals per month of flathead catfish.

Blind River

- Includes the Blind River only
- Women of childbearing age and children less than seven years of age should not consume more than one meal per month of bowfin (choupique, grinnel), largemouth bass and freshwater drum (gaspergou) combined from the advisory area; OR should consume no more than two meals per month of any other species from the advisory area.
- Other adults and children seven years of age and older should consume no more than three meals per month of bowfin (choupique, grinnel) from the advisory area.

Tangipahoa River

- Includes Tangipahoa River from the Louisiana/Mississippi state line to Lake Ponchartrain
- Women of childbearing age and children less than seven years of age should consume no more than one meal per month of bowfin (choupique, grinnel), flathead catfish, freshwater drum (gaspergou), largemouth bass and spotted bass combined from the advisory area; OR should consume no more than two meals per month of all other species combined from the advisory area.
- Other adults and children 7 years of age and older should consume no more than three meals per month of largemouth bass from the advisory area.

Bogue Falaya and Tchefuncte Rivers

- Includes the Bogue Falaya River from its headwaters to its confluence with the Tchefuncte River, and the Tchefuncte River from its headwaters to Lake Ponchartrain. All oxbow lakes associated with these sections of the Bogue Falaya and the Tchefuncte Rivers are included in this advisory.
- Women of childbearing age and children less than 7 years of age should consume no more than one meal per month of black drum, crappie (sac-au-lait), flathead catfish, freshwater drum (gaspergou), largemouth bass and spotted bass combined; OR should consume no more than two meals per month of bigmouth buffalo, bluegill, bowfin (choupique, grinnel) and striped bass combined from the advisory area.
- Other adults and children seven years of age and older should consume no more than three meals per month of flathead catfish, freshwater drum (gaspergou), largemouth bass and spotted bass combined from the advisory area.

Tickfaw River Drainage Basin

- Includes the Tickfaw River from the Mississippi-Louisiana state line to Lake Maurepas; the Natalbany River, the Blood River, Lizard Creek and Ponchatoula Creek.
- Women of childbearing age and children less than seven years of age should consume no more than one meal per month of bigmouth buffalo, bowfin (choupique, grinnel), flathead catfish, freshwater drum (gaspergou), largemouth bass and white crappie combined from the advisory area; OR should consume no more than two meals per month of any other species from the advisory area.
- Other adults and children seven years of age and older should consume no more than three meals per month of freshwater drum (gaspergou) and largemouth combined from the advisory area.

** A meal is considered to be half a pound of fish for adults*

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Because of mercury contamination, there are now fish consumption advisories for 49 waterways in Louisiana and one for the Gulf of Mexico.

Louisiana fish consumption advisories are based on the estimate that the average resident eats four meals of fish per month. Consuming more than this from local water bodies may increase health risks.

Mercury is an element that occurs naturally in the environment. Consequently, there are small amounts of mercury in the sediments of streams, lakes, rivers and oceans. Nearly all fish contain trace amounts of mercury. They absorb mercury as they feed on aquatic organisms. Larger predator fish contain more mercury than smaller fish. It is recommended that smaller fish be consumed instead of larger ones.

People are exposed to low levels of mercury throughout their lives. Eating contaminated fish is one way we are exposed to mercury. Health effects from harmful levels of mercury can include nervous system and kidney damage. Young children and developing fetuses are more sensitive to the toxic effects of mercury. Therefore, consumption advisories are issued at lower fish tissue concentrations for women of childbearing age and children under seven years of age.

The full text for each advisory is posted online at ***www.ldh.la.gov/EatSafeFish*** or by calling toll-free 1-888-293-7020. You may also access the information by downloading LDEQ's new app, which is available through Google Play (DEQ Fish Advisories) and the App Store (LA Fish Advisories).

LDEQ's Enviroschool to host webinar: Understanding Public Participation

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) Enviroschool will host a webinar on Understanding Public Participation. This session will focus on how you can be involved in the regulatory processes, including how to receive public notices, making public comments, where to find public notices, public meetings vs. public hearings and making effective comments.

When: 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 30
Online: Live Webinar Only

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ENVIROSCHOOL

Please register by emailing ***enviroschool@la.gov***.

The Public Participation Group (PPG) is a part of the Permit Support Services Division within the Office of Environmental Services. PPG is responsible for issuing public notices and conducting public hearings and meetings associated with permitting activities related to the four categories of media (Air, Hazardous Waste, Solid Waste and Water).

