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DEQ accepts \$500,000 check in 2011 Temple-Inland fish kill case

On June 18, DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch accepted a check in the amount of \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigations Division as a result of the Aug. 15, 2011, unauthorized discharge by Temple-Inland of approximately 700,000 gallons of black water into the Pearl River. The discharge caused a fish kill of more than one million fish, including the federally protected sturgeon.

Members of the Louisiana Environmental Crimes Task Force comprised of the Louisiana State Police, EPA-CID and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Criminal Investigations Division, conducted numerous interviews of current employees and affected citizens. DEQ investigators spent more than 166 hours on the case.

On Feb. 6, the responsible party, Temple-Inland, appeared at the U.S. District Court in New Orleans and pled guilty to violating one misdemeanor count of the Clean Water Act; specifically, the Negligent Discharge of a Pollutant into a Water of the United States. The company also pled guilty to one misdemeanor count of the Negligent Taking of Fish, which is in violation of the National Wildlife Refuge System Act.

The total criminal penalty was \$1.5 million, of which, \$500,000 was awarded to DEQ as a community service payment to the Environmental Trust Fund. The remaining \$1 million went toward the Louisiana State Police Emergency Services Unit, the Southern Environmental Enforcement Network, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Gulf Sturgeon recovery research, and the Trust



DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch (2nd from right) receives the check from EPA Special Agent Martin Holloway (middle). EPA Special Agent in Charge of the Baton Rouge office Brett Spiers (far left), DEQ-CID Agent Maureen Kennedy and Special Agent in Charge of EPA Region 6 Ivan Vikin (far right) were on hand.

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for Public Land to improve the habitat in Pearl River. Temple-Inland will also serve organizational probation for two years and implement an Environmental Compliance Plan.

“This \$500,000 payment is a result of a thorough and diligent investigatory response conducted by the Louisiana Environmental Crimes Task Force in their effort to bring the responsible party to justice,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. “DEQ, the Louisiana State Police and the EPA’s Criminal Investigations Division worked together to ensure that this matter was resolved as quickly and efficiently as possible so that the Pearl River could continue to support fish and wildlife propagation in and around the region.”

The payment will be utilized to directly fund the costs of equipment and emergency vehicles in support DEQ’s mission to investigate and respond to illegal dumping and discharges, unauthorized emissions, spills or leaks involving violations of environmental regulations.

DEQ responds to illegal dumping of tree debris

When a resident hires a tree service to cut down trees on their property, by law, that service is also required to properly dispose of any downed or cut tree limbs and stumps. Failure to remove tree limbs from public roads, right of ways or servitudes may be classified as illegal dumping and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality’s Criminal Investigations Division can investigate. Investigations conducted by CID are designed to ensure disposal is performed in accordance with Louisiana state laws.



Tree debris obstructing storm drains poses health, safety and environmental hazards

In late May, CID received a call from a resident concerning two locations in Baton Rouge where tree limbs and stumps had been discarded onto sidewalks after tree removal work had been done in preparation for the upcoming storm season. As a result, CID Investigator Keith Bates quickly visited both locations and discovered that the tree waste covered and blocked a sidewalk, obstructed a storm drain and spilled over into a roadway. At one location, the tree waste abutted an electrical box, causing a safety hazard. CID immediately launched an investigation by documenting the scene and contacting the tree removal company for a firm timeline on removal of the debris that was left behind. As a result of Investigator Bates’ efforts, the company went to both locations in Baton Rouge and removed all of the tree waste within 24 hours.

“DEQ’s Criminal Investigations Division responds to any and all reports of illegal dumping in the state as soon as we are made aware of the issue,” said Keith Bates, Criminal Investigator with DEQ Criminal Investigations Division. “Our mission is to ensure cleanup is done properly and promptly in accordance with state regulations concerning waste cleanup.”

