



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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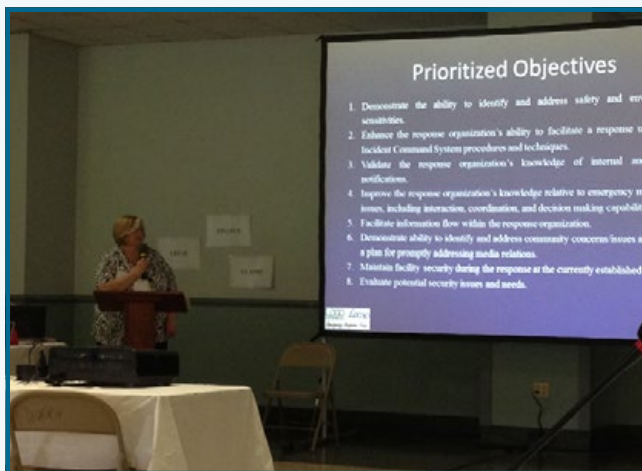
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DEQ participates in 2015 Louisiana Offshore Oil Port drill

On June 17, personnel from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, along with representatives from various environmental response companies, as well as local, state and federal agencies, gathered at the St. James Parish Reception Hall in Vacherie to participate in an oil spill drill conducted by the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP).



Cindy Gardner-LeBlanc with LOOP LLC provided introductions and a safety briefing at the start of the exercise.

LOOP LLC is a Louisiana-based company tasked with ensuring the safe offloading of foreign crude oil from tankers, proper storage of the oil and the subsequent transportation of the oil through connecting pipelines to refineries throughout the Gulf Coast and Midwest. As a component of their mission, LOOP holds an annual drill designed to bring multiple agencies and resources together as a way to test LOOP's responsiveness in the event of a sudden oil spill-related incident.

This year's exercise centered on a scenario accompanied by three "moves" or actions that the participating agencies and companies were required to address. The scenario involved the breach of an oil tank due to an accident caused by a construction worker while operating equipment. The worker was injured in the process, so a fast, coordinated emergency response capability was needed from both a medical and an environmental standpoint. The announcement of rain and high winds soon became a factor in the response, as participants communicated containment strategies with each other while benzene, hydrogen sulfide and the smell of sulfur quickly filled the air.

All the participants worked throughout the day to address the event as they marshaled resources to assess and treat the injured worker, secure the release and conduct environmental testing. Participants also pooled their capabilities to protect the environment, ensure personnel safety and provide the media and public with accurate information as events unfolded.

In addition to DEQ public information and emergency response personnel, participants included representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, the Louisiana

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Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Louisiana Offshore Terminal Authority, Port Fourchon Harbor Police, the Louisiana State Fire Marshal, Louisiana State Police, St. James Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness, the Greater Lafourche Port Commission and officials from other agencies and organizations.

All participating parties worked in conjunction to review and assess status reports in order to prepare a unified response. The focus of the exercise was for participating parties to communicate with each other and make quick, sound decisions that would minimize the environmental impact by containing the oil spill while addressing any potential health and safety issues.

In the wake of the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon platform oil spill that occurred in the Gulf of Mexico, drills such as these are important as precautionary and pre-planning measures for quickly gathering the state's environmental protection resources and initiating a comprehensive response plan in anticipation of a real event.

"We live in an area where this kind of emergency can occur at any time. The LOOP drill is invaluable training for that day when a real event happens," said DEQ Press Secretary Greg Langley.

DEQ participated in media briefings throughout the exercise, with participating parties exchanging status reports and sharing ideas on how to quickly and safely address the ever-changing scenarios and obstacles that came into play. This culminated in an on-camera mock press conference where agency spokesmen fielded questions related to the response.

The exercise concluded with comments from each participating section, with particular focus on the strengths and weaknesses



LOOP Public Information Officer Terry Coleman (left) and DEQ Press Secretary Greg Langley answer questions during a recorded interview.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful Asks: 'Do You Know an Everyday Hero?'