Public involvement efforts are designed to enable the citizens of Louisiana to be a part of the environmental decisions that affect their lives. Through the public notices, public hearings and meetings, and availability of material associated with the permitting activities for public review, the citizens of Louisiana can present their comments and additional input of information that helps agency decision-makers in their review and evaluation of permits.

The Enviroschool program at LDEQ is the environmental education outreach arm of the agency and provides training for communities, businesses and other organizations on a number of regulatory topics. The program aims to inform attendees about the environmental regulatory process and to maintain and improve environmental compliance.

The workshops are free and open to the public. If you are interested, please feel free to register for any of our workshops. For more information, go to ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroschool*** or email Enviroschool at ***Enviroschool@la.gov***.

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Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown

We have a problem. It's called solid waste. According to EPA, the total generation of municipal solid waste (MSW) in 2018 was 292.4 million tons or 4.9 pounds per person per day. That adds up quickly and fills up landfill space.

One category of MSW that is sometimes forgotten is food waste. It's a problem of plenty. We throw away almost as much food as we eat.

EPA estimates that 63.1 million tons of food waste was generated in the commercial, institutional and residential sectors in 2018, accounting for 21.6% of total MSW generation. Food waste comprised the fourth largest MSW material category in EPA's estimate.

That's a lot of rice and gravy. What can we do about it? The first weapon we have is source reduction. That's just another way of saying don't cook more than you will eat. Estimate meal sizes so that you don't have a lot to throw out. Tailor your meals to demand.

If you do find yourself regularly having to throw out leftovers, rethink what you are doing with them. Maybe you could add it to a compost pile in your yard, or perhaps a neighbor has a compost pile where you can donate it. Better yet, maybe there is a community garden with a compost pile in your neighborhood or subdivision.

Farmers may be willing to accept food scraps to feed their livestock. That's recycling at its most basic – food waste converted to new food.

It's not just the food itself that is wasted. It's staggering to think of all the effort and resources that go into producing food: tractors and other farm equipment need fuel, they produce emissions, food processing requires electricity (and EGUs produce emissions) and human man-hours. Then there are transportation and storage costs, which add more emissions to the environment. Even cooking food is energy-intensive, requiring either natural gas or electricity or some kind of charcoal or wood, which produces more emissions.

Food production puts a huge amount of stress on the environment. Why waste all that effort and productivity by throwing it away? Give it some thought. Even a small effort can really help the environment over time and make our world a little better place to live.

Every so often, I like to remind everyone of the work principles we follow. Our core values are:

- 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.

I will add this final word to the wise: be safe. Wear your masks, social distance and follow Covid protocols. Be careful working in the heat. Keep in mind that it's the peak of storm season, so be ready. Look out for your co-workers too. We're all in this together.

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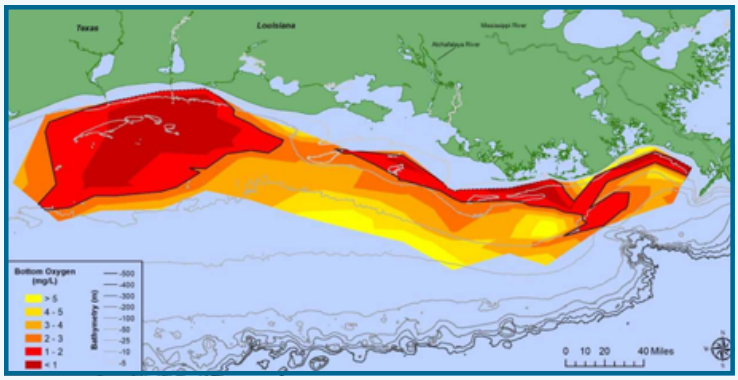
LDEQ works with the Hypoxia Task Force to reduce the "dead zone"

In August, an updated report on the size of the Hypoxic Zone (commonly known as the "Dead Zone") in the Gulf of Mexico was produced through the combined efforts of LDEQ, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), LSU and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

"Dead Zones" are low-oxygen, or hypoxic, areas in the world's oceans and lakes. The largest hypoxic zone currently affecting the United States, and the second-largest hypoxic zone worldwide, is the northern Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone adjacent to the Mississippi River. According to the National Geographic Society, there are 415 dead zones around the world.