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Tree waste left on public roads, right of ways or servitudes can create an additional problem as it can quickly take the form of deadly projectiles in the event of increased winds, storms or tornadic activity. To reduce this threat, it is imperative that all tree waste be disposed of quickly and properly.

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is to protect the environment and public health. Any persons with knowledge of any illegal dumping, spills, releases, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents should contact DEQ at 225-219-3640 or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424. Citizens may also complete an Incident Report Form online at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/apps/forms/irf/forms/>.



Baton Rouge location containing tree debris

DEQ Environmental Scientist Jeff Dauzat awarded by U.S. Coast Guard

On June 19, Jeff Dauzat, an Environmental Scientist with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, received two awards from the U.S. Coast Guard at the New Orleans Area Committee Meeting.

Dauzat, based at DEQ's Southeast Regional Office in New Orleans, received the Coast Guard's Sector New Orleans Medal of Honor for his role in the Geographic Response Plan component of the Area Contingency Plan. Dauzat shared the honor with David Gisclair from the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office and Kyle Jellison of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Area Contingency Plan outlines oil spill and natural disaster response methods and includes several tools designed to support the assessment and response phases. The Geographic Response Plan (GRP) is one component of the plan. Dauzat, who sits on the GRP sub-committee, made several visits with the sub-committee members to each parish in the affected area, meeting with state and local organizations to ensure that communication, logistics and resources were firmly established. The group also refined the plan, developing new and innovative strategies that serve to protect parishes from further damage in the event of an oil spill or environmentally-related hazard.

Dauzat also received a Public Service Commendation from the U.S. Coast Guard for his response work within the Unified Command as the State On-Scene Coordinator following the landfall of Hurricane Isaac in 2012. During the storm's aftermath, Dauzat quickly coordinated air, water and ground elements and response mechanisms to address

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more than 300 oil spills and various environmental hazards through deployment of containment boom, response equipment and personnel throughout the assessment and cleanup phases. With his assistance, more than 4,500 barrels of oily water and 1,200 drums containing hazardous material were collected during the course of the cleanup.

The award was signed by U.S. Coast Guard Admiral Kevin Cook, Commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District. Captain Peter Gautier, Captain of the Port of New Orleans, presented both awards.

“Jeff’s devotion to emergency response planning, logistics and communications has risen above and beyond the call of duty,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. “Jeff is highly versed in oil spill assessment and recovery operations, and his technical expertise and knowledge of crisis management and disaster response makes him a valuable asset to the state of Louisiana.”



Jeff Dauzat receives a public service pin from Coast Guard Captain Peter Gautier

DEQ’s Environmental Leadership Program honors two Baton Rouge students



Kenilworth student Jalen Scott (second from right) accepts a certificate of achievement from DEQ Deputy Secretary Alex Appeaning (far right) and DEQ Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary Linda Brown Hardy (far left). Dr. Tevfik Eski of Kenilworth Charter School (second from left) accepted on behalf of Desirae Gardner, who was unable to attend.

On June 28, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality honored two students from Baton Rouge’s Kenilworth Science and Technology Charter School for outstanding achievement in Environmental Science.

DEQ Deputy Secretary Alex Appeaning and DEQ Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary Linda Brown Hardy presented certificates of achievement to Jalen Scott and Desirae Gardner at DEQ Headquarters in Baton Rouge.

Jalen and Desirae were honored as a result of their exceptional research work in measuring the levels of arsenic, lead and other potentially dangerous elements in playgrounds across various public schools in East Baton Rouge Parish. Their work was a component of their

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respective science fair projects, whose results were subsequently published in *Soil Horizons*, a peer-reviewed, scientific journal of the Soil Science Society of America. According to the editors of the nationally-published *Soil Horizons*, this was the first time the journal has published work that was conducted by middle school students.

“The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is honored to present this certificate of achievement to Jalen and Desirae in appreciation for their dedication and outstanding work in the field of soil science,” said DEQ Deputy Secretary Alex Appeaning. “Their extensive research and soil testing methods have set the bar high for others to follow in taking a proactive approach to protecting our environment for the benefit of future generations.”

