



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



December 2015 Issue Number: 47

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DEQ oversees soil sampling remediation in Lafayette

DEQ's Remediation Division is tasked with overseeing the proper cleanup of sites with potentially harmful constituents in the soil. This is part of the mission to protect human health and the environment.

One such site, located along West Pinhook Road in Lafayette, has been a historic location for diesel and oil discharges since the late 1950s. In the '50s, the site was an oilfield drilling tool rental service business that also operated a pipe yard next to the property.

Environmental regulations were not as stringent then, and regulatory enforcement and oversight of such businesses were not as careful. It was not until the 1970s when the Clean Water Act and additional federal environmental regulations came to fruition that regulatory enforcement became more important.

Over time, there was an accumulation of nearly five decades of soil contamination at the West Pinhook site.



The nearly four acre site in Lafayette is undergoing soil sampling and removal of non-hazardous materials. Non-degraded dirt (from the pile in the background) will cover the area once soil tests show the site meets RECAP standards.

The West Pinhook site's history is fairly typical of many that DEQ investigates. Like many others, the site went through a series of owners and operators, selling and reselling the property. While companies change names and owners, the degradation in the soil remains and is inherited by the next business. In the mid-1990s, a new owner acquired the location and with that, inherited a series of remediation efforts to address the hazardous and non-hazardous waste on site. In late 2014, they ceased operations and sent in contractors to sample the soil, remove any contaminated soil and provide their sampling results to DEQ. As DEQ reviews those samples for constituents of concern, each area on the property is granted approval by DEQ for a site refill plan – once an area's constituents have been removed. At that point, the contractors will replace those formerly impaired areas with non-degraded soil.

DEQ's Risk Evaluation/Corrective Action Program (RECAP) regulation establishes the department's minimum remediation standards for past and present uncontrolled

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Environmental Scientist Jane Hebert from DEQ's Acadiana Regional Office identifies orange flags that denote soil sampling spots at the remediation site.



A sump from the interior of the main building has been removed, as the site undergoes excavation and sampling for constituents.

constituent releases. RECAP is a consistent decision-making process for the assessment and response to environmental contamination based on the protection of human health and the environment.

Under RECAP, site evaluation is based on the comparison of an acceptable level of constituent concentration against the constituent concentration shown in the sampling results at the site. The RECAP regulations describe how the acceptable constituent concentration will be defined and how it will be used to make site management decisions.

The process is highly technical and involves evaluation activity that takes into account the specific area of interest where soil and/or groundwater may be negatively impacted. The impaired soil and/or groundwater is evaluated through a series of ongoing sampling events, followed by extraction of the impaired soil or groundwater until the sampling data reaches the acceptable RECAP standard that applies to the location in question. The contaminated soil or water is collected for subsequent disposal via approved means, such as disposal at an approved landfill. Once the standard is met through favorable, consistent sampling results, unimpaired soil will be added to replace the contaminated/extracted soil and the site will be deemed to be in compliance and ready for reuse.

RECAP is often used as a shorthand term for a set of standards that pertain to the present constituents at a given site. While the science and the process behind establishing a site as ready for reuse is complex one, generally speaking, it works like this: For example, if X amount of barium is found in a specific plot of soil, the RECAP standards will state that the barium count must be at or below a certain standard. The soil containing the barium is removed and sampling results continue. Once soil results show (with consistency over several sampling events), that the plot is at or below the standard for barium, then that plot is deemed to be in compliance. At that point, the area may be filled with non-degraded soil and returned to a condition of reuse.

Contractors hired by the responsible party have removed two oil/water separators and a sump, in addition to excavating large areas of soil in the former pipe prep area. DEQ oversaw an interim corrective action, as chromium, barium, arsenic and total petroleum hydrocarbons (diesel and oil) had been discovered in the soil at the site.

“DEQ is overseeing interim corrective action being done by the contractor to ensure they follow the proper procedures for remediation,” said Jane Hebert, an environmental scientist based in DEQ’s Acadiana Regional Office in Lafayette. “The contamination mostly involves historic releases to the property that took place over the years.”

As of late October, the remediation work has been completed, with a “no further action” determination for the site. This deems the site to be in compliance and ready for reuse.