Graph of the hypoxic zone show distribution of dissolved oxygen concentration for the July 25-31, 2021 shelf-wide hypoxic zone.

Hypoxia, or low oxygen, is an environmental phenomenon where the concentration of dissolved oxygen in the water column decreases to a level that can no longer support living aquatic organisms. When there are excessive amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus in the water, algae can bloom to harmful levels. Dead zones form when the algae die, sink to the bottom and are decomposed by bacteria — a process that strips dissolved oxygen from the surrounding water.

LUMCON, LSU and NOAA were part of the 2021 cruise to map the size of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone this year, July 25-30, on the R/V Pelican research vessel. The main task was to map the extent of hypoxia and the physical, chemical and biological parameters associated with the shelf area. It also served to link the size of the zone with conditions in the Mississippi River watershed.

NOAA, LSU and LUMCON released the results of the 2021 mapping on Aug. 3. Mapping of the Hypoxic Zone began in 1985. The bottom area of the low oxygen in Louisiana Coastal waters, commonly known as the "Dead Zone," was estimated to be 16,400 square kilometers (6,334 square miles). Nutrient-enriched water from the Mississippi River enters the Gulf, and this stimulates an algae bloom that eventually dies and sinks to the bottom. The bloom brings bacterial degradation of carbon and the loss of dissolved oxygen during bacterial respiration.

In July, an unusual increase of that freshwater was discharged into the Gulf, which contributed to more algae, more sinking carbon and bacterial respiration; these factors reduced the dissolved oxygen. The "Dead Zone" (due in part to the River's nutrient load) is approximately 4 million acres of water that is uninhabitable to fish and marine life, according to NOAA.

"Each year, excess nutrients from cities, farms and other sources in upland watersheds drain into the Gulf and stimulate algal growth during the spring and summer. The algae eventually die, sink and decompose. Throughout this process, oxygen-consuming bacteria decay the algae. The resulting low oxygen levels near the bottom are insufficient to support most marine life, rendering the habitat unusable and forcing species to move to other areas to survive. Exposure to hypoxic waters has been found to alter fish diets, growth rates, reproduction, habitat use and availability of commercially harvested species" according to NOAA.

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Pelican picture courtesy of gulfhypoxic.net

The flagship of LUMCON's marine operations and fleet is the 116-foot R/V Pelican, which was designed and outfitted to conduct a variety of oceanographic research missions. The Pelican's based at LUMCON's DeFelice Marine Center in Cocodrie. The Pelican is often referred to by oceanographers as "the workhorse of the Gulf." It was built in 1985 with funds from the State of Louisiana to provide a platform for research in the Gulf and beyond. For more information on the Pelican and other vessels, go to https://lumcon.edu.

Pelican picture courtesy of gulfhypoxic.net

Mapping instruments on the R/V Pelican

The mapping begins at the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River (except in 2010) and progresses westward. An instrument (photo above), CTD (conductivity, temperature and depth) with a rosette of Niskin bottles, is lowered through the water column.

"The instruments at the bottom of the configuration electronically record depth, temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, percent photosynthetically available radiation and phytoplankton biomass," according to LUMCON. "The Niskin bottles are used to collect water samples at discrete depths for measurement of water quality conditions."

What can be done to reduce the "Dead Zone"?

If the number of nutrients reaching the Gulf of Mexico can be reduced, then the dead zone will begin to shrink. The Hypoxic Task Force has been working since 1997 to do just that. You can access the most current 2020 Annual Report of the Louisiana Nutrient Reduction and Management Strategy Implementation at ***www.deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/Water/2020_NRMS_AR_FINAL_42721.pdf***.

The HTF reports to Congress biennially as part of the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014 (since amended).

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Baton Rouge's first litter boom may set an example throughout the state

Litter in the state's waterways is an ongoing problem. Many communities struggle with the situation. When trash floats downstream, it not only mars the stream's aesthetic beauty, but can also cause flooding problems and negatively impact soil and water on which aquatic and bird species rely. While litter pickup events are excellent ways of making a positive difference, results are often only temporary.

This problem is being addressed at Bayou Fountain, a waterway that runs along BREC's Highland Road Community Park in Baton Rouge. Seeing a significant trash accumulation along the bayou – popular with kayakers and canoers – a few groups joined forces to do something more permanent: install a litter collection boom.

