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## DEQ provides technical support to Unified Command in response to pipeline fire in Lafourche Parish

On March 13, a tugboat pushing a barge containing approximately 2,300 barrels of crude oil struck a liquefied petroleum gas pipeline in Bayou Perot (30 miles south of New Orleans) in Lafourche Parish, setting off a fire and injuring the tugboat captain as well as a tugboat worker. The tugboat suffered extensive fire damage.

Emergency responders from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Southeast Regional Office in New Orleans responded to the incident and accompanied members from the Unified Command on flights over the area to assess the damage. DEQ provided technical assistance to the Unified Command, which consisted of the U.S. Coast Guard, the lead agency; the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office; Jefferson Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness; Lafourche Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness; Chevron, the owner of the pipeline; Settoon Towing, the responsible party; and ES&H, an emergency response and environmental remediation contractor.

During the fire, a fire boat from the Port of Plaquemines, a backup tug and a U.S. Coast Guard cutter remained near the damaged tug and barge to secure the site and handle immediate response measures. Chevron subsequently shut the 16-inch diameter pipeline and the remaining product was burned off, per procedure. Environmental scientists from the Unified Command conducted air monitoring near the incident location, downwind and at a dock near the community. All air monitoring reported non-detect readings for volatile organic compounds and other hazardous chemicals.



*A pipeline in Bayou Perot catches fire after a tugboat and barge collides with the line*

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*The tugboat and barge have been extracted from the damaged pipeline as remaining product continues to burn off*

More than 10,000 feet of boom and various types of oil skimmers were deployed by contractors and Coast Guard personnel in order to contain the petroleum that was released. Chevron Pipeline submitted a variance to DEQ which was approved for 3 flare barges. This allowed workers to flare the pipeline at three points in the line in order to quicken the pressure relief process. During this process, a salvage team successfully removed the barge from the tug and the major pollution source was plugged.

After the fire ceased on the afternoon of March 15, response teams from the Unified Command began to purge the line in order to remove all remaining product. Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique teams commenced cleanup operations around the location to minimize any potential environmental threat. No spills were reported and all air monitoring within the community continued to indicate no detectable levels of volatile organic compounds. The U.S. Coast Guard's investigation into the cause of the incident is ongoing.

## DEQ presents \$45 million loan to the city of Baton Rouge for sewage upgrades

On March 6, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality presented a loan in the amount of \$45 million to the city of Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, through funding under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

The funding will cover a proposed sewer upgrade project which entails the repair of leaking and broken sewer collection lines and the construction of the Choctaw Sewer Collection Maintenance Facility, which will consolidate several operational facilities within the sewer system. The project will also make improvements at the North Wastewater Treatment Plant by retrofitting the boiler system for the utilization of produced bio-gas in order to lower the consumption of purchased natural gas, which will decrease the amount of methane flared from the system, thereby reducing emissions.

“The Clean Water State Revolving Fund was established to support DEQ’s mission of improving wastewater treatment systems and green infrastructure projects across the state,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. “This funding will greatly improve the quality of life for the residents and commercial property owners who are served through this sewage network in East Baton Rouge Parish.”



*DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch (2nd from left) presents the check to Baton Rouge Mayor Kip Holden (2nd from right)*

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Funding was allocated on July 9, 2012, with 0.95 percent interest on a 20 year payback term, plus two years for construction time.

Mayor-President Kip Holden accepted the \$45-million check in a ceremony at City Hall.

“This low-cost loan is the result of our continuing efforts to find inexpensive financing to rehabilitate the sewer system,” Mayor Holden said.

Like the conventional bond issues that are being used for the sewer system revamp, the loan obtained through DEQ will be paid back with revenues from monthly sewer fees and the half-cent sales tax dedicated to sewer improvements.

## Louisiana Solid Waste Association hosts environmental event at the Cajundome

Chartered in 2004, the Louisiana Solid Waste Association (LSWA) was founded by group of professionals with the idea of promoting education and training within the solid waste industry. LSWA’s board of directors is comprised of solid waste professionals with varying backgrounds in solid waste collection and disposal, recycling, engineering and design, and the governmental and regulatory community. The board’s mission is to uphold the highest standards of solid waste management throughout the industry via the promotion of continuing educational and outreach efforts.

