



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



March 2015 Issue Number: 38

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DEQ Secretary Hatch speaks about water issues

DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch was among the opening speakers at the Louisiana Conference on Water Supply, Sewerage and Industrial Wastes and the Louisiana Water Environment Association joint technical conference. Hatch outlined DEQ's positions on key water regulations and reports at the March 10 event in Alexandria. She told conference attendees that the agency has submitted the state's draft prioritization framework for the Clean Water Act Section 303 (d) Program. The EPA provided feedback about that framework earlier this year, and DEQ will be soliciting input from stakeholders in April, she said. The plan provides a new long-term vision for assessment, restoration and protection of Louisiana's waterways. Priority watersheds are to be identified by September/October of this year, she said.

Hatch also briefly explained NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) reporting rule, adding that DMRs (Discharge Monitoring Reports) will have to be submitted electronically under the new rule, but the change will not be effective until Dec. 15, 2015. "You still have some time," she said. "But it's going to happen."



DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch addresses the Louisiana Conference on Water Supply, Sewerage, and Industrial Wastes and the Louisiana Water Environment Association joint technical conference.

Hatch mentioned the 2014 Integrated Report and stated that EPA had recommended adding 43 water bodies to the list. "We are going to comment on their position," she said.

The Louisiana Nutrient Management Strategy to manage nitrogen and phosphorus to protect, improve and restore the nutrient-related water quality in Louisiana's inland and coastal waters was released in 2014, Hatch said. The strategy includes implementation actions that will help achieve the nutrient reduction goals, and the plan is available on the DEQ website.

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Hatch told the joint conference that DEQ commented on the proposed Waters of the United States rule from EPA, stating that DEQ's position is that the rule's definition is too subjective and that the resulting expansion of federal authority reaches waters that are non-jurisdictional. "The time frame on the rule is not available yet," she said.

Drinking Water Protection Team teaches citizens how to protect their drinking water

Do you know what is in your drinking water? Do you know where the source is? How can you protect your drinking water? These and many other questions can be answered by the DEQ Drinking Water Protection Team.



DWP Team Members Jesse Means (left) and Mary Gentry (center) show Jamie Miller, chief water operator for St. Mary Parish, the drinking water protection area for his water intakes.

The Drinking Water Protection Program was designed to assist Louisiana communities in protecting their drinking water and preventing contamination of their drinking water sources. The goals are to increase public awareness of the drinking water sources and to educate communities on how to protect it. The program also focuses on establishing contingency plans and zoning regulations. Drinking water can come from either surface water (bayous, rivers, etc.) or groundwater (aquifers). Approximately two-thirds of Louisiana residents get their drinking water from groundwater sources.

The Drinking Water Protection Team has been working in Ascension and Caldwell parishes since 2013 and has recently moved into St. Mary Parish.

Ascension Parish, divided by the Mississippi River, has 30 active public community water systems. The systems located

on the West Bank use surface water from the Mississippi River as their drinking water source. The systems located on the East Bank use groundwater as their source. Community meetings were held on Oct. 24, 2013, on the East Bank and Nov. 7, 2013, on the West Bank to inform the public about their source of drinking water and what they can do to help protect it. Visits to 101 owners and operators of businesses identified as potential sources of contamination were conducted to educate them on best management practices.

In Caldwell Parish, work began in August 2013. Caldwell Parish has 11 active public community water systems, all of which use groundwater as their water source. A community meeting to introduce the program and seek volunteers to form a drinking water protection committee was held on Nov. 14, 2013. A committee of 12 local citizens and officials met and worked with LDEQ on drinking water protection activities. These activities included visits to 19 businesses identified as significant potential sources of contamination. The owners and operators were informed of best management practices and development of a used oil recyclers list to distribute throughout the

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parish. In addition, copies of a model spill prevention and control plan were provided to a local fuel distributor, the local Louisiana Farm Bureau office, and the local U.S. Department of Agriculture office for distribution within the community.

In St. Mary Parish, the first community meeting was held in October 2014, but the DWP staff had been meeting with government officials and water system representatives since September. A drinking water protection committee was formed after the community meeting and met on Dec. 11. to discuss drinking water protection issues. DEQ DWP staff also attended and trained attendees on drinking water protection activities.