HAZWOPER class certifies DEQ personnel for situations where hazardous waste is present

In order to legally step onto a hazardous waste site, one must be trained and certified in HAZWOPER – an acronym for the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response designation that is a federally recognized standard under the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

DEQ staff whose jobs require working those kinds of incidents are required to take and keep current HAZWOPER training. Recently, 11 DEQ employees attended the three-day class, held in the Galvez Building at DEQ headquarters in Baton Rouge. Two additional students attended only the first day of the session in order to complete their 8-hour HAZWOPER annual re-certification requirement.

The class provided a 24-hour certification, which is geared toward personnel who would make hazardous waste site visits less than 30 days in a 12-month period. It is also for those who have taken the 40-hour HAZWOPER course but allowed their credentials to expire. Those who are in the field for more than 30 days a year are required to take the 40-hour course.

The course content consisted of a mix of instructional videos, discussions, quizzes, group question-and-answer exercises, hands-on equipment checks and practical drills on the use of the guidebooks in order to gather and verify information.

The instruction was varied, touching on the components of a Safety Data Sheet (formerly known as the Material Safety Data Sheet), the importance of an Emergency Response Plan and an overview on the current OSHA regulations.

A key point of the instruction was how to identify and safely secure a site when a chemical is either known or unknown to the responder. Several scenarios were provided. Class members had to work in teams to identify the chemical in the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) guide. They cross checked that chemical in the Emergency Response Guidebook and compiled accurate information quickly in order to determine the applicable isolation and/or evacuation zone. Since the scenarios involved large spills where a fire was present, the class had to note the recommended evacuation/isolation zone, the suggested respiratory/safety equipment and the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) – or the amount of exposure one can safely receive per OSHA guidelines in an 8-hour day.

The exercise was important, as responders need to be able to locate the current guidelines applicable for a given chemical. Guidelines tend to fluctuate and, “Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) have been reduced as NIOSH and OSHA continually re-evaluate chemicals,” Pate said. “Permit writers also need to keep up with the current PELs as there may be periodic changes.”

Finally, the exercise included instruction on finding the IDLH, or the Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health level. This is defined by NIOSH as the airborne contaminant exposure that is likely to cause death or permanent adverse health effects or would prevent an escape from such an environment. An example of the IDLH would be the level of exposure of a chemical at

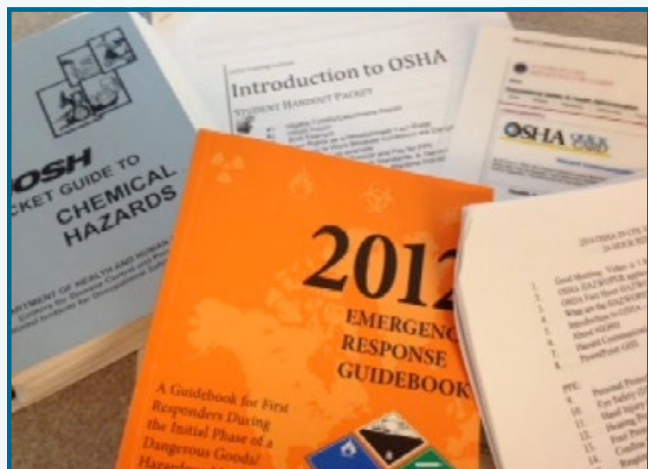


During the three-day course, DEQ Environmental Scientist James Pate provided instruction on radiation detection, chemical identification, OSHA regulations, safety procedures and general hazardous waste operations.

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which a human would be in critical, life-threatening danger -- i.e., a 10 parts per million dose of a certain substance in an hour's time could mean imminent death (with 10 ppm as the IDLH for that substance).



An Introduction to OSHA, the NIOSH guide to chemical hazards and the Emergency Response Guidebook for First Responders were some of the materials distributed to the class.

Since there are certain common constituents that emergency responders in Louisiana may come into contact with, videos were shown depicting the properties and health hazards associated with benzene, hydrogen sulfide and silica, along with other common chemicals. Much of that tied into the identification and basic configurations of various petroleum storage tanks, understanding the Hazard Communication Standard in identification of pictograms (diagrams that depict a specific safety hazard) and decontamination procedures.

Pate emphasized the importance of being aware of your surroundings in the workplace, noting the number of injuries and deaths that occur each year due to situations that can be preventable. "More than 4,000 workers were killed last year due to safety lapses, so it is important to do your work intelligently and not haphazardly," Pate said.