A large component of their objective is the hosting of an annual conference with the purpose of advancing the scope and understanding of the industry through networking and the sharing of ideas and innovations among peers as well as non-affiliates. The event, known as “Louisiana Environmental Lagniappe: Environmental Solutions and a little something extra,” was held on March 20-22, 2013 at the Cajundome Convention Center in Lafayette. The event offers a venue for showcasing new and existing environmentally-related technologies while providing a forum for sharing ideas and building relationships in the environmental community.

“DEQ is proud to participate in LSWA’s environmental event, as it provides an invaluable opportunity for community outreach as it relates to our mission of protecting human health and the environment across the state,” said Peggy Hatch, DEQ Secretary. “The event’s breakout sessions provided DEQ and other exhibitors with an outstanding platform in which to connect with peers as well as the public through demonstrations and take-home materials on a wide array of environmentally-related issues.”



Marissa Jimenez, of DEQ’s Small Business/Small Community Assistance section, presents DEQ materials at the conference

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The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality provided an informational booth which allowed attendees and fellow exhibitors to learn more about DEQ's mission. Test America, Waste Pro, SEMS, the Louisiana Solid Waste Association and various other businesses and organizations also provided informational booths and demonstration kiosks.

Attendance was open to the public. For more information, contact the Louisiana Solid Waste Association, P.O. Box 309, Amite, LA 70422, or log on to <http://lswa.us/>.



*DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch (left) meets with EPA Region 6 Administrator Ron Curry (middle) at the event and Ann Wilson of the New Orleans Sewage Board (right)*

## 2013 Louisiana Envirothon

Seven high school teams participated in the 2013 Louisiana Envirothon environmental competition at the LSU AgCenter Burden Center on March 9 in Baton Rouge. Jeff Kuehny, Ph.D., from the LSU AgCenter Burden Center welcomed the students to the competition. Tomeka Prioleau, from DEQ, outlined the day's activities and the rules of the competition. Many DEQ volunteers participated, as well as volunteers from LSU, Wildlife and Fisheries, Department of Agriculture and Forestry and others.



*Seven Louisiana high school teams participated in the 2013 Envirothon*

After breakfast, the teams headed out to the testing stations or to the oral competition. The teams participated in the environmental educational contest which included testing in aquatics, forestry, soil, wildlife, a current issue and an oral presentation. At each station, the teams were tested on their knowledge of the subject. Participants had two training days at the DEQ headquarters before the competition.

There were four teams from Audubon in New Orleans, two teams from Live Oak Future Farmers of America in Denham Springs and a team from Baton Rouge Magnet High School.

For the second year, the Audubon Huffleopteraptors took first prize. In their first year in the competition, Baton Rouge Magnet High School Bulldogs placed second. The third place team was Audubon Team Gus. The winners received plaques, certificates

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and cash prizes. The first place team will represent Louisiana in the North American Envirothon Competition in Montana in August.

The highest scores on station tests were:

- Forestry: Audubon CamCarlzzySloJoe
- Soils: Audubon Huffleopteraptors
- Aquatics: Baton Rouge Magnet High School Bulldogs
- Wildlife: Audubon Team Gus
- Current Issue: Sustainable Rangeland Management: Audubon Huffleopteraptors
- Oral Competition: Audubon Team Gus

The oral presentation on Sustainable Ranchland Management was judged by Dr. Bill Branch, Professor of Extension Water Resources, Biological and Agricultural Engineering at LSU, Dr. John Pardue, Elizabeth Howell Stewart Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering, LSU College of Engineering, Dr. Meghan Sanders, Associate Dean, Sponsored Research and Programs, LSU Manship School of Mass Communications and Dr. Maud Walsh, Professor of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences, LSU College of Agriculture

The competition is presented by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, LSU, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Downtown and Miracle Place Toastmasters.

The Envirothon is funded by sponsorships and there are sponsorships available for the 2014 event. Sponsors for 2013 were: Louisiana Environmental Education Commission and LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, Major Sponsors; Louisiana Science Teachers Association, Supporter; and Louisiana Chemical Association and Project Learning Tree, Friends.