What is an everyday hero? How would you know one? For Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) it is groups or individuals whose efforts, large and small, help keep our state beautiful. KLB is asking the public for nominations for the seven Everyday Hero Awards to be presented at the state conference to be held in Lafayette in October. You can find an everyday hero anywhere. It can be a public servant who goes above and beyond their duties or a group of kids who decide to clean up their neighborhood. It could be a business that focuses on reuse and recycling for litter prevention or someone that shows leadership in efforts to keep our state beautiful. It is the hero that helps fight the blight of litter in our communities and state. Nonprofits, KLB affiliates, businesses, professional groups, governmental agencies, civic and community organizations, schools, churches and individuals are eligible to be nominated, and nominations are open to the public.

Everyday Hero Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- Alice Foster Award – An individual volunteer with exceptional leadership in litter prevention, waste reduction, recycling and beautification.

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- Golden Can Award – A public servant who displays a deep commitment to KLB’s mission in their daily work by going above and beyond the call of duty.
- Most Innovative Program – A successful beautification, litter prevention or waste reduction program led by a school, civic group, nonprofit or KLB affiliate.
- Youth Award – A student or youth-led group that displays creative thinking, demonstrates effective leadership, engages peer participation and makes a significant impact on their community.
- Outstanding Affiliate – A KLB affiliate that shows fortitude, leadership, creative, diverse programming and community engagement.
- Outstanding Affiliate Director – A KLB affiliate director who demonstrates exceptional dedication to KLB’s mission and leadership in building a strong and sustainable organization.
- Corporate Leadership Award – A business that exhibits a consistent dedication to KLB’s mission, environmental stewardship and community enrichment.

So keep your eyes open and take the time to nominate. To nominate a deserving Everyday Hero, visit www.keeplouisianabeautiful.org for the application and instructions. Nominations will be taken until Sept. 10.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful, Inc. is the state’s anti-litter and community improvement organization focused on education, enforcement, awareness and cleanups. Affiliated with Keep America Beautiful, Keep Louisiana Beautiful’s mission is to promote personal, corporate and community responsibility for a clean and beautiful Louisiana.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful comprises a network of 39 affiliates and 23,000 volunteers in communities throughout the state. For more information, visit www.keeplouisianabeautiful.org.

Air quality awareness important during Louisiana’s sunny summer days

In Louisiana we have square days – 90 degrees and 90 percent humidity. Why is it important to know how air quality is daily? Because our square days, hot sun and little breeze, can cause the ozone levels to rise to unhealthy ranges.

Elevated ozone levels can be unhealthy for sensitive groups – those with respiratory problems, illness, the elderly and children. While in Louisiana, we can have ozone exceedances other times of the year, they are most prevalent during the summer. May through September is considered ozone season and those are our hottest, sunniest months.

EnviroFlash, DEQ’s automatic air notification system, can keep you in the know about air quality daily or as needed. EnviroFlash is a free statewide system to which citizens can subscribe. It sends out notification about air quality daily. Another advantage to signing up for EnviroFlash is that if there is a fire or some other event that causes air pollution in the state, you will receive an email if it affects your parish.

To sign up for EnviroFlash go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2880/Default.aspx. For all air quality information, go to the My Air Quality button on the website at www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/PROGRAMS/Air.aspx.



AIR QUALITY INDEX

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern
0 to 50	Good
51-100	Moderate
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
151-200	Unhealthy
201-300	Very Unhealthy
301 to 500	Hazardous



LSU scientists have sweet dreams of alternative fuel

The future of alternative fuels may be hiding in a sugar cane field south of Baton Rouge. That's where the LSU Ag Center is carrying out an AfriCap grant under NIFA, the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The effort is part of a project called the Sustainable Bioproducts Initiative (SUBI) that involves a team of university and industry partners led by the LSU AgCenter.

The USDA gave seven grants across the U.S., focusing on crops that can be processed into biofuels, such as switchgrass and other grasses and trees like pine trees and eucalyptus. Here in the Deep South (northern Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana) there was an obvious crop choice – sugar cane. The USDA gave the region the largest of the grants, \$17.2 million in 2010, and the five-year initiative began in 2011.

Working out of the Audubon Sugar Institute, Donal Day, A. Wilbert & Sons Endowed Professor, is helping direct the research to use a new variety of sugar-producing cane to produce an alternative fuel, butanol.



DEQ senior scientist Yasoob Zia, left, DEQ press secretary Greg Langley and LSU agriculture professor Donal Day, look over equipment in the pilot plant for SUBI program at the Audubon Sugar Institute in St. Gabriel.