Continuing the safety theme, Pate provided videos and discussions on the indicators of heat stress, defensive driving, silica safety awareness, the importance of cleaning up spills, proper use

of personal protective equipment (PPE) and how to avoid slips, trips and falls. Identification and proper operation of fire extinguishers, being aware of bloodborne pathogens, and recovery operations and protocols in the aftermath of hurricanes and storms were also covered.

Attendees completing the class attained a 24-hour HAZWOPER certification card, which denoted that the holder has been informed on occupational safety and general education in hazardous waste functions and operations. Continuing education is important, as those graduates will need to complete an 8-hour refresher course before their certification expires next year.

University of New Orleans promotes on-campus recycling initiative

Student at the University of New Orleans are tackling recycling and it is working. The Office of Student Involvement and Leadership is promoting and overseeing a new and comprehensive on-campus recycling program. Launched in the spring of 2012, the program is a collaborative effort between the Student Government Association (SGA) and UNO's Service Coalition. The recycling program falls under the Service Coalition, a student organization that consists of six students who serve as executive members with the task of implementing and participating in service projects such as Earth Day, Habitat for Humanity, the Special Olympics, campus beautification day and a variety of community outreach events.

The recycling initiative began when concerned students and campus organizations teamed up to form a student-led recycling program that would reach across the campus with a presence in each building. The initiative gained momentum after a bill was presented and passed through the SGA that allowed for three dumpsters to be placed on campus with recycling bins/cans and bags paid for through SGA funding, which also covers the cost of the monthly dumpster pickups (provided by Republic Services/BFI Waste Services). As of Dec. 1, there are 18 wheeled plastic cans and three cardboard bins inside the University Center and in the academic buildings across the UNO Lakefront campus.

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UNO Recycling Coordinator David Toledano stands next to one of 18 wheeled bins that are distributed across the campus.

Each semester, the group promotes the need for student volunteers to serve stints as recycling bin managers – each of whom is assigned to a bin or can and tasked with emptying the can in the closest dumpster on a weekly basis. David Toledano, UNO recycling coordinator, manages the team and actively ensures all bins are emptied and in their designated locations.

In addition to the 21 recycling bins and cans, there are currently three recycling dumpsters on campus. Only paper, plastic and aluminum materials are accepted in the bins. Glass, while allowed in the recycling dumpsters, is not preferred for the bins/cans – as a safety concern and weight issue.

Recently, Toledano facilitated the transition from the more costly cardboard-styled rectangular bins to the less-expensive, easy-to-transport plastic wheeled cans. “The rectangular bins run about \$100 to \$125 each and are difficult to move and lift, while the wheeled cans have a handle, are easier to use and only cost \$20 each,” Toledano said. “While we still have two of the rectangular bins in the University Center and one in the Performing Arts Center, the remaining 18 cans across campus are wheeled – making it less complicated for the recycling managers to deal with.”

Overall, the program’s goal is to foster support and recognition for recycling while encouraging active use of the recycling bins and dumpsters on campus.

“Our big recycling push is at each student move in/out date at the end of the semester, where the most cardboard boxes and other recyclables are prevalent,” said Toledano. “We particularly make a point to inform the incoming students on the recycling initiative and the bin locations in order to promote awareness and get them involved.”

The initiative has gained momentum as more students start getting involved and a steady increase in the gathered paper, plastic and aluminum shows that the program is working. In 2012, the initiative brought in 150 bags (32-gallon size), which doubled to 300 bags collected in 2013 and 300 bags in 2014. At least 300 bags have been accumulated so far this year as of November, which amounts to approximately 1,050 bags of recyclables collected through the initiative since its inception. “We used to have only 10 bins on campus, but now -- due to demand -- have expanded to 21 bins,” said Toledano.

Toledano has been looking at other ways to target different forms of waste as a way to bring additional funding to the recycling initiative. He has also been looking at increasing awareness and promoting other recycling initiatives such as cigarette butt collection and the compiling of electronics waste, or “e-waste.” He has been investigating the logistics of coordinating volunteer efforts to collect those recyclables for distribution to recycling companies. One such



David Toledano stands beside one of three recycling dumpsters located on the UNO campus.