The Environmental Leadership Program is administered by DEQ as a means of recognizing individuals, schools, businesses and organizations for their accomplishments in going above and beyond to make a difference in improving and preserving Louisiana’s environment.

In recognition of their effort, Jalen and Desirae were recently honored by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu, U.S. Senator David Vitter and U.S. Representative Bill Cassidy.

Big Buddy Zula Summer Program visits DEQ

The Big Buddy Program in Baton Rouge, housed at DuFrocq School, has a Zula Summer Science program for youths 5 to 10 years old. In June, the kids came to DEQ for some hands-on demonstrations of how to determine the pH of a liquid and to learn what makes up nonpoint source pollution.

DEQ environmental scientist Marissa Jimenez demonstrated how to determine pH and environmental scientist India Anderson demonstrated the Enviroscope to the group, indicating nonpoint pollution sources.

The Big Buddy Summer Program features interactive and investigative science expeditions and missions to foster interest in the associated scientific concepts. It includes an academic component in the mornings during which a professional educator comes and instructs the group on various subjects. Then after lunch, the group goes on field trips, like the one to DEQ for hands-on adventures. The week they came to DEQ, the theme was “wind and the environment.”

“Our goal is to expose youth to things they might not have an opportunity to see and experience,” said Nicole Scott, Big Buddy Project Manager. “We want them to see that the world is bigger than what they normally know.”

The Big Buddy Program is a year-around program that always needs support and volunteers. To find out more about the program and how you can help, go to www.bigbuddyprogram.org.



India Anderson, Linda Brown Hardy and Marissa Jimenez of DEQ pose with the Big Buddy group



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DEQ On The Move



Tiffani Cravens, Marissa Jimenez, Mary Gentry, the alligator and Linda Brown, all DEQ employees (except the alligator) at the DEQ booth at the 28th Annual Louisiana Rural Water Association Conference in Lake Charles



Johanna Pate, Acting State Resource Conservationist, USDA NRCS (United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service) instructs the Audubon Huffleloptaptors on the Current Issue for the 2014 Louisiana Envirothon.



DEQ Attorney and Ombudsman Chris Ratcliff gives a presentation on DEQ's permitting process at July's EnviroSchool



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Hurricane Resource

Recently DEQ regional office responders and headquarters staff distributed a Hurricane Resource Manual to all 64 parishes. DEQ compiles the manual, which contains information on all phases of hurricane response, and it is hand-delivered to parish officials and the emergency contact person for each parish.

The regional office responders who would work with the parishes actually deliver the book and meet with officials to explain the resources and the book. This manual is a valuable tool, particularly in the case of power outages when information cannot be accessed online. The resource manual is also posted online at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/NEWS/HurricanePreparedness/ParishResourceBook.aspx>.

The manual contains vital information such as:

- Pre-approved debris sites and locations
- How to add a debris site
- The DEQ Debris Management Plan
- An example of the Declaration of Emergency
- An example of a general permit and a short term general permit
- A list of sanitary waste water treatment facilities
- An example of an incident action plan (IAP)
- Re-entry information
- Re-entry points
- A list of who to contact at DEQ
- An example of a variance application

This information is updated yearly and has proven to be essential in a quick and efficient recovery. All parishes receive a book, personally and receive instructions on how to best use it.

DERA funds available

Louisiana Clean Diesel Grant Program funds are available, through DEQ, for projects that will reduce diesel emissions. The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) authorizes EPA to offer funding assistance to states and eligible entities to achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions.

The program began in 2008 and since that time EPA has awarded funds to more than 500 projects to reduce diesel emissions nationwide. Specific information on these funded projects can be found at: www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/projects/.

This year, Louisiana will award approximately \$72,000 through DEQ in grants to governmental agencies, non-profit eligible groups, schools districts and other sponsored private groups to fund certified clean diesel technologies.