"They targeted us for two crops. One is energycane. Energycane is nothing more than a high-fiber, low-sugar variety of sugarcane. And the other is sorghum. We chose those two crops for a variety of reasons. First off, they are fairly similar in structure, so we could use the same kind of harvesting type of operation. They both contain sugar juice, which given 200 years of experience in Louisiana on getting juices out of plants, we can do that. And thirdly, at least in the case of energycane, it's with a high biomass product," Day said.

There was one caveat. The crop had to be produced on lands that are not used in food production. The idea, Day said, was to avoid the food versus fuel debate that rages around ethanol derived from corn.

"We have to have a crop that will do well in areas that are not very profitable agriculturally."

A lot of land that fits the criteria is in areas outside the sugar cane belt, particularly in north Louisiana. Researchers had to find a way to get sugar-producing cane to grow in colder areas. Science came to the rescue. Using wild relatives of commercial sugar cane, scientists were able to isolate the genes that allow the wild grasses to grow in colder places. Inserting those genes into commercial sugar cane breeds allowed them to hybridize a new crop that is both a good sugar producer and resistant to frost. It is called energycane.

"Gasoline is cheap. Whatever we do has got to match that market or it is not going to survive. We picked two crops: sweet sorghum – we know we can get that July through September, annual crop, not a problem; and energycane which is a perennial. We planned on doing this (energy cane) August through March and then fill in the gap, there's about a 3-month gap, with sorghum. The other kicker is, whatever we do, it can't impact the current crop. We can't move this stuff down into the sugar cane region," Day said.

So far, Day said, the project has shown that the energycane is a star performer, returning high yields of biomass and fermentable juices while growing much faster than traditional sugar cane, even in north Louisiana locations like the test plot in Winnsboro. In fact, it grows so fast that it out competes weeds and nuisance grasses and doesn't require herbicides to increase production.

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“When we first started, we were handling it like normal sugar cane, with herbicides and pesticides and all that sort of thing. By the time we got up to the first point to do it (apply herbicides) up in Winnsboro, we found we couldn’t do it because the stuff had grown so fast we couldn’t get the tractors in anymore. It was too tall. We made lemonade out of lemons. We said ‘let’s see how it does without herbicides and pesticides. It grew very well.

The project includes a pilot plant at the Sugar Institute where a scaled-down version of a sugar mill is used to make butanol from the crops’ component sugars through microbial fermentation with the *Clostridium* bacterium. Sugarcane molasses normally is used as the feedstock for butanol fermentations. Sugarcane molasses contains sucrose, fructose and glucose. The test crops produce syrups containing the same sugars. The biomass can be converted to glucose and xylose, a sugar also used by this organism. These biomass crops may offer a new way to produce butanol as a biofuel. It has a high energy content, lower than gasoline but much higher than ethanol; it has a lower vapor pressure which means lower volatility and evaporative emissions; it creates jobs in the U.S.; it reduces carbon emissions by balancing carbon dioxide captured by growing feed stocks with carbon dioxide released by burning butanol.

Day says butanol can be transported by pipelines, another element already in place in Louisiana. And the byproducts of the processing energycane and sorghum with this process are also valuable, Day said. “We get out of this biomass and sugar syrup. That’s simple sugar processing. You can currently sell bagasse (crushed cane leftover after juice is extracted) for about \$65 a ton. If you can use the biomass, that ups the value. Also falling out of it is aconitic acid,” he said. That last thing, the aconitic acid, has an unusual application.

“It falls out of our process – it’s essentially a throw-away material for us. What we are doing is making biodegradable plastic with it. We are looking at designing plastics that work in 3D printers. I don’t want to be a 3D printer guru, I just want to sell them plastic,” Day said. “A 3D printer works essentially like a glue gun. It melts the plastic which then hardens again. We have made a range of products.”



LSU Researcher Michael David Vincent stands next to the 3D printer he uses to produce plastic products.

Day is feeling hopeful that the two-crop system and the products from it can be established in Louisiana and other parts of the Deep South.

“We’ve got how to grow it. What we don’t have is someone to put some money in and build the first processing plant. The first plant is the hardest. The second is not a problem.”