For more information on the Drinking Water Protection Program go to <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/PROGRAMS/DrinkingWaterProtectionProgram.aspx/>.



Jesse Means and Mary Gentry, DEQ, and St Mary Parish's head water operator, Jamie Miller, view GPS coordinates for a new water intake.

DEQ provides information to public about Construction Storm Water permits

New supermarkets, new stores, industry, subdivisions, houses and public buildings are popping up everywhere in Baton Rouge and around the state. Construction sites dot commercial areas and neighborhoods. What is DEQ's role in new construction? Do developers need any kind of permit from DEQ to begin construction? The answer is yes, often they do. Contractors are required to obtain a construction storm water permit for most types of construction activity. To help the public understand when a permit is needed and what kind, DEQ EnviroSchool scheduled training sessions on Construction Stormwater Permits. Contractors and participants learn what is required and of whom it is required.

In these workshops, Kimberly Corts, environmental scientist in the Water Permits Division, gave presentations in Baton Rouge, the Alexandria area, the Lake Charles area and the New Orleans area. The workshops addressed why the permits are necessary to protect Louisiana's water quality, information on the Clean Water Act and the regulations that apply, who needs permit coverage and included different scenarios to illustrate them. It covered resources, guidelines and illustrated methods of containing stormwater discharge.

4 types of Storm Water General Permits

Storm water associated with industrial activities

Construction of five acres or greater

Construction of less than five acres

Municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4)

Permits have to include a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3), Best Management Practices (BMP) and activities to reduce and/or eliminate the discharge pollutants in storm water.

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Kimberly Corts, DEQ environmental scientist, conducts an EnviroSchool session on storm water permits in Baton Rouge.

Enviroschool is a program instituted by DEQ to provide environmental education and training for communities, businesses and other organizations. The subjects vary and help cut through the complexity of the regulatory process. The training also helps participants understand how the department works, how to get information and the parameters and scope of DEQ's authority and mission. The goal of this program is for the attendees to become informed about the environmental regulatory process and to maintain and improve environmental compliance. All of the workshops are free and open to the public and are held in convenient areas of the state.

The public can register for classes and workshops on the EnviroSchool Web page, where there is a listing of upcoming sessions. To get more information, log in to the EnviroSchool

page at www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroschool. To look over past presentations, go to the EnviroSchool library at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/PROGRAMS/CommunityIndustryRelations/ENVIROLibrary.aspx>.

DeRidder teams up with Beauregard ARC on city recycling program

If you have ever wondered how recycling actually helps the environment, look at the city of DeRidder. DeRidder has partnered with the Beauregard ARC, a national community-based organization serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to impact the environment through recycling. This program benefits not only the community but also provides work for the ARC citizens.

It started with an idea from DeRidder High School junior class President Aisling Carbery-Shaha in 2009. Seeing the need for recycling at the school, she met with the mayor to develop a plan of action. She started a petition at the school, gathered 500 signatures in support of a citywide recycling program and presented the petition to the mayor and city council. The program was approved and the city public works department began handling intake and separation of recyclable materials with the use of a trailer that conducted a pickup route throughout DeRidder. Aisling's team, with assistance from the school's freshman and sophomore student council, went to work physically picking out and sorting aluminum, paper and plastic from school trash bins.

"My mother assisted and personally delivered the recyclables in her car to a recycling center once a week," said Carbery-Shaha.

As community awareness grew, the program's popularity quickly increased. While it benefited the community and the environment, perhaps the best benefit was to the Beauregard ARC, which received a grant from Keep DeRidder Beautiful and took over the contract with the city.

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Inside their warehouse, ARC handles the receiving, sorting and processing of aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines, phone books, cardboard, shopping catalogs, plastic jugs and plastic bottles for the city.

“The city’s recycling program serves to improve the environment while offering the Beauregard ARC citizens an opportunity to make a difference in their community,” said Vanessa Mazyck, supervisor with the Beauregard ARC.

