



**For Immediate Release:**

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### **LDEQ launches a new and improved Water Data Portal**

**BATON ROUGE** – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has launched a new water data portal -- a forward-thinking, user-friendly approach to water data. As of today, LDEQ water quality data can be accessed at <https://waterdata.deq.louisiana.gov>. The new portal provides web access to surface water quality data as well as a multitude of additional water data tools.

Users can now pull the specific data they are requesting directly from the portal and export it into an excel spreadsheet. Other notable upgrades include a new geospatial mapping tool and the ability to instantaneously graph data on the water quality parameters available.

“Being able to present water data in a geospatially enabled form has allowed us to give users more freedom in how they query data. Previously, users were limited to querying one water project on a per-site basis. Now users have the ability to query across multiple sites and across multiple projects based on where sites are in relation to each other. Just being able to visualize this on the map adds another layer of robustness to the data,” LDEQ senior environmental scientist Tara Nixon said.

Significant upgrades also come in the form of mobile and tablet optimization and a virtual tour of the portal, making the new webpage as user-friendly as possible. Finally, the new portal will provide interagency and interdepartmental efficiency by reducing the number of data requests received.

The entire project was made possible through an Exchange Network Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The program’s primary goal is to foster improved access to, and exchange of, high-quality environmental data from public and private sector sources. “LDEQ has been fortunate to receive funding from EPA through the Exchange Network Program, this has allowed us to make advances in the use of technology and provide better access to water data,” said Dr. Amanda Vincent, LDEQ environmental scientist manager.

LDEQ’s Water Quality Standards and Assessment Section (WQSAS), in coordination with the Office of Technology Services under the Division of Administration, worked with Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI) at Louisiana State University on the development of the new portal. “We are very excited to partner with LDEQ’s WQSAS to provide a better experience and more information on water quality for Louisiana citizens with the development of the new web portal. We have introduced the capability to search testing sites geospatially while also enhancing the way data is presented in both tabular and graphical formats,” said Brant Mitchell, SDMI director.

Please visit <https://waterdata.deq.louisiana.gov> for a first-hand experience.

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