If the idea catches on with growers and gets a processing plant, it might lead to blended fuels at the gas pump that are made with butanol from crops grown on Louisiana farms. And that would be a sweet deal.



LSU researcher Michael David Vincent holds a form for a human heart. The form was made on a 3D-printer of plastic produced from byproducts of the energycane/sorghum to butanol process at the Audubon Sugar Institute. The plastic is biodegradable, and once it is seeded with stem cells, tissue grows around the form. The form then degrades and disappears, leaving a human heart.



Radiation drills require DEQ to play many roles

Radiological Emergency drills, held by Entergy, are a regular part of DEQ's mission to protect human health and the environment. DEQ staff gets valuable training in the drills. Nuclear accidents and/or security threats are simulated in the exercises. Joining DEQ in the drill are the utility, other state agencies, and parish and local officials. The drills are held at three nuclear reactor sites: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station near Port Gibson, Miss.; River Bend Station in St. Francisville; and Waterford 3 in St. Charles Parish. Entergy operates all three.

On May 20, DEQ participated in a hostile action based drill at the Waterford 3 Electric Steam Station, with agency teams deploying to St. Charles Parish, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness in Baton Rouge, and New Orleans.

Quick and correct response is essential in an emergency so thorough training is required. Radiation release drills and hostile action drills involve DEQ employees in different areas to respond in a quick and efficient manner. Getting valid information to the public about weather conditions, plant status, as well as radiation readings is of utmost importance. A typical drill involves a scenario, usually an incident at the utility's reactor site or immediate surrounding area. It may involve an upset or breakdown in critical reactor processes or a hostile action/outside threat.

Upon receiving the emergency notification from the utility, the Headquarters Operations Officer (HOO) at DEQ headquarters manages the entire DEQ response function. The HOO is charged with overseeing staff, transportation, equipment and radio communications. The HOO ensures that the DEQ response team is notified of the current facility status and has received and understood all emergency notifications. The HOO turns over the overall management of the response to the Senior EOF Liaison (SEL) once the DEQ's response team arrives at and becomes operational at the nuclear power plant's Emergency Operations Facility (EOF).

The event mobilizes the DEQ emergency response team. Each member has a unique and critical role to play in building an effective response to the emergency. The HOO begins communicating with outside federal agencies, such as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (who may be needed to provide Louisiana with additional assistance). A Field Team Coordinator is assigned to check site maps with wind direction of a monitored or suspected release (plume). The coordinator then deploys field teams to the safest, most optimal locations for gathering air samples. At least two field teams of environmental scientists deploy to their respective prearranged locations near the projected plume. Once the edge of the plume is located, teams are staged, put on personal protective gear and begin gathering air monitoring samples.

Radiological sampling and survey data from the field teams will be conveyed to DEQ's Dose Assessment Team. To get an overall picture of the incident, Dose Assessment Team members, located in the Emergency Operations Facility (EOF), enter the data into a computer system known as the Radiological Emergency Dose Assessment Model (REDAM). A second team member enters the radiological survey data from the plant into the Radiological Assessment System for Consequence Analysis (RASCAL). The data in REDAM and RASCAL is provided by the field team's air monitoring data and the utility's emergency notification data on plant conditions. The utility's data consists of current wind direction, wind speed, affected grid

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From left, DEQ environmental scientists Jim Pate, Daniel Lambert and Tim Butler review emergency planning zone maps at the start of a drill.



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coordinates/map sectors, weather conditions, radiological release data, and other plant information.

The Accident Assessment Coordinator reviews and evaluates radiological data. The coordinator communicates the information to the Senior EOF Liaison (SEL) who presents the data to and confers with his utility counterpart. They develop a Protective Action Recommendation (PAR). It consists of recommendations for the public such as to shelter-in-place or to evacuate the residential and commercial areas that may be affected. If it is necessary, the PAR may contain a recommendation for only emergency workers to receive KI (Potassium Iodide.) The KI protects the workers against radioactive iodine released by the plant. The DEQ Secretary Designee, senior DEQ official at the state's EOC in Baton Rouge, has final approval of the PAR. When the PAR is issued, the affected parishes can accept the recommendations or issue their own protective action decision.

