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Cottonport Monofill added to LDEQ Legacy Projects List

BATON ROUGE – The Cottonport Monofill site has been a consistent concern for Avoyelles Parish and the state of Louisiana for years. The former waste tire facility was abandoned in 2015 and now is home to thousands of stacked waste tires and tire chips strewn all across the property.

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto is doing something about it and the other environmental sites across the state that have been long ignored.

Secretary Giacometto recently assembled a group of dedicated and expert LDEQ personnel into ‘Tiger Teams’ to spearhead an action plan to tackle the abandoned facility and once and for all put an end to the environmental risks posed by the site.

"My visit to the Cottonport Monofill site marks a crucial moment in LDEQ's commitment to protect the human health of Louisiana residents and environment of Louisiana," **Secretary Giacometto said.** "By assembling a dedicated team, we are taking decisive action to address the challenges that have plagued Cottonport for too long. Our goal is to implement effective measures that will finally put an end to the environmental risks of the Cottonport Monofill and ensure a safer and healthier future for our communities."

"The Department is diligently assessing the site and considering all options available to effectuate closure of the site in order to maintain a healthful and safe environment for the people of Louisiana," **Oscar Magee, team lead for Cottonport Monofill Legacy Project said.**

The Secretary embarked on a pivotal visit to the Cottonport Monofill site in mid-April to meet with various elected officials, including state senators, the mayor of Cottonport and the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury to expedite the process of a solution to the persistent environmental problems caused by the Cottonport Monofill.

Avoyelles Parish Police Jury and the Town of Cottonport are thankful to LDEQ, Senator Heather Cloud and Representative Daryl Deshotel for their help in trying to solve this ongoing problem. "We have been worried about this site for several years and are thankful for the commitment shown by our state leaders and LDEQ's new leadership in ridding the Parish of the potential hazards associated with the old Monofill site," **Avoyelles Parish President Darrell Wiley said.**

The Cottonport Monofill facility joins several other environmental sites that have been identified by LDEQ as priority for remediation, also known as ‘Legacy Projects’. The red dust issue with LAlumina, LLC in Ascension Parish is also on the Legacy Project list. The creation of these Legacy Projects showcases Secretary Giacometto's determination to confront longstanding environmental concerns caused by abandoned or unresolved hazardous facilities. The team aims to implement effective solutions to restore specific hazardous sites to meet current Louisiana environmental standards and revitalize the beauty in these communities.



L to R: Civil Works Director for Avoyelles Parish Police Jury Kevin Bordelon, Avoyelles Parish Pro Tempore Curtis Francisco and LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto discuss a long-term solution to solve the environmental problems brought by the Cottonport Monofill.

“As the senator representing Avoyelles Parish, I am deeply grateful for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's proactive approach in addressing the environmental risks posed by the Cottonport Monofill site,” **Senator Heather Cloud said.** “Secretary Giacometto and her team have demonstrated unwavering commitment to the health and safety of our communities. Their collaborative efforts between state leadership, local officials and the LDEQ’s Tiger Teams are instrumental in ensuring that we can restore this land to a safer condition and protect our residents from potential hazards. This critical action also helps mitigate the risks that the site poses to the nearby Raymond Laborde Correctional Center. By addressing the legacy issues of this abandoned facility, we are laying the groundwork for a cleaner, healthier future in Cottonport and across our region.”