



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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**For Immediate Release**  
Sept. 28, 2012

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### **DEQ issues notice of potential penalty to Stolthaven**

**BATON ROUGE** – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality recently issued its second Notice of Potential Penalty to Stolthaven New Orleans, LLC, in Braithwaite for alleged environmental violations stemming from unauthorized discharges that occurred in late August and early September. Stolthaven failed to take the necessary precautionary measures in anticipation of Hurricane Isaac, thereby allowing for unauthorized releases to the waters of the state.

The Notice of Potential Penalty states, in part: "...the written reports submitted detailing this incident did not specify or give mention to any measures taken prior to hurricane landfall to minimize the volume and duration of the unauthorized discharges. Each unauthorized discharge to waters of the state is a violation" of Louisiana law prohibiting unauthorized discharges to the waters of the state.

On Sept. 18, DEQ issued its first penalty to Stolthaven related to this event for \$12,189.61 for failure to notify DEQ in a timely manner.

DEQ and other state, federal and local authorities continue to investigate the incident, provide oversight of the cleanup activities and review environmental sampling in and around the facility. Sampling data is available at [www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov).

The facility has 10 calendar days to respond to the alleged violations and provide an account of their gross revenues. Potential penalties will be based upon the applicable state enforcement regulations. The recently issued notice is the first step under state regulations to issuing a penalty. As the investigation continues, additional enforcement actions, including penalties, could be issued.