In addition to sorting the materials, Beauregard ARC’s citizens shred office paper in preparation for recycling, gather and stack cardboard for baling and separate plastic and aluminum for sale and pickup by a vendor. While the program has a significant impact on reducing waste in the environment, the work provides the ARC citizens (from Beauregard and Vernon parishes) hands-on job skills with a social outlet that boosts their sense of pride and sharpens their mental and physical capabilities.

The Beauregard ARC also takes in used vegetable cooking oil, which is filtered, heated and processed by a local citizen who uses it as biodiesel to run his government-owned vehicle. This money-saving method serves as alternative fuel while reducing CO2 emissions. Used vegetable oil has proven to be a popular recyclable, with the DeRidder City Council reporting 117 pounds of vegetable oil brought in during 2014 – more than tripling 2013’s total of 39 pounds.

The community interest in recycling has increased dramatically and other schools in the area have placed paper and plastic drop bins in school hallways, which have been provided by Keep DeRidder Beautiful through a grant from Keep Louisiana Beautiful. The DeRidder fire station is also a drop off point for recycling.

And the numbers continue to validate the program’s success. In 2013, 2,450 pounds of aluminum was collected – a figure that increased to 4,239 pounds in 2014. The recycling center also reported collecting more than 845 bales of cardboard and paper during 2013-14.

“The program is really a win-win across the board -- for the environment, the city and the Beauregard ARC as it gives the ARC citizens a much needed work opportunity that provides a vital service for the community as local businesses and residents support the effort through their participation in waste reduction across the parish,” said



Beauregard ARC citizens sort paper and plastic in the warehouse’s receiving bay for recycling.



More than 385 tons of cardboard and paper was collected, sorted and baled by the Beauregard ARC throughout 2013 and 2014.

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Kerri Broussard, clerk for the DeRidder City Council. “In fact, over the last two years, the recycling effort has kept 6,689 pounds of aluminum and more than 385 tons of cardboard and paper out of the landfills.”

Paper is baled and sold to a vendor in Alexandria, and all proceeds go directly into the Beauregard ARC to cover their operational expenses, business functions and social activities. Plastic is also making an impact, with the intake for plastic averaging 19.5 tons every year, keeping it out of the environment. Once packaged, the plastic is taken and recycled by Progressive Waste, based in Leesville.

The DeRidder Recycling program demonstrates how one person with an idea and motivation can make a difference. Aisling Carbery-Shaha’s idea made that difference for the community and the environment.

Citizens may drop off the materials between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Beauregard ARC Recycling Center, 221-B Mahlon St. in DeRidder. Recyclable materials accepted include aluminum, paper, cardboard, plastic and used cooking oil. Computer monitors, electronics, cell phones and used toner cartridges may also be dropped off at the warehouse, where it the material is packaged and shipped to an electronic refurbishing company in Texas for reconfiguration and reuse.

Glass, plastic foam and appliances are not accepted. In order to ensure a product is eligible, officials recommend that consumers purchase products with the recycle symbol.

For more information, contact Kerri Broussard at (337) 462-8900 or send an email to: kbroussard@cityofderidder.org.

Envirothon 2015

Mud and sunshine greeted five Louisiana teams participating in the 2015 Louisiana Envirothon.

It was held March 14 at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens in Baton Rouge. After breakfast and the orientations, the teams, grades 9 through 12, donned rubber boots, smiles and determination as they moved through five outdoor testing stations and then on to the Orangerie building to do their oral presentations. The environmental problem solving competition requires a knowledge of soils, aquatics, forestry and wildlife and the current issue on Urban and Community Forestry.

Participating schools were Baton Rouge Magnet High School; Baton Rouge Magnet High School-Environmental Club; Live Oak High School; Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts-Blue Team; and St. Joseph’s Academy-Team EnviroFun.