The July 21 installation preceded a cleanup of the bayou by more than 40 volunteers who paddled downstream to remove litter, while others took to the shoreline on foot.

Photo courtesy of BREC
Project coordinators prepare to install the litter collection boom.

Commonly used for oil spill containment, the boom, designed by Oil Stop (a division of the American Pollution Control Corporation), has been re-purposed to capture litter and make subsequent removal easier while keeping trash from washing further downstream during rainy days. Consisting of segments of floating rubber, the boom includes a skirt, anchor bridles for securing it to the shoreline and a kayak rollover feature to allow canoe and kayak transit.

The 75-foot boom was donated by the Louisiana Stormwater Coalition (LSC), an all-volunteer group that promotes stormwater management, litter reduction and flooding prevention.

"LSC donated the boom, gathered donations and got the ball rolling," said Nathaniel Klumb, founder of Baton Rouge-based recreation group PaddleBR. "The boom is a U-shaped segment that is great for catching the litter while we can concentrate it and capture it before it becomes a major problem."

Photo courtesy of BREC
Waste tires, discarded toys, used industrial supplies, wood waste and other debris were pulled from the bayou during the cleanup.

"This boom is the first of its kind on Bayou Fountain and will help to keep upstream trash from making its way to the more naturalized, frequently paddled portion of the waterway," said Amanda Takacs, assistant director of Natural Resource Management with BREC. "The boom is intended to act as a demonstration model to show what can be accomplished with a clean-out program and the right equipment," LSC volunteer Marie Constantin said.

The Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC) organized the project with assistance from LSC volunteer Kelly Hurtado along with PaddleBR and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

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Photo courtesy of LSC
Nathaniel Klumb of PaddleBR installs the boom at Bayou Fountain.

Photo courtesy of BREC
Accumulated litter makes retrieval much easier through the placement of the boom.

"This is a cooperative endeavor inspired by Nathaniel Klumb with PaddleBR, who has been clearing litter from the bayou for ten years," Hurtado said. "This project fits nicely with LSC's mission, which is to advocate for permanently funded stormwater management programs in the state by educating citizens about littering and keeping storm drains free from debris."

The project was born out of Klumb's observation that the bayou was practically impassable a decade ago when he first began cleaning it up during his excursions. Since then, his team of fellow kayakers and canoers have been maintaining the waterway as a paddling trail and removing litter during their visits. The boom installation facilitates his goal of keeping the bayou clean while bringing several groups and citizens together to highlight the issue.

To clean and maintain the boom, BREC hired Osprey Initiative, LLC, an environmental contractor based in Mobile, Ala., who will also collect data and track the sources of litter entering the bayou. The information gathered will help identify the root causes of why certain pieces of litter enter the waterway. Dedicated to controlling litter through analytic methods and technology, Osprey's work at Bayou Fountain also involves visiting the bayou a few times a month to retrieve any accumulated trash, with additional cleanup visits after significant storm events.

"Analysis of litter is done using the EPA's Escape Trash Assessment Protocol (ETAP)," said Sam Eubanks, Osprey's Field Operations Leader. "This entails documenting the collected litter into three categories – material, item type and condition." Under the protocol, each piece of litter is categorized according to the type of item within a given material group (paper, plastic, metal, etc.) and by condition (intact, partially degraded, or degraded/fully fouled). Additionally, source-related information, such as branding, is annotated by each item type. An item's overall condition and material provides information on potential trends that can be identified over time. That cumulative data is submitted to the partner organizations, who will then look at solutions that can be applied to prevent those items from entering the environment in the first place.

Funding for maintenance of the boom will be managed by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation through a charitable fund opened by LSC. BREC is distributing the funding. "We're covered for six months by this funding, and additional funds are being raised for the rest of the year," Takacs noted.

The litter collection boom will make cleanups much easier while not taking away from the beauty of the area. "The boom can catch at least 80% of litter," Constantin said. "We conducted a five-hour deep clean of the waterway and now have a litter-free paddle trail."

For more information about LSC, please visit ***www.louisianastormwater.com***. To register for future volunteer opportunities with BREC, visit ***www.volunteer.brec.org***. Visit PaddleBR's blog at ***paddlebr.com***. For more information on Osprey Initiative, LLC, check out ***https://Osprey.world***. You may reach the Baton Rouge Area Foundation at ***www.braf.org***.

