



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



January 2014 Issue Number: 24

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Ascension Parish officials mark progress toward CWSRF loan

It's impossible to put a price tag on a resource like clean water, but if a municipality or local government undertakes cleanup measures, it will likely face a daunting fiscal challenge. DEQ is committed to helping communities in Louisiana get cleaner water by providing one financial solution in the form of a low-interest Clean Water State Revolving Fund loans.

On Dec. 16, the Ascension Parish Council honored DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch with a plaque in recognition of DEQ's role in advancing the parish's \$60 million CWSRF loan to the preliminary approval stage. "We look forward to coming back with a big check," Hatch told council members at a meeting of the Council's Utility Committee at the Courthouse Annex in Gonzales.

"I appreciate everything your department has done," Ascension Parish President Tommy Martinez told Hatch. "It's been nothing but a pleasure to work with you guys."

More work lies ahead. Assistant Secretary Alex Appeaning, who also was honored with a plaque, pointed out that much must be done before the loan application process is complete, including engineering, finance and environmental studies. The process can take up to 12 months from the preliminary approval point, Appeaning said, although Martinez expressed confidence that it all can be done in as little as 10 months.



DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch and DEQ Assistant Secretary Alex Appeaning hold plaques presented to them by the Ascension Parish Council on Dec. 16. From left, Ascension Parish chief administrative office Ken Dawson, Councilman Daniel Satterlee, Appeaning, Councilman Oliver Joseph, Ascension Parish President Tommy Martinez, Councilman Benny Johnson, Hatch, Councilman Randy Cloutre and Councilman Chris Loar

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“Today is really a great day. This was three years in the making. It was really a collaborative effort,” Appeaning said, praising the efforts of the parish council. “Every single member was in full support of this.”

The loan would fund improvements to the parish’s sewer system, including projects along La. 42 and U.S. 61 from the northern part of the parish to La. 73. Infrastructure improvements include:

- Installation of 24-inch PVC gravity main tie-in to La. 42 force main
- Installation of 4- to 18-inch force mains and sewer infrastructure along U.S. 61 from the northern parish boundary to La. 73
- Installation of 18- to 24-inch force mains and sewer infrastructure to tie in La. 73 force main
- Installation of 24-inch force main to the regional plant in the southern part of the parish
- Installation of effluent piping to the Mississippi River

The loan will carry a .95 percent interest rate for its 20-year term. It’s the best option to sustain economic and developments initiatives and improve environmental protection for parish residents, council members agreed.

“This is one of the best deals they’ll see for a long, long time,” Councilman Oliver Joseph said of the CWSRF loan.

“Our whole goal is to have parish-wide sewer (service),” Martinez said. He characterized the loan as a first step in achieving that goal and, in the long run, to cleaning up waterways in the parish.

“Maybe one day I can go back and swim in those bayous I used to swim in,” Councilman Randy Clouatre said.

New Iberia to improve wastewater treatment facilities

New Iberia is one step closer to improving its wastewater treatment facilities. On Jan. 21, DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch presented the mayor and city council with a symbolic check in the amount of \$6,497,000, from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan that will fund improvements to the city’s wastewater system. The loan, administered by DEQ, carries a .95 percent interest rate and is for a 20-year term.

Hatch, addressing the mayor, city council, city clerk, local legislative delegation and others in attendance at a council meeting, thanked all those involved in pushing the project through and pointed out that a cleaner environment is an asset to economic development.

DEQ Deputy Secretary Alex Appeaning reminded the group that the long-term benefits of the work funded by the loan are strong selling points when the city is trying to attract development. “We must optimize every competitive advantage we have,” Appeaning said.

Dignitaries in attendance included New Iberia Mayor Hilda Daige Curry, New Iberia City Clerk Elmire P. Elledge, Sen. Fred Mills, Rep. Terry Landry and Rep. Taylor Barras. New Iberia City Council members are Natalie Lopez-Robin, Peggy Gerac, Robert Suire, David Merrill, Raymond Lewis and Calvin Begnaud.

