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Please Note:

The DEQ Northeast Regional Office in Monroe has moved. The new address is 508 Downing Pines Road, West Monroe, LA 71292.

St. Landry Parish is on the cutting edge of biogas technology

St. Landry Parish, situated in the colorful Acadiana region in south central Louisiana, is the home to Cajun Zydeco music. But it is also a Parish that has developed innovative and proactive ways to help the parish and the environment and provide a sustainable source of fuel.

When you talk with Katry Martin, Executive Director of the St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District, you sense the enthusiasm he has for his work and for the biogas project he helped develop for his parish. This project has allowed St. Landry Parish to fuel one passenger van, five sedans and a 16-vehicle fleet of pickup trucks with gas collected from the St. Landry Parish Landfill.

The biogas project actually started in 2009 with a voluntary carbon initiative and gas collection and control system in the St. Landry Parish Sanitary landfill. The landfill, which was permitted as a municipal solid waste type II landfill in 1986, has 3 million tons of waste in place and produces 300 standard cubic feet per minute of landfill gas. It receives waste from approximately 40,000 households.

St. Landry registered its carbon reductions with the carbon registry and was able to sell the carbon credits on the open market helping offset the cost of the project.

"The market price for carbon credits was \$7 per ton," Martin said.

This was Louisiana's first voluntary landfill carbon project and has resulted in a reduction of 150,000 tons of CO₂ since its inception.

In 2011, Martin, collection systems operators and air quality consultants with Franklin Engineers recognized the high quality of the landfill gas and how it could benefit the parish and the environment. The key factors were a viable feedstock, new developing technology to make it possible, access to vehicles, available funding sources and employees with the skills to complete the project. The cost of the gas from the landfill is significantly less than retail prices.

This was the first Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Project in Louisiana. There were many different components and companies that worked on the biogas

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Aerial View of the St. Landry Parish Landfill

upgrading facility and fueling station, including BioCNG LLC/Cornerstone Environmental Group. In 2012, the project won one of the Environmental Protection Agency's Landfill Methane Outreach Program's (LMOP) Project of the Year Awards for landfill gas to energy achievements. The award was for converting 50 cubic feet per minute of landfill gas into 250 gallons of gasoline equivalent per day of compressed natural gas.

Steve Wittmann, BioCNG Project Manager for the St. Landry project said "I am very pleased that BioCNG, LLC was able to provide St. Landry Parish with the technology to make their farsighted biogas-to-vehicle fuel vision a reality. But the technology is just a single piece of the puzzle. The credit for implementing the innovative BioCNG vehicle fueling project goes to Katry Martin, Solid Waste Director."

"St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District found a cleaner, greener way of destroying methane and fueling government vehicles including district cars and trucks, and vans and cars at the sheriff's office," EPA said in their write-up about the award. "The end results are significant air quality benefits, unique environmental education opportunities for the local community."

There was a \$750,000 initial investment capital cost. Managing the gas and selling carbon credits helped offset that. Part of the funding came through a Department of Energy renewable fuels grant, and with the technology available, St. Landry commissioned the fueling system in 2012. Site work began in 2011, and the equipment arrived in February 2012. Installation and interconnection began in March 2012, and plant completion was in April 2012. The BioCNG fueling station is 150 feet from the landfill. The total cost of the project, including the conversions of the vehicles, was \$900,000. The parish has a contract to sell its carbon credits for \$3.50 per ton through 2016.

In their report for the Louisiana Clean Fuels 2013 Transportation Technology Deployment report, St. Landry reduced their gallons of gas equivalent by 11,809 gallons and their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 22.2 tons for 2013.

"If I had a chance to do it over, I would not change a thing. I do believe that biofuel derived from landfill and digester gas will have a permanent place as an alternative vehicle fuel," Martin said.



Parish truck fueling at the BioCNG fueling station

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Wittmann, says “this is cutting edge technology.” There are five biogas systems already installed, including St. Landry, in the U.S. and more are on the horizon. Another new technology that is being tested in California is the food waste digester, a project that keeps food waste out of the landfills altogether.

Martin and the project were recognized by international partners. St. Landry as well as a French company, Charier Enterprises, co-addressed a large group of cultural and economic development experts in October as part of a large festival gathering in France where Louisiana was featured.