During the drill, data is collected and vetted at each level. The Accident Assessment Team works closely with the Dose Assessment Team to ensure that the facility's reported status and field team data is accurate and reported in a timely fashion. The Senior EOF Liaison coordinates DEQ's response to ensure that protective action protocols are implemented. The SEL communicates pertinent information to the Public Information Officer (PIO), as the PIO serves as DEQ spokesman in the Joint Information Center and presents updated information to the media at press conferences.

DEQ staff participates in all phases of the drills so that they are prepared to handle an emergency situation. Some drills are graded by FEMA and/or the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.



DEQ Environmental Scientist Russell Clark, serving as the Senior EOF Liaison, reviews the emergency response protocol during the Waterford-3 drill.

Air Pollution Control Technology forum held at DEQ Headquarters

On Tuesday, June 16, the Institute of Clean Air Companies presented an Air Pollution Control Technology forum at DEQ Headquarters.

The forum covered a variety of topics related to air pollution control, such as combustion, efficiency and heat rate improvement, and a steam plant overview that included emissions control of pollutants such as NO_x, acid gas, particulate matter and others.

More than 45 DEQ employees and guests from other companies and agencies were in attendance.

Annette Sharp of DEQ served as moderator and provided introductions, followed by an opening presentation by Doug Austin



Annette Sharp with DEQ provides introductions at the beginning of the session.

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of the Institute of Clean Air Companies. According to Austin, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency mandated that 95 percent of pollutants must be destroyed prior to their release. As a major approach to achieve that goal, EPA is calling on states to reduce greenhouse gases – mostly through operational adjustments in coal plants.

“States will have to come up with reductions in their state implementation plans in order to address EPA’s proposals,” Austin said.

Seven speakers provided detailed information about air pollution reduction technologies currently implemented at their respective facilities. Companies at the forum included Riley Power, Inc.; Babcock & Wilcox; Albemarle; Mississippi Lime; The Durr Group; Epcor Industrial Systems, LP; and Koch Knight, LLC.

The use of processes to break down and remove harmful chemicals before they are emitted into the air was discussed. Specific topics included: methane abatement technologies, volatile organic compound abatement methods, flue gas desulfurization processes, methane oxidation through regenerative thermal oxidizers (RTOs), oil and gas emission control methodologies and greenhouse gas controls.

Presentations described various types of scrubbers, catalytic controls, turbines, condensers, coal plant processes and thermal oxidizing components that facilities use. These processes control odors while reducing harmful chemical emissions. Particular attention was given to technology’s capabilities in the breakdown and/or destruction of hazardous chemicals.

The pluses and minuses of these technologies were discussed, with erosion, internal leakage, degradation, temperature upsets and circulating water flow problems named as some of the major causes of improper operation. Facilities facing those types of issues will need to identify the root causes and correct them in order to achieve an efficient emissions control process.

A question-and-answer session wrapped up the session, and attendees departed with a better working knowledge of how

DEQ staff help out at the LRWA Conference

Every year, the Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA) holds an annual conference and training session. This year it was in mid-July at the Lake Charles Conference Center. The technical classes and exams for certification are for wastewater and water treatment plant operators.

DEQ personnel played a part by presenting technical classes and exhibits. Ryan Brignac, Maureen Kennedy and Mike Daniels of Criminal Investigation Division talked about environmental crimes. Kathy Huddle with the Enforcement gave a presentation on electronic reporting, using NetDMR and common errors. Jessie Means of the Drinking Water Protection Team told the participants about aquifer sampling and assessment. Wayne Slater, DEQ water enforcement, gave two presentations: one on spill prevention and control plans (SPCC) and the other on “SPCC and SPC Plans – What is the difference?” Ronda Burtch, senior environmental scientist in water permits talked about “Sewage Sludge and Biosolids, Use or Disposal Permits.” Chris Simms and Keith Horn environmental scientists, talked about “Waste Sampling Protocols,” and Mike Han, environmental scientist, spoke to the group about “Annual Solid Waste Certification Compliance.”

DEQ also proctored classes and exhibited. The DEQ booth featured both the Drinking Water Protection Program and the Small Business Assistance group. The Exhibition Hall



Ned Richard with the Southwest Regional Office and Mary Gentry, Drinking Water Protection Team member, man the DEQ booth and the LRWA Conference in Lake Charles.



was sold out with 135 tickets and over 1,000 people in attendance.