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DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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The DERA program has gained significant insights into more effective ways to target diesel funding in order to produce the most diesel emission reductions possible in areas with significant air quality issues. A single proposal may target multiple fleets, fleet types and/or diesel emission reduction solutions.

If an eligible group, government agency or sponsored private fleet manager would like to apply for the funds, there may be matching monies required. Eligible diesel vehicles, engines and equipment projects may include, but are not limited to:

1. Buses
2. Medium-duty or heavy-duty trucks
3. Marine Engines;
4. Locomotives; and
5. No-road engines, equipment or vehicles used in:
 - Construction
 - Handling of cargo (including at a port or airport)
 - Agriculture
 - Mining
 - Energy production (including stationary generators and pumps)

The DERA program has a national competition for funds but the \$72k is earmarked for Louisiana projects. These can include retrofitting, upgrading, repowering engines and idle reduction programs. Most of the funds require matching funds from the grantee but school buses retrofits can be funded at 100 percent.

The Department of Environmental Quality is seeking readily available clean diesel project(s) to fund with the 2013 DERA state allocation. The Louisiana 2013 DERA allocation will be awarded to eligible project(s) that meet the program priorities and that can be successfully completed no later than August 31, 2014.

Ozone and/or PM Advance Participants may send a notice of interest via e-mail to Gilberto Cuadra at Gilberto.cuadra@la.gov.

For more information on the Advance Program , go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/AirPermitsEngineeringandPlanning/NationalAmbientAirQualityStandards/Ozone/AdvanceProgram.aspx.



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Advance Program air quality activities ramp up in Louisiana

When the Ozone Advance program was first announced by EPA in Spring 2012, DEQ recognized the importance of having the various areas of the state to become more involved in air quality concerns. The program is a way to continue agency efforts started in 2008 when it formed a Statewide Ozone Steering Committee. DEQ staff held meetings around the state to present information on ozone and air quality.

DEQ contacted the eight planning districts to set up regional meetings. DEQ staff went to Lake Charles, Shreveport, New Orleans, Lafourche-Terrebonne, Baton Rouge and Lafayette to speak with local officials concerning the Ozone Advance program. These areas were selected first because they were the closest to becoming nonattainment. A number of follow-up meetings have been held in Houma, Baton Rouge and Lafayette.

Along the way, EPA expanded the program to include PM2.5, which led the program to change its name to the Advance Program. The Lake Charles area was the first in the nation to sign up for the PM2.5 part of the program and the other areas are following suit. As of April 25, 2013, Lake Charles, Baton Rouge and Houma-Thibodaux areas have applied to join the PM2.5 portion of the program. This could be beneficial for all areas because many projects can result in lowering both pollutants.

The goal of the program is to have areas institute voluntary or even regulatory projects where they are tracking their progress in air quality improvements. There is an effort to show EPA that they are working proactively toward reducing the levels of these pollutants in the atmosphere. There is no cost to join and the only requirement is that each area must submit an annual report that documents the progress of the area. The hope is that EPA can take all of this information into account when it makes designations or redesignations of nonattainment.

DEQ is working on a modeling project that will provide these areas with a preliminary assessment of the sources of their pollutants and then they can move forward to design strategies to address those sources. Information gained from that project will be an integral part of the first year reports that the areas will provide to EPA this summer. When the modeling reports come in, DEQ will be meeting with the different areas of the state to give them the results and help with the planning.

While planning at the governmental and regional area is extremely important, it is up to individuals to recognize the importance of personal decisions in improving air quality. Taking steps at home or work to lower energy usage, combining our trips to reduce pollutants from our vehicles, and being aware of the air quality around us and how our actions affect it are all so important. It is very easy to stay on top of current air quality conditions on your computer or smartphone by subscribing to a free service that DEQ provides called EnviroFlash (www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash). Visit DEQ's website for more Ozone Day Tips, to find out more about Advance and to see the current air quality information. Go to www.deq.louisiana.gov or www.deq.louisiana.gov/aqinfo for current air quality information. Copies of the various presentations that the staff have made about the Advance Program in each of the areas are available the DEQ website: www.deq.louisiana.gov and click on the "My Air Quality" button.



