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DEQ on the move throughout the state

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is tasked with a multitude of responsibilities predominantly involving the permitting of facilities that emit wastewater, airborne chemicals or solid waste into the environment. All of these processes are controlled through strict guidelines and must be monitored in order to ensure those facilities maintain compliance. Wastewater treatment operations and discharges, air releases from refineries and plants, and solid waste transportation and discharge are just some of the many functions that fall under DEQ's purview.

Depending on the specific nature and location of the event, a response team from the nearest DEQ regional office will typically respond immediately, along with supplemental staff, additional resources and guidance from DEQ headquarters in Baton Rouge. Since environmentally-related accidents typically occur at a moment's notice, DEQ's emergency response team must be ready to deploy anywhere in the state, day or night, weekday, weekend or holiday, in order to ensure that human health and the environment are being protected and addressed. Upon arriving at the site, DEQ usually coordinates response activities with the Louisiana State Police and local law enforcement, fire and parish authorities to control the hazard as quickly as possible while protecting the public and the environment from an additional threat.

Business and community outreach is also an important component of DEQ's effort to protect the environment, as informing the public of environmental laws can make a drastic difference in reducing illegal dumping, illegal discharges, toxic air emissions, waste tire burning and other hazardous activities throughout the state.

DEQ is very active in the participation and hosting of workshops on various topics, including a unique set of classes known as "EnviroSchool," which consists of classes open



Tom Killeen, Administrator of DEQ's Inspections Division, discusses the agency's air monitoring efforts during a TV news interview in front of DEQ's Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory in St. Bernard Parish

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to the general public that focus on pro-environmental approaches geared toward citizens making a difference in their community. The workshops are particularly important for reducing the occurrence of permit fraud, as these tend to focus on permit holders who may need instruction or a refresher on the proper preparation and filing of documentation required by DEQ in order for their site or facility to maintain compliance with state and federal environmental regulations, such as the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act.

DEQ working with partners on statewide Nutrient Management Strategy

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is working on a statewide Nutrient Management Strategy along with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program Office awarded \$100,000 to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to support statewide efforts in developing the strategy in Louisiana.

"The interagency team has developed a plan across the state that fits with the strategic goals of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the Hypoxia Task Force," said Scott Guilliams, Administrator of DEQ's Water Permits Division. "A key component of the overall strategy is stakeholder engagement, whereby facilities and sites whose business processes entail discharges into statewide water bodies are directly involved in the nutrient management process within those water bodies."

The interagency team has developed a fact sheet and has created a strategy Web site which will serve as valuable components in tracking the overall progress. In order to better assist the stakeholders in meeting nutrient reduction goals, the team has compiled information on decision-support tools, existing nutrient management practices and restoration activities. Applicable regulations, programs and policies pertinent to nutrient management efforts will also be readily accessible. While work to reduce nutrient infusion into state waters has already begun, the final draft strategy will officially be fully developed by late 2013.

Stakeholder engagement meetings are being held at this time and the teams are compiling feedback reports, analyzing the status and reviewing trends of nutrient data in order to prepare a strategy by the end of the year.

For more information, the team can be contacted at: nutrient.management@la.gov. More information is available at: www.lanutrientmanagement.org.



DEQ holds EnviroSchool session on updates to Environmental Regulations

Recently, DEQ held several EnviroSchool sessions on Updates to Environmental Regulations and Air Permits 101 in Baton Rouge, Pineville, Metairie and Lake Charles. The sessions consist of a presentation on the topic with a question-and-answer period between the attendees and presenters afterward. Sessions were free and open to the public.

DEQ Attorney and Ombudsman Chris Ratcliff hosted the Environmental Regulations session in Baton Rouge, giving an overview of the department's mission and operations, including a highlight on air quality, water quality and solid waste regulations.

The Updates to Environmental Regulations sessions provided a review of the key environmentally-related state and federal regulations and their implications. The material covered included assistance in understanding the delegation of authority to DEQ, how regulations govern DEQ activities and processes, and ways in which the public can participate in the rule-making process. The session on Air Permits 101: Understanding the Basics, provided attendees with a general understanding of air permitting, including permit types, associated regulations and the permitting process as a whole.

"EnviroSchool is an important component of DEQ's community and business outreach model," said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. "The sessions have been a very effective way for DEQ to provide information directly to the public on various environmentally-related topics and regulatory changes."

EnviroSchool sessions cover a wide variety of topics and are held at various times and locations every year.

Anyone may sign up and attend an EnviroSchool session by registering online at www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroschool; by fax at 225-325-8222; by mail to Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Community and Industry Relations, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313; or by leaving a voicemail at 225-219-0877.