“This was a cultural economic initiative that brought together a cross section of individuals including public and private industry,” Martin said. We represented the public sector and aligned ourselves with a private sector waste company. A theme common to all partners was sustainability.”

The path forward is to manage the gas, track the cost and convert more vehicles to use it. The St Landry Parish Sheriff’s department will be using the landfill gas. Also going forward, the St. Landry Parish Solid Waste District plans to fuel local refuse trucks as well as utility vehicles for other public agencies.

In May, Katry Martin gave a presentation on St. Landry’s innovative approach to landfill gas, at the Louisiana Alternative Fuels Conference and Expo in Baton Rouge. His presentation can be found on the Louisiana Clean Fuels website at <http://louisianacleanfuels.org/meetinginfo.php?id=4&ts=1401117801>.



Gas Collection and CNG equipment

Shell Oil Products U.S. cleans up 17 acres of contaminated property

Restoring contaminated property so that it can be used again, commercially, industrially or residentially is the ultimate goal of the Ready for Reuse Program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DEQ. This program allows recognition for those who clean up and restore blighted properties.

Recently, DEQ, EPA and Shell Oil Products U.S. celebrated the completion of a Ready for Reuse project at the former Metairie Lube Oil Blending Facility in Jefferson. At a ceremony at DEQ headquarters, Shell was awarded a determination letter and certificate by DEQ and EPA signifying that the site has been cleaned up and can be put back into use.

Gary Fulton, Administrator for the DEQ Underground Storage Tank and Remediation Division, welcomed the group from Shell and Arcadis U.S. and Environmental Resource Management (ERM) who worked on the project. Dan Kirk, Principal Program Manager for Shell, gave a slide presentation on the remediation.

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Susan Spalding, EPA, and DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch present a plaque to Dan Kirk of Shell.

DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch said “The cooperation between EPA, DEQ and Shell on this project has made this achievement possible. This benefits the environment and the citizens of Louisiana and I commend Shell Oil for cleaning up these 17 acres and putting them back into commercial and industrial service.”

“This project started in 2005 and was delayed by Hurricane Katrina but everyone worked on it until it was completed,” said Susan Spalding, Associate Director, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Programs representing EPA Region 6. “It is always a pleasure to see a project completed and the land put back into use.”

The former Metairie Lube Oil Blending Facility is located at 309 Jefferson Highway in Jefferson. Surrounded by areas

of light/heavy industry and commercial land uses, the property currently consists of approximately 17 acres. The property was formerly used for blending and packaging of motor oils, gear oils and grease.

With this Ready for Reuse Determination, DEQ and EPA Region 6 agree that Shell Oil Products U.S. has successfully conducted its investigation and remediation and risk management activities. It has been determined that environmental conditions at the property are protective of human health and the environment based on its current and anticipated future use as an industrial/commercial property.

For more information about DEQ’s Ready for Reuse Program, please visit www.deq.louisiana.gov, or visit www.epa.gov to learn about EPA’s Land Revitalization Action Agenda.

DEQ Assesses Water Quality within the Bayou Choctaw Drainage Basin

Since February 2014, members of DEQ’s Inspection Division in the Office of Environmental Compliance have been conducting a series of water quality surveys at several bayous in West Baton Rouge Parish and Pointe Coupee Parish as part of an ongoing water quality assessment of the Bayou Choctaw Drainage Basin.

The assessment is part of an extensive sampling effort prompted by several inquiries to DEQ from citizens regarding recent fish kills that were reported in late 2013. In order to attempt to identify the cause, DEQ’s Inspection Division mapped out a detailed sampling plan, marking several strategic locations within the Bayou Choctaw Drainage Basin that would represent an appropriate cross-section of the smaller bayous that flow into and comprise the larger Bayou Choctaw. At present, seven sites in the basin were identified as viable monthly sampling points by DEQ environmental scientists.

On June 11, DEQ Environmental Scientist Eura DeHart, Jr., sampled the seven sites in the basin - three sites at Stumpy Bayou, two at Bayou Poydras, one at Bayou Cholpe and one near Bayou Tommy. All locations ultimately drain to the

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south and converge south of LA-76 to form Bayou Choctaw. The overall study area covers approximately 39,000 acres.