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Regional offices cover the state

Headquartered in Louisiana's capital city of Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality also maintains several regional offices positioned throughout the state, covering all 64 parishes.

Currently, DEQ maintains 6 regional offices and two satellite offices within the state. Since DEQ's mission is to respond to air and water quality issues, solid/hazardous waste concerns and emergency response incidents within a short amount of time, regional offices are a necessity in order to provide adequate and prompt service to any parish in the state.

DEQ environmental scientists and staff members at the regional offices often wear many hats, as all environmental threats or concerns must be addressed at any given time. Emergency response and coordinating with local, parish and state officials is also an important aspect of the regional office mission, as train derailments, facility mishaps, hazardous waste spills, fires and other natural events may occur at any moment.

Over the next few e-newsletters, we will focus on each DEQ Regional Office in order to provide an overview on their function and the key role they play as a component of DEQ's mission to protect human health and the environment throughout the state.

This issue spotlights the Southeast Regional Office based in New Orleans:

Southeast Regional Office

Parishes served: Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, St. Tammany, Terrebonne and Washington

The Southeast Regional office is physically located just outside of New Orleans in Jefferson Parish, at 201 Evans Road, suite 4, in the Elmwood area of Harahan. With a satellite office in Lockport along Bayou Lafourche, the Southeast Regional Office covers one of the most populous regions in the state, comprised of 10 parishes in the Greater New Orleans area, along the Gulf Coast and the parishes north of Lake Pontchartrain that border the state of Mississippi.

The office often plays a central role in DEQ's critical response effort in regard to many of Louisiana's more high-profile environmental events, as the region's geography includes the Mississippi River Delta, the surrounding lower wetlands that stretch into the Gulf of Mexico, an array of major shipping channels and Lake Pontchartrain; the largest lake in the state.



The Southeast Regional Office serves the Greater New Orleans, Mississippi Delta and surrounding areas

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Jeff Dauzat, Environmental Scientist with the Southeast Regional Office, reviews water quality survey results from the Tchefuncte River in St. Tammany Parish

Based on manpower, the office is the largest regional office in DEQ, with a staff of 46 environmental scientists and support staff who specialize in various environmental media such as air analysis, air, water, waste and solid waste inspections, underground storage tank inspections, remediation, small business program assistance/community outreach, legal matters and emergency response technicians.

“In addition to our routine air, waste and water inspections, our office also investigates and follows up on all calls from the public that pertain to an environmental concern, such as dust or chemical releases into the air, hazardous and solid waste spills, operational issues regarding area landfills, illegal dumping, fish kills and discharges into state waterways. Our staff is also actively engaged in incident command activities as well as soil and seafood safety issues related to the 2010 BP oil spill,” said Mike Algero, Manager

of DEQ’s Southeast Regional Office. “We are also responsible for inspecting all of the 115 Title V air facilities in the region including 6 major oil refineries.”

There are currently 11 ambient air monitoring sites which are strategically placed within the region, and the staff’s air monitoring technicians inspect each one and gather data on a weekly, scheduled basis, in addition to various short-notice air monitoring and air analysis functions.

Due to its close proximity to major waterbodies in the state, such as the Mississippi River, Lake Pontchartrain and the Gulf of Mexico, the office maintains a fleet of boats, which are available for rapid deployment in response to any environmental events that require water access. A majority of the office’s staff is cross-trained in the different media and fully certified in water vessel operations as well as hazardous waste operations.

Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality’s Second Quarter Summaries

2nd Quarter 2013 Enforcement Actions:

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

2nd Quarter 2013 Settlement Agreements:

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

2nd Quarter 2013 Air Permits:

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

2nd Quarter 2013 Water Permits:

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

2nd Quarter 2013 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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