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Components of the wastewater project are:

- Construct a force main to re-route wastewater pump station P.S. B-3 (lift station) from its current discharge location on Lawrence Street to the proposed Henry Street pump station (Lift Station). This action will divert the flow of the gravity collection system on Lawrence Street, thereby reducing sewer overflows along Duperier Street.
- Rehabilitate pump station (P.S. A-1 lift station) located at the intersection of Hacker Street and Bank Street. The proposed wastewater improvements will include the installation of a by-pass valve in the discharge force main.
- Lining of the concrete wet well will be conducted, as necessary. This action will improve the operations of the pump station (lift station) and extend its utility.



DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch (third from right) presents a check to New Iberia Mayor Hilda Daige Curry as (Left to Right) DEQ Deputy Alex Appeaning, Rep. Taylor Barras, Rep. Terry Landry and Senator Fred Mills look on.

Radiation response drills

As a part of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's mission to protect human health and the environment across the state, DEQ participates in radiation monitoring at various air monitoring sites as well as nuclear generating stations. Radiation response drills are conducted by River Bend Nuclear Generating Station in St. Francisville; the Waterford Steam Electric Station (Unit 3) in St. Charles Parish; and the Grand Gulf Nuclear Generating Station near Port Gibson, Miss., on a periodic basis every year.

Drills occur several times a year at each facility, culminating in evaluated and graded drills conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. For each drill, DEQ rotates a contingent of public information officers and environmental scientists to gather information and work with their local and state counterparts in order to ensure that accurate data is culled and disseminated to the public. DEQ's participation crosses the border into Mississippi for the Grand Gulf drills, as the facility's potential impact zone extends into the Louisiana parishes of Tensas, Madison, East Carroll, West Carroll, Richland, Franklin, Catahoula and Concordia.

Drills are based on a realistic scenario and typically begin with the occurrence of an unusual event, such as a release of radiation from the facility, where off-site impact may be present. DEQ and its partnering agencies work through the response, quickly marshaling resources and responding to the event as if it were a actual real-time situation.

The participation brings together several facets of DEQ, as communications officers and environmental scientists in the Radiation, Emergency Response and Air Assessment divisions all work together to coordinate personnel, logistics, communications and technical support to address the event.

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Senior Environmental Scientist Chris Simms, serving as DEQ's spokesman, fields questions at a mock press conference during a recent drill at the River Bend Station

During a typical drill, participating DEQ environmental scientists are divided into field teams, with a senior environmental scientist appointed as the Headquarters Operations Officer, who will be in charge of DEQ's role throughout the drill. A Public Information team, consisting of a spokesman and a technical support representative, will report to a headquarters location to handle all communications tasks throughout the drill.

A DEQ representative will serve as a Public Information Officer, or spokesman, who will relay information to a mock press corps at scheduled press conferences throughout the exercise. The spokesman is assisted by a support staffer who typically has a technical background in radiation science, using those skills to assist the spokesman with information throughout the press conferences.

Field teams, accident assessment representatives and additional liaisons in the field and at the Emergency Operations Facility will continually keep the Public Information team apprised of the status of their findings so that DEQ and its partners are always aware of the environmental conditions in and around the facility in question.

"The drills are designed to help the participants prepare for radiological events, while sharpening everyone's skills throughout the response process," said DEQ Senior Environmental Scientist Chris Simms. "Continual practice is essential, and the rotation of DEQ personnel in various roles helps to provide everyone an opportunity to participate and understand the big picture as the training prepares the staff for the graded exercise."

At the conclusion of the drill, all areas are discussed and scrutinized in an informal after-action review, where successes and shortcomings are discussed in an open forum. Participants discuss streamlining procedures, ensuring for accuracy of information dissemination and eliminating shortcomings. Conclusions are considered for implementation in future drills.

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 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,

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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.