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What are Beneficial Environmental Projects?

One positive result from environmental litigation is that sometimes a Beneficial Environmental Project (BEP) may be undertaken by a respondent in order to add a benefit to Louisiana's environment and/or public health.

Respondents are usually industrial or municipal facilities that LDEQ has issued an enforcement action for violating state environmental laws and regulations. Enforcement actions issued by LDEQ require that the respondent mitigate any environmental damages resulting from an environmental violation. One way to do this is by the respondent undertaking a BEP as a component of environmental mitigation.

Collecting donated paint is just one of several activities conducted at a household hazardous materials collection event. Other activities include collecting waste tires, used electronics, used batteries, and used chemicals and aerosols. Hosting and funding such a collection day is an example of a BEP that can be undertaken by a respondent who is found to be responsible for a hazardous waste violation and seeks to reduce or offset a portion of their fine or penalty.

Since using a BEP is not legally required, the respondent must voluntarily agree to undertake the BEP as a component of a settlement agreement stemming from any environmental violation(s), enforcement action or penalty assessment.

The decision to enter into a settlement that includes a BEP is solely within the discretion of LDEQ. LDEQ and the respondent must agree to include the BEP in the settlement agreement. Undertaking a BEP can offset a portion of a fine or penalty that the respondent has to pay directly to LDEQ.

BEP proposals typically focus on improving air, water or waste quality that is near or at the location where the initial environmental violation occurred. It can be a positive result stemming from a negative situation.

An example would be a private organization submitting a BEP proposal that consists of hosting a household hazardous materials collection day for a pollution prevention effort in Winn Parish. ABC Corporation, undergoing a legal proceeding stemming from a hazardous waste violation in Winn Parish, may negotiate to fund a portion of their civil penalty by selecting the household hazardous materials collection day BEP proposal for implementation and approval.

It should be noted that legal action is not required for a BEP proposal to be submitted. Any individual or business may submit a BEP proposal to LDEQ that improves our environment.

BEP proposals may be submitted online or via mail. The proposal is then reviewed to determine if it meets the criteria of an eligible project category under Title 33 of the Louisiana Administrative Code. Once deemed eligible for approval, the proposal will be made viewable for the public via the online BEP library ***www.deq.louisiana.gov/bep/library***.

To meet the requirements under the Louisiana Administrative Code, a BEP must fall within one or more of these categories:

- **Public Health.** Projects that provide diagnostic, preventative and/or a remedial component of human health care related to the actual or potential damage to health caused by a violation of environmental law or mismanagement of substances containing constituents detrimental to health. Example: Paying for cancer/medical screening associated with a particular environmental hazard or funding studies associated with pollution-related illness data collection.

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- **Pollution Prevention.** Projects that reduce the generation of pollution through "source reduction," i.e., any practice that reduces the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant entering any waste stream or otherwise being released into the environment, prior to recycling, treatment or disposal. For a project to meet the criteria, there must be an overall decrease in the amount and/or toxicity of pollution released to the environment. Example: Fund and Implement a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day during a specified timeframe.
- **Pollution Reduction.** Projects that employ recycling, treatment, containment or disposal techniques (regarding pollutants or waste streams that have already been generated/released). These projects result in a decrease in the amount and/or toxicity of any hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant entering any waste stream or otherwise being released into the environment by an operating business or facility. Example: Voluntarily upgrade of older pollution control equipment.
- **Environmental Restoration and Protection**. Projects that go beyond repairing the damage caused by the violation to enhance the condition of any ecosystem or geographic area. Example: Funding and manpower for the installation of a bioswale and rain garden in a flood-prone park in order to make the park more desirable and usable by reducing stormwater run-off.
- **Assessments and Audits.** The four types of assessments/audits are: pollution prevention assessments; site assessments; environmental management system audits; and compliance audits. Assessments and audits may not include projects that are required by enforcement and/or legal requirements. Example: Perform an internal audit that includes a review of environmental policies and procedures and conduct corrective actions.
- **Environmental Compliance Promotion.** Projects that provide training or technical support to identify, achieve and maintain compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements; avoid committing a violation with respect to such statutory and regulatory requirements; go beyond compliance by reducing the generation, release, or disposal of pollutants to a level below the legally required limits; or promote environmental education, including awareness of potential risks or harm to the public health and the environment. In all cases, the department will specify the approved party responsible for developing and providing the environmental compliance promotion project. Example: Fund and conduct environmental outreach programs to local schools on environmental education.
- **Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Response.** Projects that provide assistance to a responsible state or local emergency planning, preparedness or response entity. Example: Prepare and conduct a discharge exercise involving local and state response organizations.
- **Other Projects.** Projects determined by the department to have environmental merit that do not fit within any category above may be accepted if they are otherwise fully consistent with the intent of these rules. Examples: Installation of a handicap-accessible restroom to accompany a wetlands educational facility.