For more information on Envirothon or to enter a team for next years competition go to [www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon).



First place team: Audubon Huffleopteraptors



Second place team: Baton Rouge Magnet High School Bulldogs



Third place team: Audubon Team Gus



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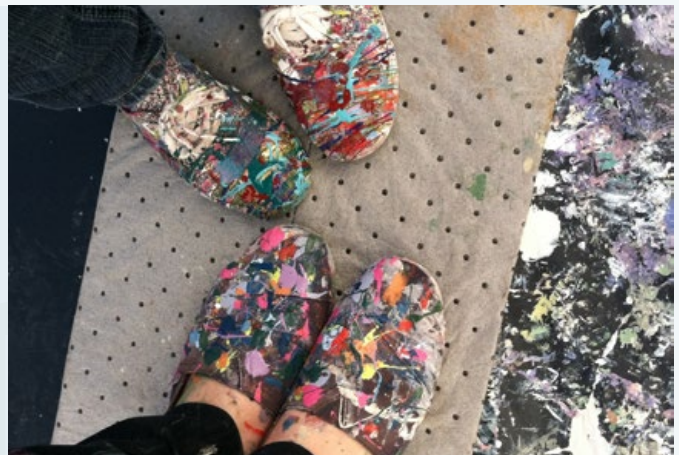
## DEQ On The Move



*DEQ partnered with Bayou Land Resource, Conservation and Development at the Ben Franklin Elementary School Environmental Fair on Saturday March 16 in New Orleans. DEQ was represented by Ella Barbe and Davina Witte from the Southeast Regional Office. Bayou Land RC&D was represented by Jennifer Roberts.*

*Representatives demonstrated "Walnut Bayou" an interactive river model. Hundreds were in attendance and the fair was open to all. The kids really gravitated to Walnut Bayou, the DEQ River display. The kids really dug into the model and asked many questions relative to pollution, flooding and river water travel. DEQ handed out handouts and giveaways featuring "Louie" and the Department's "Be The Solution" campaign.*

*West Baton Rouge Parish held its Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day on Saturday March 9. Eleven DEQ volunteers participated by working the paint swap. When residents brought in usable latex paint, DEQ volunteers opened it, stirred it and combined similar colors in 5-gallon buckets. In all, 50 five-gallon buckets were created and given to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore for resale. More than 160 residents came to the event to dispose of their paint and other household hazardous materials in an environmentally friendly way. Above is just a sample of the many colors of paint DEQ volunteers mixed.*



*Lee Lemond and Sondra LeBreton, of the DEQ Southeast Regional Office, represented DEQ at the New Orleans Earth Fest at the Audubon Zoo on Saturday, March 16. They had air sampling and water sampling equipment to show the public and gave out materials to the public.*