Recent e-newsletters have focused on a DEQ Regional Office as a way to provide an overview on their function and the key role they play in DEQ's mission to protect human health and the environment throughout the state.

This issue focuses on the Northeast Regional Office's satellite office located in Pineville:

Kisatchie Central Office, 402 Rainbow Drive, Pineville
Parishes covered: Rapides, Grant, Avoyelles, Winn, Catahoula, Concordia and LaSalle

Based in West Monroe, the Northeast Regional office maintains a satellite office in Pineville, known as the Kisatchie Central Office. The Kisatchie office is unique in that it assists the Northeast Regional Office with coverage of the 17-parish area in central and northeast Louisiana, with specific focus on the seven-parish zone surrounding Alexandria-Pineville within the heart of Louisiana.

With a fair number of industrial facilities prevalent in the immediate area, the Kisatchie Central Office is strategically located in order to provide rapid, efficient air analysis inspections and additional service to the surrounding communities in the parishes of Rapides, Grant, Catahoula and Avoyelles. Their scope of responsibility also extends into the parishes of Winn, LaSalle and Concordia.

The office consists of 10 personnel whose mission centers on conducting water, air and waste inspections. The inspectors all perform emergency response rotations and are well-versed in addressing hazardous waste, air emissions and water treatment issues that may arise. Underground storage tank inspectors are also on hand to serve the region, and the office staff includes an attorney and a small business/community assistance specialist.

"Open burning, hazardous waste spills and sewage questions are some of the common inquiries we receive from the general public, and our staff responds to and investigates all calls, however minor they may initially appear to be," said Michael Accettella, DEQ Environmental Scientist Supervisor at the Kisatchie office. "As a satellite office



DEQ's Kisatchie Central Office is based in Pineville and serves most of central Louisiana



Michael Accettella, Supervisor of the Kisatchie Office, reviews an inspection report from a wastewater treatment plant in Rapides Parish

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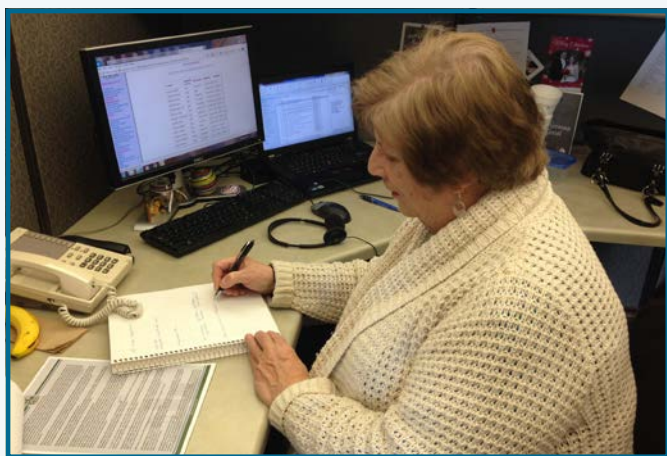


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of the Northeast Regional Office, we share technical support and resources when required, but also operate as a stand-alone entity that covers a large area in central Louisiana.”

The Kisatchie office maintains a Boston Whaler high-speed boat and a Go-Devil boat for swampy, low-water regions. The vessels are readily available for rapid response to any environmental issue that requires water access, and most of the staff are certified to operate the vessels any time should the need arise.

DEQ Communications Section provides information to the public



DEQ Public Information Officer Jean Kelly logs in a media inquiry for follow up

DEQ's Communications Section serves as the direct liaison between media and DEQ for any informational request where an interview, detailed update or statement about a particular issue is requested by the media outlet. The section also supports DEQ's community outreach function as well as being the contact point for promoting DEQ services and activities through press releases, electronic newsletters and the annual report. Phone or email interviews are addressed by the staff to ensure an accurate flow of information from the department to the public.

The key mission of the section is to be the centralized source of information to media outlets such as newspapers, magazines, broadcast news networks, radio stations, college and independent news sources and online news services.