Inclusion in the library does not guarantee a BEP's selection for future settlement agreements, and any BEP proposal, if not eventually funded through a settlement agreement, would have to be funded by some other means if the submitter wants the project completed.

"The library consists of approved BEPs, which can be proposed by anyone, such as citizens, citizen groups, and even by those within the regulated community. Respondents that have corrected and/or resolved compliance issues with LDEQ can further offset any resulting monetary penalties via our BEP program," LDEQ Staff Environmental Scientist Scott Pierce said. All in all, the use of a BEP can be beneficial for all parties concerned while bringing an added boost to the environment that may not have been realized otherwise.

For details on BEP submittals, please visit LDEQ's webpage ***www.deq.louisiana.gov/faq/category/31***.

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Angela Marse

Angela Marse named Administrator for LDEQ's Enforcement Division

Marse, who received a Bachelor of Science in environmental science and a Master of Science in environmental planning and management from LSU, has been with LDEQ for 18 years. She has worked as an environmental scientist in water permits and water enforcement. She served as an environmental scientist manager until she was named Administrator for the Enforcement Division in the Office of Environmental Compliance. Marse has more than 20 years of experience in the environmental field.

Marse has been married for 25 years and has twin daughters. Her hobbies include exercising and reading.

Jim Pate receives two Certificates of Recognition

Jim Pate, Environmental Scientist Staff with LDEQ's Office of Environmental Compliance, Emergency and Radiological Services Division, Radiation Section, was recently presented two Certificates of Recognition by the Organization of Agreement States (OAS) at their Annual Meeting held Aug. 18.

The State of Louisiana has been a member of the OAS since 1967, and LDEQ is Louisiana's representative. Pate was recognized for his participation as Louisiana's representative on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) Team evaluation of the State of California and the NRC Programs.

"Jim's participation in these evaluations utilizes his knowledge and years of experience in the radiological field. Jim's experience allows him to compare the good and the bad aspects of other State and Federal programs to help improve our Radiation Program. We are proud of Jim and his national recognition," said Jeff J. Dauzat, administrator of the Emergency and Radiological Services Division.

Please congratulate Jim on this achievement!

Jim Pate, Office of Environmental Compliance, receives two Certificates of Recognition

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Who's Who At LDEQ?

Diane Matthews – Environmental Scientist IV – Surveillance Division, Office of Environmental Compliance, Capital Regional Office

Matthews is a native of Palmetto. She earned an Associate of Science degree from Louisiana State University at Eunice and a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry at Southern University in Baton Rouge. She began her career at LDEQ in 2001 as an Environmental Scientist in Surveillance. Matthews has over 15 years of experience within LDEQ in various areas of inspections and enforcement. She was recently promoted to Environmental Scientist IV in the Surveillance Division.

Matthews enjoys spending quality time with her husband and their two sons, cooking and relaxing on the beach.

Madeline Waddell – Accountant – Financial Services, Accounts Receivable Division

Waddell graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University in May 2021, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. While attending SELU, she also studied a minor in finance. This will be her first position after graduating, and she is very thrilled to be a part of the LDEQ team.

During free time, Waddell enjoys baking, cooking, decorating, spending time with friends and family, and planning events.

Marcus Chopin – Environmental Scientist – Waste Permits Division, Office of Environmental Services

Chopin is from Lafayette, and graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in May 2020 with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering. He joins LDEQ in the waste permits division working on solid and hazardous waste.

He enjoys working out, gaming, biking, fishing, hiking, and cooking.

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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Second Quarter Summaries

Second Quarter 2021 Enforcement Actions:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions

Second Quarter 2021 Settlement Agreements:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division

Second Quarter 2021 Air Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter

Second Quarter 2021 Water Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes

Second Quarter 2021 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits