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LDEQ Tiger Team Completes Successful Wastewater Mission in Carencro

Baton Rouge, Louisiana — October 8, 2024: The specialized Tiger Team established by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) to address wastewater challenges facing the City of Carencro has reached a successful conclusion. Through intensive attention to the concerns of local officials, LDEQ has helped the City of Carencro reform its plans for a new wastewater treatment plant — with projections indicating the new plans will save taxpayers money and construction time.

“The success of the Carencro Tiger Team is a testament to what can be achieved when we focus our resources and expertise and work collaboratively with communities to solve problems proactively,” said LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto. “This initiative was about more than just resolving an immediate issue; it was about demonstrating a new way of tackling complex environmental challenges across Louisiana. The Carencro project is a prime example of how our Tiger Teams can make a significant difference in Louisiana’s communities by providing tailored solutions and timely support.”



LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto, Carencro Mayor Charlotte Clavier and other officials tour the city’s wastewater facilities.

Launched by Secretary Giacometto, LDEQ’s Tiger Teams are dedicated task forces that provide concentrated attention and resources to legacy environmental issues that require urgent and innovative solutions. The Carencro project is one of the first Tiger Team success stories, demonstrating the potential for meaningful progress on the state’s environmental concerns.

The Carencro Tiger Team was formed in March 2024, following a meeting between Secretary Giacometto, LDEQ staff, Mayor Charlotte Clavier and other officials from the City of Carencro. Mayor Clavier expressed concerns over ongoing non-compliance and escalating project costs associated with its proposed new wastewater treatment plant, which the city had chosen to consolidate from its two existing plants to better manage ammonia effluent violations. Despite securing U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding and selecting a consolidation strategy vetted by consulting engineers, the city encountered escalating costs and enforcement challenges. In response, Carencro sought LDEQ's guidance and assistance.



Secretary Giacometto surveys the city's wastewater facilities with Carencro Water Supervisor Buster Broussard.

To address these issues, the Carencro Tiger Team was tasked with developing potential solutions and timelines for the city. The team conducted an in-depth analysis of similar communities with comparable population sizes and wastewater treatment needs — research that provided a clearer picture of the costs associated with such projects. Additionally, the team identified opportunities for technical assistance through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program, which offers below-market interest loans for municipalities in need of additional funding.

The Tiger Team's efforts resulted in a recommendation for Carencro to seek a second opinion on the cost estimates for its new wastewater treatment plant. By May 2024, the city had acted on this advice, selecting Domingue, Szabo and Associates, Inc. as its new design engineering firm. This decision was further supported by the Tiger Team's findings from the Nitrogen Reduction Cost Estimation Study Final Summary Report, which highlights best practices for managing similar treatment facilities.

The partnership between LDEQ, the Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA) and local stakeholders proved invaluable as the Tiger Team worked to provide technical assistance and practical guidance to Carencro officials. Representatives from these organizations were joined by Louisiana Representative Julie Emerson for a comprehensive site visit in June 2024, which included inspections of both wastewater treatment plants and major lift stations.

While Carencro is in the process to fulfill its requirements, the updated project completion timeline for the new wastewater treatment plant is now set for April 2027 — one month earlier than initially planned. In the meantime, ongoing support through the LRWA and LDEQ's technical assistance program will ensure the city has the resources and expertise needed to stay on track.

"Secretary Giacometto, Representative Emerson and the staff members at LDEQ and LRWA have been a blessing," said Carencro Mayor Charlotte Clavier. "We appreciate the Secretary prioritizing Carencro's issues quickly and making a personal appearance to tour the city's facilities herself,"

The success of the Carencro Tiger Team sets a strong precedent for future projects and reinforces LDEQ's commitment to innovative, results-driven environmental management. For more information on LDEQ's Tiger Teams and ongoing efforts to support Louisiana's communities, visit www.deq.louisiana.gov.

"The Carencro Tiger Team's work is just the beginning of what we hope to accomplish through the Tiger Team initiative," Secretary Giacometto added. "By deploying Tiger Teams to areas that need strategic attention, we are making meaningful strides in resolving complex and longstanding environmental issues facing Louisiana."

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