Comprising a press secretary, a public information officer and a graphics designer, DEQ's Communications Section also writes, designs and publishes the Annual Report, "Discover DEQ" (the department's monthly electronic newsletter), as well as various promotional brochures, flyers, banners and posters. Press releases and media advisories are also drafted and posted on a regular basis as announcements directed to the public and the media on issues, events and important topics that concern DEQ. The staff provides information to the public about educational and outreach projects concerning the environment, often coordinating statewide informational campaigns to support those projects. Upon request, the section also prepares speeches and/or a list of talking points for use by executive staff members at certain key events.

The staff also works with Information Technology staff to ensure that the DEQ website is easily navigable, up-to-date and user-friendly.

During major environmental crises such as storms, hurricanes or severe environmental issues, the Communications Section will work side-by-side with fellow state and federal communications teams at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness or at a Unified Command Group post; depending on the location

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and nature of the event. The team is generally housed in a Joint Information Center, where they may rotate on a 24/7 schedule throughout the event in order to provide the Governor's staff and the media with updates and accurate information concerning the event and its progress. During critical events, the main task of the section is to respond to all media and citizen calls in a timely fashion to ensure that all information disseminated to the public is seamless and accurate.

A large component of the Communications Section's mission is to help advance the state's goal of natural resource preservation by providing information to the public and the media about environmental issues through an array of outreach strategies. For example, the Communications Section has worked with the Air Assessment Division to promote a series of meetings for the Ozone Steering Committee. By promoting the events and by receiving news coverage from every major media outlet in the state, DEQ has worked as a team to inform the citizens of Louisiana of the importance of improving air quality.

DEQ's Communications Section also created and produced a very successful statewide clean water campaign under the "Be the Solution" banner. The campaign, featuring an animated crawfish known as "Louie the Crawfish," involved an extensive radio, billboard and television Public Service Announcement blitz over several months. Funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the campaign was a highly effective tool for promoting awareness in the state for the preservation and protection of clean water.

The section continues to build credibility and a strong rapport with statewide media, through a solid communications framework and their execution of air, waste and water quality campaigns throughout the state.

DEQ kickoffs American Heart Association/Capital Area fundraising

DEQ's 2014 fundraising drive for the American Heart Association/Capital Area Heart Walk began January 22 with free cake at the Galvez Building. Each floor in the building had its own table in the Oliver Pollock Room where the opening events to raise funds and distribute information were held. National Go Red for Women Day is Friday, Feb. 7.

DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch is the State of Louisiana Company Leader for the 2014 American Heart Association/Capital Area Heart Walk. That means she is the state's representative on the Heart Walk executive leadership team and is the Leader of all of the state agencies teams.

"Since cardiovascular disease, such as heart disease and stroke, claim more women's lives annually than the next four causes of death combined, I encourage everyone to participate in this awareness campaign by donating and learning about the disease," said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch, State of Louisiana Company Leader. LDEQ 2014 Capital Area Heart Walk Campaign Events



DEQ representatives from each floor take donations for the American Heart Association

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The following is the schedule of this year's fundraising events:

For a donation of \$1, you can get an AHA heart which will be displayed in the windows of your floor's lobby.

For a donation of \$10, you receive a wrist band which will permit you to wear red and/or dress casual on 2/5, 2/6, 2/12, 2/13, 2/19, 2/20, 2/26 and 2/27.

AHA hearts and wrist bands can be purchased through floor captains.