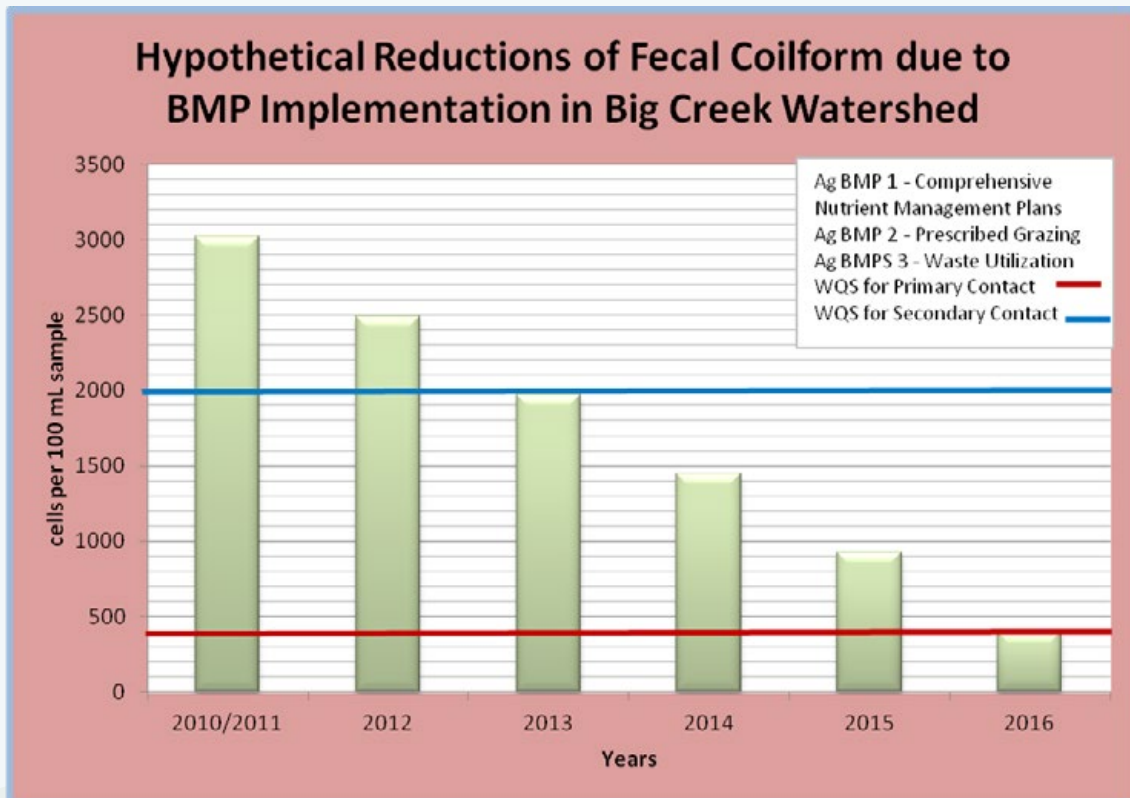
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## Big Creek Watershed – a part of DEQ’s Water Quality Management Plan

In October 2011, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality prioritized 40 water bodies to restore or partially restore by October 2016 through partnerships with federal, state and local agencies, and watershed stakeholders. As a result nine of these 40 water bodies, including Big Creek Watershed, were included in DEQ’s federal fiscal year 2012 Section 319 work plan to request federal funds to monitor water quality. This is a major component of the water quality goals in that plan.

Big Creek Watershed is in Tangipahoa Parish in the Ponchartrain Basin and flows through Tangipahoa Parish. It is the headwaters of the Tangipahoa River. Big Creek is one of the 40 water bodies on the impaired water bodies list that DEQ, US Department of Agriculture and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry are targeting for clean up. Big Creek is in a dairy farming area and is impaired for fecal coliform.

Deciduous and evergreen forests and pasture/hay fields are the predominant land-uses in Big Creek watershed. Other land uses include: forested wetlands, gravel pit or strip mines, soybeans, urban or built-up land, transitional areas, and of course water, comprising less than 3.0 percent of East Fork Big Creek and Big Creek Hydrologic Unit Codes, or size of the watershed or sub-segment of the watershed.



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The Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for Big Creek has been developed to reduce nonpoint sources of pollution and improve water quality. Louisiana's 2010 Integrated Report indicated Big Creek was fully meeting fish and wildlife propagation, but was impaired for primary and secondary contact recreation (i.e. swimming and/or boating), because of high concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria. Suspected sources of these water quality impairments include dairies outside the milk parlor area.

There are numerous small beef herds, 22 dairies and non-industrial forest landowners in the Big Creek/East Fork Big Creek Watershed. Six of the 22 dairies are no longer functional and need proper closure. Beef and dairy farms are prevalent and will be targeted for Best Management Practices through the National Water Quality Initiative. One farm that was visited by DEQ staff had fencing too close to the creek, without a buffer between the fence and the stream. Surface runoff from this area would cause high fecal coliform concentrations. The Big Creek WIP outlines the kind of BMPs that could reduce nonpoint source pollutants in Big Creek.

Water quality degradation is a concern within the watershed. Gully erosion from concentrated feeding areas and unmanaged pastures were observed by DEQ's Nonpoint Source(NPS) staff during a reconnaissance of the watershed. These areas may also contribute excess nutrients to Big Creek.

