

**For Immediate Release****Media Contact**

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Graham.Beduze@la.gov***LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto Hosts Stakeholders for Summit on New Agency Dashboard and Permitting System***

Baton Rouge, Louisiana — August 29, 2024: The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) hosted more than 80 industry leaders and stakeholders from around the state and the country July 10 – 11 for the LDEQ Innovation Summit. The summit focused on the agency's new effort to create a Dashboard and streamlined electronic permitting system — and attendees reported back significant positive feedback on the progress being made to identify systems.

"Online permitting will create efficiencies and allow us to be competitive," LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto told the group, "Louisiana has vast natural resources to attract industry and new jobs, and we want our technologies to enable us to fully contend with other states in enticing new business and protecting the environment."

In February, Governor Jeff Landry proclaimed Executive Order JML 24-17 directing LDEQ and LDENR to streamline permitting processes for the oil and gas industry. LDEQ has applied that direction to every industry that LDEQ approves permits for, meaning the new online permitting system will be open to all.



Secretary Giacometto welcomes attendees to the LDEQ Innovation Summit.

The Innovation Summit served as a collaborative format for the agency to engage the public and industrial businesses that LDEQ regulates. Attendees — from CEOs and elected officials to permit writers and consultants — offered valuable insights and surprise for LDEQ's willingness to engage them in deep analysis. Those insights gained from attendees will be incorporated as the agency continues to move toward the launch of the new LDEQ Dashboard and online permitting system.



LDEQ will be working to transition its IT systems to a more seamless format that provides transparency to users and accountability to the agency. To date, the agency has invested more than 2,800 hours to delineate almost 20 IT and data systems that enable internal and external functions.

“Dow representatives attending the LDEQ Innovation Summit were pleased to learn about plans to modernize the agency’s permitting platform to bring greater accessibility and transparency to the permitting process,” said Luca Balbo, Senior Site Manufacturing Director for Dow St. Charles Operations, in a letter following the summit. “An unpredictable timeline for permit issuance can be a roadblock to expanding and improving business operations in Louisiana industry. Dow thanks Secretary Giacometto and her Administration for her continued support of industry and innovative technology.”



Attendees listen to a presentation during the LDEQ Innovation Summit.

Olin Corporation President & CEO Kenneth T. Lane stated in a letter, “LDEQ opening their doors and asking industry for input is a great example of putting your words ‘we are open for business’ into action. We strongly support this critically important advancement and will contribute to efforts that ensure this new program is enacted. Modernization and optimization of permit management are crucial for businesses in our state.”



Of the Innovation Summit, Louisiana Oil & Gas Association President Mike Moncla said in a letter, "Our members in attendance came away extremely impressed with the Department's transparency and their initiatives to cut down on the permitting process time."

Governor Landry has emphasized that the oil and gas industry has lifted more people in Louisiana out of poverty than any other — and LDEQ's efforts will simplify the agency's user interface.

The success of the Innovation Summit underscores LDEQ's future-focused mission to improve efficiencies across the board at the agency. "In a state as ecologically rich and diverse as Louisiana, we must be at the forefront of developing and implementing innovative solutions that protect our environment while supporting economic growth," said Secretary Giacometto.

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