The surveys are being conducted to identify trends in the data set in order to determine the causes of the fish kills. Typically, point source discharges, agricultural runoff, household wastes, septic tanks, or natural environmental conditions that create hypoxic conditions are the causes of fish kills in a body of water. DEQ's goal is to determine the cause of the fish kills based on data gathered through comprehensive sampling efforts over a specified period.

The purpose of the assessment is to ensure that the bayou and its tributaries are eventually returned to natural, environmentally compliant conditions that allow for fish and wildlife propagation and human recreational use.

Before each survey is conducted, a Hydrolab MiniSonde 5 is calibrated in order to confirm its proper operation and ensure accurate readings will be achieved. The Hydrolab sonde, which is a tube about the size of a baseball bat, is a device that is lowered into the bayou to gather water quality readings. The Hydrolab obtains data on pH levels, water temperature, salinity, conductivity and dissolved oxygen in the body of water. Those readings are immediately transmitted to the surveyor device, comprising a keypad and screen, and the results are recorded into a logbook.

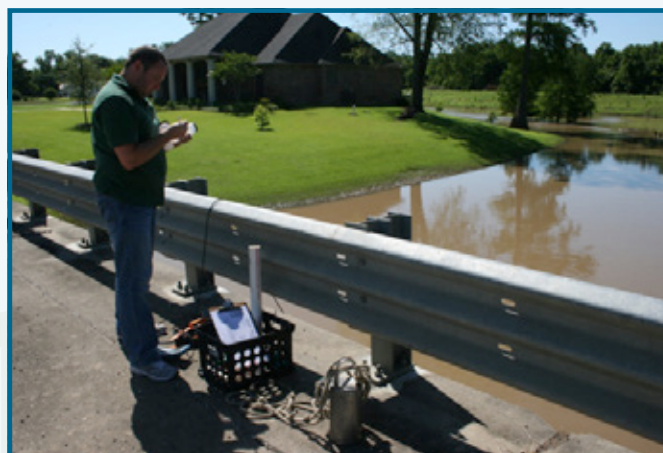
Water samples of the bayou are collected and placed in marked bottles, and the entire process is repeated at the next sampling location. "As part of the sampling effort, I also photograph the site from both sides of the bridge in order to document the bayou's conditions at the time of the survey," said DeHart.

After the survey, a post-calibration of the equipment is conducted and all water samples are kept on ice per U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sampling preservation standards. The next day, a courier from PACE Analytical Lab, based in St. Rose, picks up the samples for analysis. PACE's results are then submitted to DEQ and added to a master log which tracks any trends or anomalies in the water samples.

The sampling data is vital and a key component in the exhaustive effort to determine what occurred or may be occurring upstream to cause the recent fish kills. It is particularly important to note any pollutants or agricultural runoff



DEQ Environmental Scientist Eura DeHart conducts a pre-survey calibration on the water survey equipment



DEQ Environmental Scientist Eura DeHart collects a water sample near a residential area along Bayou Cholpe in West Baton Rouge Parish

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conditions that may be present as well as any trend in suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand that may exist in the bayou, as those numbers help to identify the impairments or concerns that will need to be addressed.

In late 2014, DEQ will examine the months of sampling results in order to establish possible causes and to reassess the sampling effort to ascertain whether a specific area needs closer focus and additional sampling. “At the conclusion of the effort, we hope to have enough data to examine that will narrow down the specific cause or causes of the fish kills that have recently occurred in this watershed,” said Tom Killeen, DEQ Administrator of DEQ’s Inspection Division. “From that point, we will be able to focus on preventive measures and outreach efforts in the Bayou Choctaw community in order to mitigate the source of the impairment as we strive to return the basin to environmental conditions suitable for recreational use and fish and wildlife propagation.”

DEQ plays an active role in breast health awareness

Every Individual who receives a mammogram in Louisiana can be confident that the procedure was performed properly and accurately due to a law passed by the US Congress in 1992 and enacted by Oct. 1, 1994. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was given the responsibility of implementing “The Mammography Quality Standards Act” (MQSA).

The implementation is a two-part process. The first part requires an Accreditation by the American College of Radiology (ACR) and a Certification to perform mammograms issued by the FDA. Annually, DEQ Radiation Surveillance Section inspectors inspect the equipment and procedures of all 165 certified facilities to ensure the highest quality mammography exams.