Crisalda Adams, an environmental scientist in the Nonpoint Source Pollution Group, is the project manager for DEQ. Crisalda helps develop a Quality Assurance Project Plan, which must be approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency(USEPA) before the project can be implemented. When that has been approved, monitoring in Big Creek can begin. The goal of the Big Creek project is to reduce fecal coliform, restore the water body for primary contact, such as swimming, and have Big Creek removed from the impaired water bodies list. Capital Resource, Conservation and Development serve as the Watershed Coordinator for the Big Creek area.

At Big Creek, the U.S. Department of Agriculture(USDA) and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry(LDAF) are already in the area identifying hot spots for reduction of fecal coliform to acceptable levels. Approximately 25 sampling sites have been identified in Big Creek.

There is a lot of groundwork that goes into planning the best solutions for any impaired water body. DEQ's NPS staff joined USDA district staff on an initial reconnaissance and field survey of Big Creek and East Fork Big Creek watersheds on Feb. 13, 2012. Through this, DEQ staff gained a clearer understanding of land-use types and how they potentially contribute to water quality problems identified by DEQ's and Lake Ponchartrain Basin Foundation's water quality data. Erosion problems were observed in several parts of the watershed, especially near a few dairy farms. Because soils in Big Creek Watershed are highly erodible, erosion can lead to turbidity and potentially to nutrient problems in Big Creek. DEQ's staff conducted a second reconnaissance of Big Creek/East Fork of Big Creek watershed on Sept. 12, 2012, to verify additional sampling locations for targeted watershed monitoring. After assessing the watershed, Best Management Practices (BMPs) were prioritized to reduce the existing NPS problems. A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, which reduces fertilizer runoff from the pastures is one BMP considered. Another BMP is prescribed grazing, which manages controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing and reduces soil erosion and improves plant vigor. A third BMP is Waste Utilization of the organic wastes produced by the dairies and the animals.

Stakeholders have been contacted and brought into the process of improving the water body.

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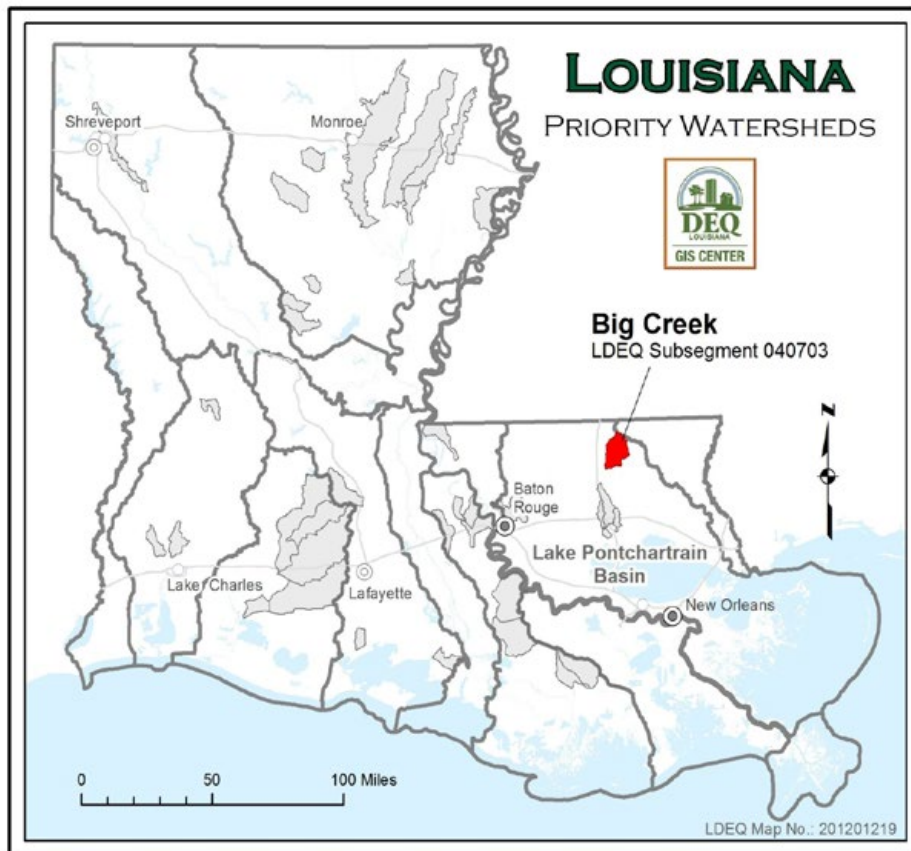


