



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

PEGGY M. HATCH
SECRETARY

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Contact: Jean Kelly
Phone: 225-219-3966

EPA commends DEQ on RCRA program

BATON ROUGE – Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency commended the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality on achievements in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act program, which is also known as RCRA. RCRA is a federal law that regulates solid and hazardous waste.

In a letter to DEQ, EPA said that the program was “running very well in Louisiana,” and added the state was meeting its authorization commitments as well as making significant progress in accomplishing corrective action measurements.

DEQ and EPA have worked in collaboration to achieve a Ready for Reuse determination for Shell Chemical Norco and have several potential candidates for Ready for Reuse determinations in the second half of the year. A Ready for Reuse determination signifies a site that was once contaminated is now cleaned up to where it can be used again.

The primary purpose of the Ready for Reuse determination is to document specific information about the current environmental conditions on a property (i.e., concentrations of contaminants present and their associated risks), the work performed at the site to address risks, and to identify that the entire facility, or portions of the facility, are ready for reuse.

EPA also stated that DEQ’s permitting program has made “excellent progress over the last few years”

“DEQ will continue to run an excellent RCRA program in an effort to improve Louisiana’s environment” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. “Through RCRA and other successful programs we have seen Louisiana become a leader in environmental protection. I appreciate the efforts of the DEQ and EPA staffs and look forward to participating in future Ready for Reuse ceremonies. It’s also fulfilling for DEQ’s RCRA staff to be recognized for their efforts by EPA.”

For more information, go to DEQ’s Web site, www.deq.louisiana.gov.