Last year, Woman’s Hospital performed 43,678 mammograms at their facilities. Each and every one of the women receiving the procedure could be confident that it was done properly. Breast cancers can be readily detected with “a properly done mammogram, properly positioned and properly imaged,” said Margaret Gallo, Quality Control Technician in Woman’s Hospital’s imaging department in Baton Rouge. “And that is why MQSA (Mammography Quality Standards Act) came to be. Because there were so many places that were doing sub-optimal mammograms, breast cancers were being missed. Finally someone stepped forward, and thank goodness, back in the late '80s. It (MQSA) was signed in 1991 and took effect in 1992. Then they (FDA) started regulating all sites.”

For many years DEQ Environmental Scientist 3 Jennifer Elee handled the inspections in Baton Rouge (she’s now in the Northeast Regional Office in Monroe). “The FDA has done an excellent job of reaching out to facilities,” she said. Much of the annual inspection is paperwork, but



Margaret Gallo

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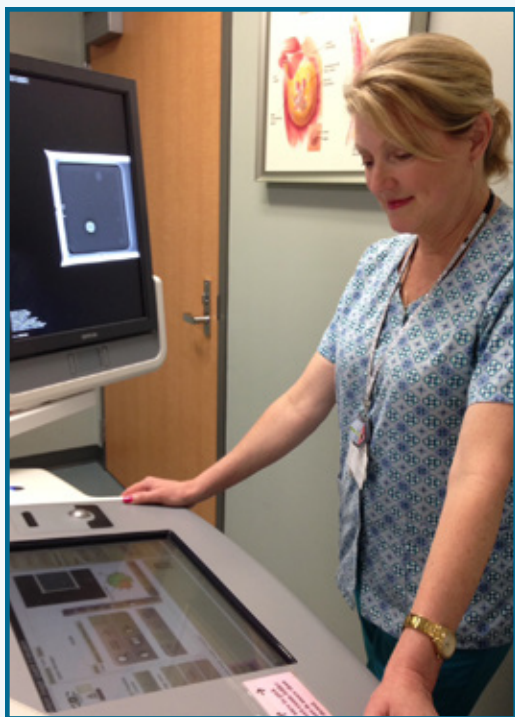


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Nolia Guidry

not all. There is a wax and Lucite material test tool called a ‘phantom’ used to evaluate the accuracy of the machine. The phantom contains strands or threads of special material that mimics an abnormality in breast tissue. During the inspection, the equipment must have the correct energy, resolution and contrast to detect the strands in the phantom.

“The mammography program is pretty strict,” said Environmental Scientist 3 Gwen Maglic, who works out of the Southeast Regional Office in New Orleans. “They have to have their books up to date. We do make them do a phantom shot.”

“There’s a lot of records to go over. The equipment doesn’t take five minutes in each room. The paperwork is what takes so long because it involves all of the paperwork on all the quality control tests we do daily, weekly, semi-annually and monthly – the whole year. And all the personnel records. I believe that’s what takes the most time, because we have to verify all the personnel licenses, including the physicians who read the radiologist, and all the continuing education and qualifications,” Gallo said.

That’s many things that could go wrong, but rarely do. “When you go every year, you don’t see any noncompliance,” Elee said. That’s because Woman’s is ready for inspection, all the time.

“Honestly, we don’t panic when we get that call that call that our inspection is coming up. We’ve always, since I’ve been doing this job, I’ve always lived by the Boy Scout motto, ‘Be Prepared,’ and long as you do what you’re supposed to do on a daily basis, they could walk in here right now and we’d say, ‘here it is. Here it all is,’” Gallo said.

“It’s one thing you have to take care of. We have to be compliant,” said Nolia Guidry, who is also a quality control technician in the Imaging Department at Woman’s Hospital. With 27 technicians, seven mammography machines in the main hospital on Airline Highway, one mammography machine at the Women’s Center for Wellness at Jefferson Highway and Bluebonnet Boulevard and a mobile unit in the coach mounted on a truck frame, there are nine inspections to get through every year. There are also accreditation inspections from the American College of Radiology.