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After preliminary site selection of monitoring sites, additional ground work is required of DEQ's NPS staff. They will go out in the field and check the 25 monitoring sites. They monitor two times a month for three or four months, to determine which sites have high levels of pollutants and should be retained for longer term monitoring. Based on this monitoring, these 25 sites, will be narrowed down to seven or eight for long term monitoring, twice a month for three years. For each of the 25 sites selected for Rapid Water Quality Assessment, DEQ will collect in-situ readings, which includes pH, water temperature, water clarity, dissolved oxygen/percent saturation, total dissolved solids and conductivity/salinity along with visual observations of oil and grease. The staff will also collect grab samples of ammonia-nitrogen, fecal coliform bacteria, phosphate and turbidity. A habitat assessment will also be conducted at each sampling site and will include other site parameters in addition to those obtained by in-situ readings and grab samples. In addition, flow data will be collected for each of the 25 sampling sites with assistance from DEQ's Hydrologist and/or DEQ's surveys group during the project.

The goal of prioritizing the water bodies is to restore them to full use for Louisiana citizens. Establishing a framework for watershed restoration and monitoring to evaluate progress is imperative to its success. DEQ NPS staff, other DEQ personnel, USDA and LDAF are working diligently to achieve these water quality goals.

For more information on how you can be part of the solution for improving Louisiana's watershed and water bodies, go to [www.deq.louisiana.gov/watershed](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/watershed) or <http://nonpoint.deq.louisiana.gov/wqa/default.htm>





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## Louisiana's Nutrient Management Team creating strategy

Louisiana has created an interagency team comprised of DEQ, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Department of Natural Resources and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority which will develop and implement a statewide nutrient management strategy to combat nutrient issues impacting water bodies within the state.

The team will all work on aspects of nutrient management including water quality monitoring, point source, wetland assimilation, coastal river diversions and best management practices. Management of problems associated with nitrogen and phosphorus in rivers, lakes and estuaries is needed to improve the quality of local water bodies and help reduce the size of the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone. Resource management must include collaboration on nonpoint and regulated point source dischargers.

The agencies are evaluating current programs such as nonpoint source pollution prevention in inland and coastal waters, coastal river diversions and Master Farmer Certifications. Monitoring these programs will provide baseline information to determine appropriate nutrient levels in Louisiana water bodies and remedies that would be most effective.

Key to the strategy to reduce nutrient levels will be participation of stakeholders and will be met through regulatory requirements and incentive-based approaches. It will employ methods for pollution control and nutrient capture. There will be incentives for participation. The strategy will be goal oriented, with measurable environmental outcomes using a watershed approach.

The Louisiana team is working with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, the Hypoxia Task Force and EPA. The team has identified 10 strategic components for the Louisiana Nutrient Management strategy. They are:

1. Stakeholder engagement
2. Decision support tools
3. Regulations, policies and programs
4. Management practices and restoration activities
5. Status and trends
6. Watershed characterization, source identification and prioritization
7. Incentives, funding and economic impact analysis
8. Targets and goals
9. Monitoring
10. Reporting

In early 2013, stakeholder engagement meetings are being held and the teams are engaging stakeholders. Then the team will compile feedback, analyze status and trends of nutrient data and prepare a strategy by the end of the year.

For more information, the team can be contacted at [nutrient.management@la.gov](mailto:nutrient.management@la.gov) or if you would like to have input or just more information go to the Web site [www.lanutrientmanagement.org](http://www.lanutrientmanagement.org).



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## Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's First Quarter Summaries

### 1st Quarter 2013 Enforcement Actions:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/225/Default.aspx>

### 1st Quarter 2013 Settlement Agreements:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2838/Default.aspx>

### 1st Quarter 2013 Air Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx>

### 1st Quarter 2013 Water Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx>

### 1st Quarter 2013 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2586/Default.aspx>