DEQ Attorney and Ombudsman Chris Ratcliff gives a presentation at the EnviroSchool session in Baton Rouge



DEQ participates in diesel emissions reduction project in Port Allen

Over the summer of 2013, a company called IdleAir installed 36 long-haul truck parking spots at Cash's Truck Plaza in Port Allen. The spots will allow truck drivers to hook up to air conditioning, internet, television and electrical power without having to keep their trucks idling. The project will reduce emissions by helping to prevent the release of at least 19 tons of pollutants into the air each year.

These reductions will help the Baton Rouge five-parish metro area in its quest to get closer to meeting the federal ozone standard. The five-parish area of East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Livingston, Iberville and Ascension is the only area in the state that currently does not meet the 75 parts per billion eight-hour average ozone standard established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Ozone pollution is caused by a mixture of nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds in the air on hot, sunny days. If little wind is present, ozone levels can rise and can cause breathing and other health-related problems.

"We have to get as many emission reductions as we can, in order to reach attainment for ozone and meet the federal standard," said Michael Vince, DEQ Senior Environmental Scientist. "Programs such as the idle-free truck parking spaces at Cash's Truck Plaza are a step in the right direction."

In addition to the nitrogen oxide, the project also will help reduce the release of more than 1,600 tons of carbon monoxide and half a ton of particulate matter into the air.

The project at Cash's Truck Plaza cost approximately \$400,000; paid for in part by a \$200,000 grant received by the Greater Baton Rouge Clean Cities Coalition from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Clean Diesel Grant Program as part of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act.



Mike Vince and WBR Parish President Riley Berthelot talk with a reporter about the Truck Stop Electrification Projects as Cash's Truck Stop in Port Allen



Mike Vince, DEQ Environmental Scientist, give a presentation at the workshop explaining the benefits of truck stop electrification



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 2 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 issues 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 most 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 a 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 Northwest Regional Office based in Shreveport:

NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

Parishes served: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, De Soto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine & Webster

The Northwest Regional Office headquarters is on the fifth floor of the state office building at 1525 Fairfield Street, room 520, in Shreveport.

Based in downtown Shreveport, DEQ's Northwest Regional Office serves the 9-parish northwest corner of the state, along the Texas and Arkansas border, or Ark-La-Tex region. The office has 21 personnel, mostly comprised of environmental scientists who work in DEQ's key coverage areas such as environmental inspections concerning water, air, hazardous waste and solid waste. In addition to scientists and supervisory staff, the office also includes a permit support services technician, an emergency response environmental scientist, a criminal investigations agent and an attorney.

A fleet of boats are housed in a nearby warehouse in the event an environmental threat or concern occurs in any of the many



The Northwest Regional Office headquarters is on the fifth floor of the state office building at 1525 Fairfield Street, room 520, in Shreveport

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lakes, streams and bayous in the Ark-La-Tex region. To that end, most of the Northwest Regional Office's environmental scientists are cross-trained in water vessel operations. "Toledo Bend Reservoir, Cross Lake, Lake Bistineau, Clear Lake and Caddo Lake are among the largest waterbodies in our region, so our office is quite accustomed to waterborne operations as it facilitates our responsibility of monitoring the water quality and water discharge issues surrounding those waterways," said Ben Juneau, Environmental Scientist Supervisor for the Northwest Regional Office.

As needs dictate, the Northwest Regional Office also shares some air monitoring and criminal investigative assets with the Northeast Regional Office and the Kisatchie office, so DEQ's response to a given environmental issue may involve input and support from multiple offices. There are currently three ambient air monitoring stations in the Caddo-Bossier region which are inspected and checked by the office's air quality technicians on a weekly, scheduled basis.



Ben Juneau, Environmental Scientist Supervisor at the Northwest Regional Office, reviews an inspection compliance report

"Air permitted facilities, wastewater treatment plants and solid waste sites are on our scheduled inspections rotation, and the office responds to all environmental questions and inquiries submitted by the general public," said Larry Baldwin, DEQ's Northwest and Northeast Regional Office Manager. "The calls we typically receive center on dust issues or air emissions questions as well as concerns regarding oil or chemical spills, sewage handling and waste tire disposal. Communication within the office is seamless, as our staff regularly works as one to identify and address all of the issues on a given environmental issue in order to ensure that our actions are protective of human health and the environment."

Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

3rd Quarter 2013 Enforcement Actions:

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

3rd Quarter 2013 Settlement Agreements:

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

3rd Quarter 2013 Air Permits:

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

3rd Quarter 2013 Water Permits:

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

3rd Quarter 2013 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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