DEQ's Criminal Investigation Division participates in Environmental Law Enforcement Training Workshop

More than 70 people took advantage of a unique opportunity to hear from federal, state and local law enforcement regarding environmental crimes and environmental laws at an Environmental Law Enforcement Training Workshop held at the St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers in Mandeville. Speakers provided important information on the laws and consequences pertaining to illegal dumping and burning, water pollution, littering and air pollution.

The free event was open to the public. Attendees included law enforcement officials, justices of the peace, constables, state and city prosecutors, elected and appointed officials, members of the regulatory community, environmental managers, code enforcement officers, public works directors and sanitarians as well as members of the general public.

The workshop was part of a series sponsored by Keep Louisiana Beautiful with partnering agencies, including the EPA's Criminal Investigation Division, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Enforcement Division and DEQ's Criminal Investigation Division.

Mike Daniels, Attorney with DEQ's Criminal Investigation Division, served as the emcee. "The event provides a forum for public officials, law enforcement officers and the public to learn more about environmental laws and to see case examples of the environmental crimes we encounter here in Louisiana," Daniels said. "We'd like to thank St. Tammany Parish President Pat Brister, Keep Louisiana Beautiful, the EPA CID, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and St. Tammany Constable Rick Moore for their input and assistance."

Daniels mentioned DEQ's Electronic Management Data System, or EDMS, portal on the DEQ website as an excellent tool for the public to track civil records for a given a site or event.

St. Tammany Parish President Pat Brister provided opening remarks. Capt. James Gomillion, an enforcement officer with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, followed, explaining the litter complaint form and the procedures to the attendees. Gomillion said citizens are starting to become more engaged in watchdog efforts and reporting litter and illegal dumping activity to law enforcement. He provided the litter hotline, 1-888-548-7284, along with information on LDWF's new mobile app, called "LDWF TIPS," where citizens may report a complaint on their smart phone, which then initiates real-time communication with a representative.

Jeffrey Nolan, manager with DEQ-CID, provided an overview of some of the recent cases involving illegal dumping crimes. He gave some examples of illegal dumping, along with scenarios showing that illegal dumping is an inherent societal habit that must be changed. A cleaned up site can often become the target of illegal dumping again -- "illegal dumping attracts more illegal dumping," Nolan said. Nolan also used the example of rural residents who use roofing shingles along their property in erosion control efforts -- a practice that is classified as illegal disposal of waste materials.



DEQ-CID Manager Jeffrey Nolan, left, and DEQ-CID Attorney Mike Daniels present an overview of recent environmental criminal cases.

Fisheries' Enforcement Division and DEQ's Criminal

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Brett Spiers, Special Agent in Charge with EPA-CID, gave a synopsis of a few of the more high profile environmental crime cases where defendants were investigated, identified, found guilty and subsequently hit with multi-million dollar fines.

Remarks about litter were provided by Susan Russell, executive director of Keep Louisiana Beautiful. Russell noted that 74 percent of litter can be prevented just by using trash cans and trash bags in your car. But enforcement ultimately has to take place.

“Enforcement is a very important piece of the puzzle to clean up litter in Louisiana,” she said. “This workshop is bringing together people with authority, interest and that are invested in environmental law. We explain the roles and responsibilities of the state agencies like DEQ and WLF in enforcing litter laws. It is a call to action for the grass roots local folks.”

Statute	Classification	Description	Medium	Penalty	Term
La. R.S. 30:2025(F)(1)(a)	Felony	Knowingly discharging a substance in contravention of the regulations that could harm human health	All	\$1,000,000 + \$100,000	10 years
La. R.S. 30:2025(F)(2)(a)	Misdemeanor	Knowingly discharging a substance in contravention of the regulations that does not harm human health	All	\$25,000	1 year
La. R.S. 30:2076.2(B)	Felony	Knowingly violating the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	Water	\$5,000 - \$50,000	3 years
La. R.S. 30:2076.2(A)	Misdemeanor	Negligently violating the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	Water	\$2,500 - \$25,000	1 year

The course material includes a survey of Louisiana laws and regulations that are applicable to littering offenses.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful affiliates from Tammany and Tangipahoa Parish attended.