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company is Terracycle.com, a New Jersey-based company that accepts recyclables through their website. “Through their website, you can set up an account and ship recyclables to them free of charge. In return, you accrue points which can be converted into charitable donations that could go toward continuing your recycling initiative,” Toledano said. As a test run, Toledano is planning an e-waste collection drive during the 2016 spring semester to gauge student interest. If the drive goes well, it will be another way in which recycled materials can be repurposed and redistributed to citizens instead of simply winding up as waste in a landfill.

With the holiday season here, the overall goal is that many will think about reducing, reusing or recycling their wrapping paper and decorations instead of throwing them away -- ultimately adding a burden to the environment. Many cities and parishes across the state allow for discarded Christmas trees to be placed curbside for beneficial use projects such as composting or marsh restoration efforts. Please check with your city or parish for more information on how you can be a part of the effort to reduce, reuse and recycle.

To find out more about UNO’s Service Coalition, or to support the on-campus recycling effort, please contact the program via email at: sil@uno.edu. For more information about the recycling initiative, contact David Toledano, UNO Recycling Coordinator, at: dtoledano@uno.edu.

Make reduce, reuse and recycle your motto for the holidays

This time of year is always busy – buying gifts, putting up a tree, friends and family visiting and so much more. But even though it is busy, a little planning can reduce the amount of trash that goes to the landfills, and reuse can even generate useful items. Keep reduce, reuse and recycle in your mind as you go about your holiday plans because Louisiana, like the rest of the nation, produces more waste in December than any other month.

Wrapping gifts can be a challenge since wrapping paper is frequently not recyclable. Be creative! Wrap a gift in a gift -- such as a scarf, bandana, dish towel or cloth shopping bag. The comic pages from the Sunday paper and most colorful flyers reuse paper and are still recyclable. Last year’s Christmas and holiday cards can be used in crafts and as ornaments.

Out with the old so you have room for the new! This is a perfect time to clean out your clutter and unused items. If you have outgrown toys and clothing, consider donating them to charitable organizations. In the Baton Rouge area discarded electronics (computers, copiers, fax machines, printers, and monitors) may be donated to a local nonprofit agency or the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC). CACRC provides computers to schools, families and nonprofits. Visit the council’s website at www.cacrc.com for details.

When decorating your home, there are ways to consider the environment. An artificial tree doesn’t have to be discarded and a live tree can be replanted. If you purchase a cut tree, remember that it cannot be flocked or have tinsel or decorations on it if it is to be recycled. Cut trees are usually collected in early January and are ground up into compost or mulch. In East Baton Rouge, you can find information about seasonal pickups and recycling at the East Baton Rouge Parish Recycling website: <http://brgov.com/recycle>. Many parishes will have programs to recycle so contact your city’s recycling department. LED lights last longer, save energy and money. Go to <http://www.holidayleds.com/christmas-light-recycling-program.aspx> for recycling instructions.

You can recycle packaging materials such as cardboard and plastic foam peanuts. For information on recycling plastic foam peanuts, or if you are a retailer interested in foam peanut recycling, go to www.loosefillpackaging.com hotline. Buy rechargeable batteries for toys, cameras and gadgets. When those batteries no longer hold a charge, call the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at 800-8-BATTERY, or go to their website at www.rbrc.org for information on the nearest battery-recycling drop off location.

Have a safe holiday season and remember to never burn wrapping paper or Christmas trees in the fireplace. For more recycling ideas, go to: www.deq.louisiana.gov/recycling.



Christmas Tree Recycling 2015

Before you dispose of your tree, remove the stand, decorations, tinsel and lights and do not put the tree in a disposal bag. Flocked trees are not recyclable

Ascension Parish

Drop-off – Lamar Dixon - Monday, Jan. 4, thru Saturday, Jan. 9.
There will be signs directing you to the drop-off area.

East Baton Rouge Parish (excluding Baker and Zachary)

All trees collected are either mulched or composted.

Curbside – Jan. 11 to Jan. 23

Drop-off – Sites open Dec. 26 to Jan. 30 - put trees in collection containers

Sites:

- BREC Parks
 - Independence Park – 7500 Independence Avenue, B.R.
 - Highland Road Park – 14024 Highland Road, B.R.
 - Kathy Drive Park – enter off O’Neal Lane by Team Toyota
 - Flannery Road Park – 801 S. Flannery, B.R.
- LSU – Skip Bertman Drive (lot across from Vet School)

For more information go to www.brgov.com/recycle

Jefferson Parish

Trees collected will be recycled for beneficial use – marsh restoration or composting.