All teams that participated in the 2015 Louisiana Envirothon

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The winners of 2015 Louisiana Envirothon are:

- 1st Place: Baton Rouge Magnet High School-Environmental Club
- 2nd Place: Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts - Blue Team
- 3rd Place: Baton Rouge Magnet High School

The highest scores on station tests were:

- Aquatics: Baton Rouge Magnet High School-Environmental Club
- Forestry: Baton Rouge Magnet High School-Environmental Club
- Soils: Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts-Blue Team
- Wildlife: Baton Rouge Magnet High School
- Current Issue-Urban Forestry: Baton Rouge Magnet High School
- Orals: Louisiana School for Math, Science & the Arts-Blue Team

Major sponsors for the Louisiana Envirothon are the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission and the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. Envirothon received support from the Louisiana Science Teachers Association and Friends the LSU College of Engineering, Office for Diversity Programs and Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality partnered with the Acadiana Resource Conservation & Development Council; Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry; Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries; LSU College of Engineering, Office for Diversity Programs; LSU School of Plant, Environmental, & Soil Sciences; LSU Superfund Research Program and Southern University and A&M College – Urban Forestry Program.

For more information on Envirothon, or to enter a team for next year's competition, please visit www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon.



First Place Team
Baton Rouge Magnet High School - Environmental Club



Second Place Team
Louisiana School for Math, Science and Arts - Blue Team



Third Place Team
Baton Rouge Magnet High School



Keep Louisiana Beautiful Leaders Against Litter Press Conference

Litter is an expensive, pervasive and unsightly problem in Louisiana. To help combat litter, Keep Louisiana Beautiful has organized the Leaders Against Litter Program and announced it at a press conference at the Louisiana State Capital Building in March.



Left to right – Susan Russell, Keep Louisiana Beautiful; DWF Secretary Robert Barham; DOC Secretary James LeBlanc; Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne; DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch; DOTD Secretary Sherry LaBas; and Volunteer Louisiana representative Judd Jeasonne

The secretaries from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), Department of Corrections (DOC) and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (DWF), participated in the ceremony along with Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful Director Susan Russell told the crowd “It’s time to take our state back. Litter is preventable. It starts with everyone doing their part. With personal responsibility and behavioral, attitudinal and cultural change - litter can become a thing of the past.”

“It’s a great opportunity to be here today with our partners from across the state to address litter,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. “Our Criminal Investigation Division addresses environmental crimes across the state. We stand with other agencies to make Louisiana a better place for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.”

“We are passionate about ending the terrible plague that is litter in Louisiana. People who visit our state deserve to see the clean Louisiana they expect to see,” said Robert Barham, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

“DOTD spent \$5.8 million dollars last year cleaning up litter on the highways,” said Sherry LaBas, secretary of DOTD. “We strive to keep Louisiana’s roads and highways beautiful and litter free.”

James M. LeBlanc, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Corrections said, “We remove 12,000 garbage bags of litter a month from state highways. If we’re not throwing it out, we don’t have to pick it up.”

After some comments from Judd Jeansonne of Volunteer Louisiana, Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne spoke about the cost to the state and the agencies trying to keep up with litter. He announced the results of the clean up earlier that morning around the state.

“Today: 1,823 cigarette butts picked up, 220 bags of litter picked up, 1,800 volunteer hours logged and 625 pledge signatures collected,” said Dardenne.

The press conference ended with everyone signing the pledge not to litter. Will you sign the pledge?



DEQ's Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program – Part 2 of 3:

New water quality monitoring equipment assists DEQ

Continuing our three-part focus on DEQ's ambient water quality monitoring program, this month we focus on the new equipment that has arrived on the scene – equipment that will enhance the water quality testing process as the department modernizes.

DEQ's water quality mission is authorized through the federal Clean Water Act and reported in DEQ's bi-annual Integrated Report required by that act. Under those guidelines, the water bodies in the state are sampled periodically to ensure that they meet the water quality standards for their designated use: recreational, fish and wildlife propagation, drinking water supply protection and swimming.

The primary device used in the monitoring process has been the Hydrolab MS5 – a highly effective instrument used by DEQ since 2004.

While the MS5 has performed well over the last decade, it is being phased out in favor of the new Hach Hydrolab HL4 – an upgrade to the MS5, consisting of a sonde, an electronic instrument used to measure water quality measurements in the field, with an accompanying digital keypad display.