Litter courts, implemented in St. Tammany Parish and in other areas of Louisiana, have proven to be successful in cracking down on litter. In St. Tammany Parish, Constables identify and issue summonses to litterers and justices of the peace run the courts. This takes litter offenses out of the court system. Rick Moore, St. Tammany constable and Solid Waste/Litter Enforcement Officer, gave the participants an overview of how the court works.

Alleged litterers are summonsed to litter court and are offered the chance to plead their case much like the procedures of a traffic court. To encourage offenders to be part of the solution and comply with the litter ordinances, they are fined and ordered to participate in cleanup work crews. With anti-litter warning signs posted and litter ordinances enforced throughout the parish, litter courts have saved the parish thousands of dollars. The court takes aim at reducing litter through a legal process that actually “has some teeth” and brings the offending parties to justice. St. Tammany hopes their litter abatement concept can be implemented across the other parishes in the state, as it has been a proven success story that has gained both aesthetic and monetary results.

Two more Environmental Enforcement Training workshops are tentatively scheduled to take place Oct. 14 in Rapides Parish, targeting Rapides, Grant and Avoyelles parishes and on March 23, 2016 at DEQ headquarters in Baton Rouge, targeting East Baton Rouge, Livingston, East Feliciana and West Feliciana parishes.

Funding for the workshops is from community service payments directed to KLB by the East Baton Rouge District Attorney’s office as a result of a joint EPA-CID and DEQ-CID investigation. The goal is to spread the word across communities and ultimately get everyone proactively engaged in reporting environmental crimes to the authorities.

For more information on how to sign up for a future workshop or to request a workshop in your parish, please contact Susan Russell with KLB at srussell@keeplouisianabeautiful.org or Mike Daniels with DEQ-CID at mike.daniels@la.gov.

More information on the St. Tammany Litter Courts and Litter Abatement program can be found at: <http://www.stpgov.org/litter>.



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Who's Who At DEQ?

John Sheehan- Office of Environmental Services – Environmental Scientist Staff

Sheehan graduated from LSU in 1990 with a degree in geography. After graduation, he started working for DEQ in the Water Quality Management Division. He assisted with applying Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology in the Standards and Assessment Section. Since that time, he has worked in the GIS section of the Information Services Division, primarily working on Nonpoint Source Pollution Program (NPS) projects. Sheehan is now an environmental scientist staff with the Municipal, Biosolids and Water Quality Section of the Water Permits Division.



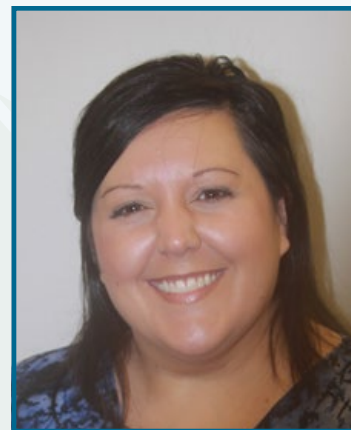
Jackie Marve, Legal Counsel & Special Projects Manager --- Office of Environmental Compliance

Marve graduated from Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Received Juris Doctor degree from Southern University Law Center. Prior to coming to the Office of Environmental Compliance, she worked in the Legal Division of DEQ in various capacities; including, staff attorney, Attorney Supervisor, Deputy General Counsel and Regional Attorney.

Crystal Accardo, Environmental Program Analyst I

Accardo graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science in general studies with minors in history, psychology and sociology. She began working at DEQ in July as an environmental program analyst in the Accounts Receivable Section of the Financial Services Division.

Accardo was born and raised in Baton Rouge. She has one older sister and is very proud of her Italian family heritage. Her father has earned a Purple Heart during the Vietnam War, and she serves as parliamentarian of the Ladies Auxiliary Military Order of the Purple Heart for Baton Rouge Chapter 177. She is an LSU sports fan who bleeds purple and gold.





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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's 3rd Quarter Summaries

3rd Quarter 2015 Enforcement Actions:

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

3rd Quarter 2015 Settlement Agreements:

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

3rd Quarter 2015 Air Permits:

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

3rd Quarter 2015 Water Permits:

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

3rd Quarter 2015 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