Since 2012, DEQ Environmental Scientist 3 Ashley Menard has inspected Woman’s mammography equipment each December. “They always have their stuff ready,” Menard said. Working out of the Acadiana Regional Office, Menard inspects about 50 mammography machines a year. There are more than 160 mammography facilities in Louisiana that DEQ inspects annually.

All the information DEQ inspectors collect is input into a data base and uploaded to the FDA, explained DEQ Environmental Staff Scientist Joe Noble. After the paper work inspection is conducted, the DEQ inspector will

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give the facility a printout of the findings. If any major violations are found, the FDA office in the New Orleans District is notified, and it is that agency's responsibility to follow-up with any inspections. A complete copy of the annual inspection, reports and supporting documents are filed under the facilities Agency Interest number in DEQ's Electronic Data Management System (EDMS).

Gallo and Guidry are particularly proud of Woman's mobile unit. "The patient walks in and has their mammogram done right there. They offer privacy, and there's a little waiting area," Gallo said. The service area extends "All the way to the coast and down to New Orleans. The end of the road," Guidry said, and it travels every day. "That gets to some ladies who are in the little towns. It even goes to Mississippi," Guidry said. "It's in those areas where maybe they don't have transportation," Gallo added.

These rural patients may not have much money either. Woman's "also works with Mary Bird Perkins through a grant system for the patients that don't have insurance, don't have income," Gallo said. The mobile unit carries two technicians, an imaging assistant and the driver. It also goes to large companies like Blue Cross and "in New Orleans, they go to Harrah's," she said.

When it finishes each trip, Guidry said, the coach returns to the main hospital with the data it has collected. "At the end of the day, they come here and download it and a radiologist reads it." Patients with possible issues are then contacted to come to the hospital for treatment. If they can't get there, the hospital will try to find them an alternate source of care.

DEQ's inspectors work with the mammography providers to ensure each patient gets the most accurate exam possible. "Over the years as MQSA has evolved, we have learned from each other. I've actually had a couple of inspectors – Jennifer Elee, especially her. I had her for the first five years of MSQA. We learned from each other. The thing that impresses me about DEQ inspections is that they're not as quick to slap you on the wrist as to give you a suggestion. That impresses me," Gallo said.

"I think we both have the same goals. We want the patient taken care of," Guidry added.

Hurricane Resource Manuals delivered to parishes

Helping the parishes comply with environmental regulations is an important function for the staff at DEQ. Since hurricane season started on June 1, Linda Hardy and Marissa Jimenez with the DEQ Small Business Assistance Group have been on the road delivering Hurricane Resource Manuals to the parishes in the Capital Region. They are two of the many DEQ personnel who are delivering these books to all 64 parishes in Louisiana. The books are hard copies of information, also available on the DEQ website, for use in emergencies, especially if there is no power. They contain information pertaining to hurricane/emergency recovery assistance as it relates to permitting, debris collection and environmental cleanup resources. This is the third year DEQ has compiled the manual for the parishes.

The manual is hand-delivered to parish emergency response officials by DEQ representatives in an effort to assist parish officials in following environmental regulations during emergency situations and to help them speed up the

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recovery process. The manual is delivered to each office so there will be information handy to local officials should power or Internet access be inaccessible.

The manual contains vital information such as:

- Lists of 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
- Re-entry information
- A DEQ contacts list
- An example of a variance application



Linda Hardy of DEQ delivers a hurricane resource manual to West Feliciana fire chief Tommy Boyette

These manuals are part of DEQ's continuing commitment to citizens, human health and the environment. All parishes receive a manual with instructions for its use. Information is updated annually and in some cases, continually on the DEQ website. The Hurricane Resource Manual is also available on the DEQ website at: www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/NEWS/HurricanePreparedness/ParishResourceBook.aspx.

Free workshops on open burning scheduled in July

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is sponsoring a free workshop to assist fire departments, municipalities and the general public with understanding the air quality regulations concerning open burning. The workshop will provide a basic understanding of the regulations, as well as information on open burning do's and don'ts. All workshops will be from 10 a.m. to noon.

Upcoming workshops will be held:

Lafayette, Tuesday, July 8
Lafayette Utilities System
1314 Walker Road, Lafayette

Baton Rouge, Tuesday, July 15
DEQ Conference Center
Oliver Pollock Room
602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge

Lake Charles, Wednesday, July 16
LSU AgCenter
7101 Gulf Highway, Lake Charles

There will be more Open Burning Workshops scheduled. To register, go to <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/PROGRAMS/CommunityIndustryRelations/ENVIROSCHOOLRegistration.aspx>.