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014

LDEQ Go Red for Women Day

We will take a picture in 1st floor lobby of everyone wearing red at 2:00 pm

Friday, February 7, 2014

National Go Red for Women Day

Thursday, February 13

Valentines Bake Sale

1st floor lobby from 10am to 2pm. Please call Emily Barlett at 219-3968 or Marissa Jimenez at 219-3963 if you can bring a baked good

Cake Raffle

\$1 per chance per cake. Winner announced at 2:15pm. Please see a floor captain if you want to enter a cake

March 11, 2015

LOSFA Trash for Treasure

11-1pm in the 6th floor conference room

TBA

Books Are Fun Book Fair

In Oliver Pollock Room. The fair will be open from 8:30am until 3pm on Tuesday and from 8:30am until 2:30pm on Wednesday

April 2, 2014

American Heart Association's National Walking Day

LDEQ -For a \$5 donation, you can dress casual and participate in a walk at 10:00am from the Galvez Building to Capitol. (Weather permitting)

April 8, 2014

LOSFA Salad Day, 11-1pm in the 6th floor conference room

April 23, 2014

LDEQ Executive Staff Gift Basket Raffle

In 1st floor lobby. Raffle tickets will be \$1. Last ticket will be sold at 1:30pm. Winners Announced at 2:00pm.

Saturday, April 26, 2014

Heart Walk at the LSU Old Front Nine



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Who's Who At DEQ?



Bobby J. Mayweather – Capital Regional office manager

Mayweather attended Northwestern State University in Natchitoches and Southern University in Baton Rouge where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry /Mathematics. He earned a Master's of Science in Environmental Chemistry from LSU/Southern. Mayweather has worked for DEQ for more than 14 years. He worked in DEQ's Laboratory Accreditation Program prior to becoming the Capital Regional Manager in 2001.

The Capital Region encompasses 13 parishes, which include, Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, St. Martin, Tangipahoa, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana

Mayweather can be reached at bobby.mayweather@la.gov.

Mike Algero – Regional Manager of the Southeast Regional Office and the Bayou Lafourche satellite office

Algero earned a B. S. degree in Geology from Tulane University and been with DEQ for more than 24 years in DEQ Field Operations. He has worked as an inspector, supervisor, manager and administrator. Algero is currently the Regional Manager of the Southeast Region with an office in New Orleans and the Bayou Lafourche satellite office in Lockport. The SW Regional office encompasses ten parishes in Southwest Louisiana. They are Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemine, St. Bernard, St. John, St. Charles, St. Tammany, Terrebonne and Washington.

Algero can be reached at mike.algero@la.gov.



Billy Eakin – Regional Manager for the Southwest and Acadiana Regional Offices

Eakin has worked for DEQ for 22 years in various capacities. He started out as an environmental scientist in 1991. In 2005, he was promoted to manager of the Southwest Regional office in Lake Charles and in January 2013, he, also, became the Regional Manager for the Acadiana office in Lafayette. The parishes covered by the SW Region are Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson and Vernon. The parishes covered by the Acadiana office are Acadia, Evangeline, Lafayette, Iberia, St. Landry, St. Martin, St Mary and Vermillion.

Eakin received a BS degree In Environmental Science from McNeese University, is married with two children and enjoys hunting, fishing and watching basketball.

Eakin can be contacted at billy.eakin@la.gov.





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Who's Who At DEQ? (Continued)



Larry Baldwin – Northwest and Northeast Regional Manager and the Pineville satellite office

Baldwin received a B.S. and M.S. degrees from Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe. He has been employed by the state for more than 30 years, 28 of them with DEQ. During his tenure at DEQ, Baldwin has been an inspector in the Solid Waste Division, a supervisor in the Surveillance Division at the NE Regional Office and in 2009 was promoted to Regional Manager.

The Northeast Regional Office in Monroe serves Avoyelles, Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, La Salle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Rapides, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll and Winn parishes. The Northwest Regional Office in Shreveport serves Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, De Soto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine and Webster parishes. Baldwin also supervises the Pineville satellite office.

Baldwin can be reached at larry.baldwin@la.gov

Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Fourth Quarter Summaries

4th Quarter 2013 Enforcement Actions:

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

4th Quarter 2013 Settlement Agreements:

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

4th Quarter 2013 Air Permits:

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

4th Quarter 2013 Water Permits:

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

4th Quarter 2013 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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