Tom Killeen, administrator of DEQ's Inspection Division, championed the widespread deployment of the HL4. "Using the same state-of-the-art equipment across our regional offices will enhance the water quality data gathering mission as we keep in step with the latest technology." Seven new HL4s were recently acquired through an EPA grant awarded for a Coastal Louisiana Dissolved Oxygen Study that DEQ's Southeast Regional Office and Bayou Lafourche substation are currently conducting. Two went to the Southeast Regional Office in New Orleans, two to the Bayou Lafourche substation in Lockport, and one each to the Capital Regional Office in Baton Rouge, Acadiana Regional Office in Lafayette and the Northeast Regional Office in Monroe.

Staff Environmental Scientist Jeff Dauzat outlined some key features of the HL4. "The battery compartment was modified to prevent battery leakage and the cable and cable connections were reinforced. An internal barometric pressure component was added, along with protective rubber bumpers since the unit is frequently subjected to wear and tear."

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DEQ Environmental Scientist Eura Dehart lowers an MS5 Hydrolab sonde into Bayou Choctaw for water testing in West Baton Rouge Parish

- The MS5 is a meter equipped with five sensors that read water temperature, salinity, conductivity, acidity, dissolved oxygen and dissolved oxygen percentage in the water.
- After readings are recorded, a water sample is collected and poured into plastic bottles which are labeled.
- Each sample tests for specific parameters – ie., alkalinity, chloride, total dissolved solids, total suspended solids, turbidity, fecal coliform and several other constituents.
- After analysis, additional tests may be required for a given water body and/or further evaluation and coordination with other agencies resulting in a water advisory posting (should a health hazard exist).
- The Hach Hydrolab HL4 is an upgraded device that is replacing the MS5.



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DEQ Environmental Scientist Jeff Dauzat displays the new Hydrolab HL4 sonde and the surveyor HL, which reads the data from the sonde.

Dauzat also noted that the Hydrolab HL4 will allow DEQ teams to employ a more resilient and technologically advanced device in the field that will better respond to repeated use in often rugged environments and changing weather conditions.

“The addition of this new equipment comes at a great time because our MS5 units are in need of replacement. While the MS5 is still the workhorse of the Ambient Water Quality Network and investigation activity, technology has started to advance beyond the MS5’s capabilities.”

DEQ will continue to use the MS5 alongside the HL4 until the HL4s are fully distributed and deployed.

Next month will wrap up the series with a look at how water quality data is evaluated and implemented.





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DEQ On The Move



DEQ Deputy Secretary Alex Appeaning gets up close to a baby Alligator at the Louisiana Environmental Educational Symposium held at the Marriott Hotel in February.



Two classes of fifth and sixth grade math and science students at Copper Mill Elementary School in Zachary were treated to a lesson on water movement by Tiffany Warner and Greg Waldron, environmental scientists at DEQ. The presentation was created to illustrate erosion, hydrosphere, pollutants and the water cycle for Ms. Aimeé Perrodin's classes.

Warner prepared a PowerPoint presentation titled "From the Hydrosphere to Your Yard ... the Movement of Water!" and they demonstrated natural water movement simulated with Walnut Bayou landform model.



Seventeen DEQ volunteers joined West Baton Rouge Parish volunteers for a Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day, on Saturday, March 21. Approximately 100 cars came through the event, and DEQ was able to mix 28 five-gallon buckets of paint to donate to Habitat for Humanity.



Who's Who At DEQ?



Darius Tammami – Office of Environmental Services – Waste Permits Division

Tammami is a native of Baton Rouge. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology and a master of public health degree from Louisiana State University.

Tammami is an Environmental Scientist 2 at DEQ, primarily working with hazardous waste permits.

Pascal Ojong Ntui Ojong -- Office of Environmental Compliance—Air Enforcement Division

Ojong is originally from Cameroon, West Africa, where he received a Bachelors of Science degree in life sciences and majored in microbiology. Ojong lived Sweden for four years and graduated from Linköping University Sweden with a master's degree in environmental sciences, with emphasis on biogas production from organic waste.

Ojong joined DEQ as an Environmental Scientist 2 in December 2014.





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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Fourth Quarter Summaries

4th Quarter 2014 Enforcement Actions:

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

4th Quarter 2014 Settlement Agreements:

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

4th Quarter 2014 Air Permits:

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

4th Quarter 2014 Water Permits:

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

4th Quarter 2014 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