For more information, call Linda Hardy at 225-219-3954 or email Linda.hardy@la.gov.



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DEQ On The Move



David Seymour in air enforcement, left, and Kirby Brannon in Acadiana inspections, practice working in Level A chemical and water resistant protective suits during 40-hour Hazwoper Training at the Galvez Building in Baton Rouge on June 13. The course, taught by Keith Meyers of GeauxSafe Associates, included this exercise in which fully suited responders have to tighten a flange that is leaking phosgene gas. The gas is simulated with a harmless fog that is pumped through a real pipe to show where the leak is escaping. The participants have a 30-minute supply of air in their backpacks and must use wrenches to tighten the flange properly and shut off the leak.



Pictured from left to right: Tim Butler, Gwen Maglic, Adrienne Gossman, and Ella Barb.

On Saturday May 31, staff from the Southeast Regional Office went to the Jefferson Parish Library to support their summer reading kickoff called Librarypalooza. Despite the rainy day over a hundred parents and children came out to the event. They introduced various topics including delta formation, levees and the importance of wetlands.



Keith Meyers of GeauxSafe Associates, Hazwoper instructor, and Amanda Vincent, manager in municipal biosolids and water quality group in the water permits division, assist Kirby Brannon in Acadiana inspections, in adjusting his Level A chemical and water resistant protective suit during 40-hour Hazwoper Training.



Susan Spalding, Associate Director of RCRA Programs, U.S.EPA Region 6; DEQ permit writer Lina Saale; and Exide Representatives David McKercher, Exide Plant Manager; and Larry Myers, Exide Operations Manager, prepare to visit the Exide remediation site in north Baton Rouge.



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Who's Who At DEQ?



Bob Bailey - Environmental Scientist Manager - Office of Environmental Compliance

Bailey graduated from LSU with a Bachelor of Science degree and a major in zoology and a minor in chemistry. He began working with DEQ in April 1987. Bailey has worked in air toxics monitoring, operation of Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations (PAMS) and operation of the Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MAML) for the 27 years he had been at DEQ. Bailey was recently promoted to the position of Environmental Scientist Manager.

William (Bill) H. Schramm – Office of Environmental Services - Geologist Supervisor

Schramm has been employed with DEQ for 24 years and has recently been promoted to Geologist Supervisor. He began his career at DEQ as an environmental intern in the Land Ban section in 1990. In 1991 he transferred to the Ground Water Protection Division as a Geologist 1, 2 and 3.

Schramm has a Bachelor of Arts in geology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), and a master's in geology from University of Southwest Louisiana (ULL). He also holds a teaching certificate for Science and Earth Science for K-12 from UWM.

He is a member, past director, vice-president and president of the Baton Rouge Geological Society. He is currently president of the Louisiana Environmental Health Association, serving as president and as vice-president of ComForCare Senior Services. Schramm also serves as delegate to the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), representing the Baton Rouge Geological Society's AAPG members, and he also belongs to the Lafayette Geological Society and the New Orleans Geological Society.



Gary Fulton – Administrator UST and Remediation Division

Fulton, who started his career at DEQ in 1996, has been detailed to the position of Administrator for the UST (underground storage tank) and Remediation Division of the Office of Environmental Compliance. Prior to starting work at DEQ, Fulton worked in the private sector investigating and remediating underground storage tank sites and in investigation and remediation at solid waste, hazardous waste, RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) and superfund sites. Fulton accepted an environmental scientist position at DEQ in the Inactive and Abandoned Sites Division providing remediation recommendation at state Superfund sites. He worked as a geologist as well as a supervisor and manager in the Remediation Services Division.

Fulton has a Bachelor of Science in geology from the University of Southern Mississippi at Hattiesburg.



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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's First Quarter Summaries

1st Quarter 2014 Enforcement Actions:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/EnforcementActions.aspx>

1st Quarter 2014 Settlement Agreements:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/SettlementAgreements.aspx>

1st Quarter 2014 Air Permits:

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

1st Quarter 2014 Water Permits:

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

1st Quarter 2014 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/divisions/wastepermits.aspx>