Christmas trees will be collected curbside throughout unincorporated Jefferson Parish, Gretna, Harahan, Kenner, Lafitte and Westwego on Jan. 7, 8, and 9, 2016. Trees will be recycled for beneficial re-use – some for marsh restoration or composting.

Residents are advised to place trees curbside on the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016. Garbage trucks will make one pass through each neighborhood to collect trees Jan. 7, 8, and 9, 2016.

For more information and for recycling volunteer opportunities go to <http://www.jeffparish.net/index.aspx?recordid=2130&page=952>.

Lafayette

Trees will be picked up with the yard waste and composted on the yard waste collection days.

Residents can also drop trees off at Dean Domingues Compost, 400 N. Dugas Road.



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Monroe

Will conduct Christmas tree recycling from Dec. 26 to Jan. 5 or residents may drop off trees at the Monroe Civic Center.

Terrebonne Parish

Trees collected will go into retention fences called “cribs” along the Intracoastal Waterway near the Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge. They provide an effective wave break.

Curbside – trees will be picked up during normal garbage pickup Jan. 4 to Jan. 8

Drop-off – trees can be dropped off any time prior to Jan. 4 at TPCG Residential drop-off sites at 263 Ashland Landfill Road, 651 Isle Cuba Road in Schriever or 160 Crochetville Road in Montegut.

St. John the Baptist Parish

Trees collected will be recycled at the Manchac site to help fight erosion, serve as an enhancement for wetland animals and help restore the coastline.

Curbside – Trees will be picked up from Jan. 4

Jennifer Bounds wins tickets to The Nutcracker: A Tale From The Bayou using GEAUX RIDE

DEQ employees who had signed up for Geaux Ride, the DEQ ridesharing app, were able to participate in a holiday contest to win two free tickets to the Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre production of *The Nutcracker: A Tale From The Bayou*. Employees had to sign up and log their trips in the app. The employee who logged the most trips was the winner. DEQ’s winner was Jennifer Bounds, environmental project specialist in the Underground Storage Tank Division.

Geaux Ride is a free carpooling match service that pairs coworkers based on similar routes, personal preferences and employer information. It is free to use and is offered to all DEQ employees. The Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Transportation and Development employees can also use Geaux Ride.

Geaux Ride is a project of the Capital Region Planning Commission and questions can be directed to J.T. Sukits at jtsukits@brgov.com. Employees who would like to sign up can go to the intranet and click on the Geaux Ride icon or watch the video.



Jennifer Bounds (left) receives tickets for the Nutcracker from Sarah Stafford of Louisiana Clean Fuels. Bounds won the contest having logged the most trips through the Geaux Ride ridesharing app.



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Happy Holidays from DEQ!





Who's Who At DEQ?



Bryan Riché, administrator for Assessment Division

Riché received his Bachelor of Science in horticulture science at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1991 and a Master of Science in environmental science from McNeese State University in 2005. He started working at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) in 2007 in the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) as an Emergency Responder (ER) in the Assessment Division. Riché was promoted to ER Supervisor in 2011, ER Manager in 2013 and currently serves as Administrator of Assessment Division at DEQ Headquarters in Baton Rouge.

Daniel Lambert, environmental scientist/manager in the Assessment Division

Lambert holds a bachelor's degree in environmental science from LSU. He has worked at DEQ since 1998 and has served as state on-scene commander/incident commander for numerous large scale industrial and transportation incidents and natural disasters including BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita and Mississippi River High water event.

Lambert is a native of Norco.



Jerry Lang, Emergency Response Supervisor

Lang graduated from LSU in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in renewable natural resources. He has worked at DEQ since 2014, beginning in the water surveys section. In 2015 he transferred to the ER Section and was promoted to supervisor in November.

Prior to his employment at DEQ, Lang was a research associate at LSU for three years, a supervisor in research and development for private industry for three years. He was a fisheries biologist for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for four years immediately before joining DEQ.

Land enjoys saltwater fishing and raising beef cattle. He is from Denham Springs.



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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third 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>

