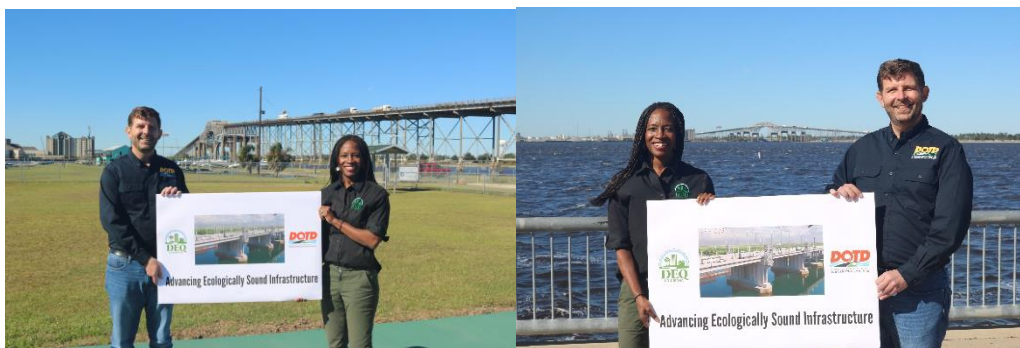




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LDEQ and DOTD Collaborate to Advance Critical Infrastructure in I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge Replacement

(Lake Charles, LA) The I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge is a significant infrastructure endeavor for the State of Louisiana. This long-term project will ultimately deliver millions of drivers with a safe and efficient route over the Calcasieu River on Interstate 10. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is working with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) as DOTD advances the \$2.3 billion Calcasieu River Bridge Replacement Project. The project will include a 5.5-mile corridor with new roadways and interchanges.

The collaboration between LDEQ and DOTD prioritizes environmental safety throughout the project while ensuring maximum efficiency to prevent unnecessary bureaucracy from delaying the construction of the new bridge. Following thorough investigations, LDEQ determined that the current levels of 1,2-dichloroethane (EDC), a chemical released from the Phillips 66 docks, will not delay or impede construction. LDEQ also issued guidance approving pile placement 75 feet below the ground surface, ensuring the project can continue without damaging the environment.

The I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge project reached financial close on August 15, 2024. Preliminary construction activities could start as early as this year. The project is expected to take approximately seven years to complete.

The I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge megaproject is a public-private partnership (P3) between DOTD and the developer, Calcasieu Bridge Partners. The agreement includes restrictions on the construction depths of bridge foundations in the EDC plume area. It also includes stringent requirements for proper handling and disposal of hazardous materials, environmental monitoring, and worker safety. DOTD will monitor the EDC plume during and after construction to ensure that the work does not cause any adverse impacts.

“The collaboration between DOTD and LDEQ enhances the necessary infrastructure to promote business growth in Louisiana and facilitate smoother travel for our citizens,” said LDEQ Secretary Giacometto. “LDEQ is committed to ensuring a healthy and safe environment for construction projects, creating a supportive atmosphere for the development of bridges, roads, and vital infrastructure”

"DOTD understands how important it is to ensure that this critical infrastructure improvement project is conducted safely," said DOTD Secretary Joe Donahue. "Our department remains committed to working with LDEQ throughout the duration of this project, so the public can rest assured this long-awaited project is done with environmental safety at the forefront."

Collaboration between both agencies has been crucial to ensuring the project continues progressing. It will provide for future traffic volumes projected to exceed 110,000 vehicles per day by 2042, with the environmentally sound critical infrastructure needed to move travelers efficiently across the state. The project is on track and moving forward, ensuring the region's secure and efficient future.