

What's Inside?

DEQ receives public comments at the Clean Power Plan listening session

Message from the Secretary

Governor John Bel Edwards proclaimed May as Air Quality Awareness Month

How to get air quality information

Water management experts from a 16 country delegation visit DEQ

DEQ's Small Business/Small Community Assistance Program assists small businesses with regulatory compliance, permit applications

School teams participate in 2016 Louisiana Envirothon

DEQ volunteers help with West and East Baton Rouge Household Hazardous Materials Collections Days

Camp Minden

DEQ helps celebrate Earth Day 2016 in Baton Rouge and Lafayette

DEQ On The Move

Who's Who at DEQ?

CONNECT WITH DEQ



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DEQ receives public comments at the Clean Power Plan listening session

nder a mandate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Clean Air Act, states are to implement a SIP, or State Implementation Plan, with regard to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions as they relate to the Clean Power Plan. The federal rule requires states to develop and implement SIPs that will ensure that electric generation units are in compliance with CO2 emission standards. Louisiana has 24 facilities that would be impacted under the plan.

While the U.S. Supreme Court recently stayed the EPA's Clean Power Plan pending petitions for review by other parties, DEQ opted to initiate the listening session in order to receive public comments for input on the topic. The Supreme Court decision

could uphold, vacate or request a modification of the Clean Power Plan, and DEQ decided that it was in the best interest of the public to open the floor to organizations and citizens wishing to express their opinions and be a part of the dialog.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, DEQ Secretary, kicked off the session with opening remarks, stressing the importance of public comments and its pivotal role in the process of making the right decision



DEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown provides opening remarks at the listening session

for the state. "This day is a momentous occasion, as it marks the beginning of the process" Brown said. While many have questioned DEQ's move to develop the plan, Secretary Brown explained how it's best to be ahead of the game and ready for any decision that comes down. "We don't want to be caught flat-footed if the rule ends up being applied," Brown said. "Ultimately, we will do what's right for Louisiana."

A public notice was posted and 16 speakers pre-registered with DEQ's Public Participation Group to give a 5- to 30-minute talk about their organization and their input on the Clean Power Plan. At the conclusion, an additional three speakers (representing CLECO, Energy USA and the Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group) each gave a brief overview of their respective organizations and their opinion on the Clean Power Plan.

The session went from 10 a.m. until about 2:45 p.m. and everyone in attendance was offered an opportunity to provide written or oral comments. A total of eight exhibits *Continued on page 2*



were provided by the various speakers – all of which are entered into the official record. After all comments are received and reviewed, all questions will be answered, and those answers will be provided to everyone who signed up to be informed.

DEQ's Clean Power Plan-related records can be accessed by the public on DEQ's website: (http://edms.deq.louisiana.gov/ app/doc/querydef.aspx) under Agency Interest (AI) number 199837.

According to the final rule, plans from the states must be submitted to the EPA by Sept. 6, although a 2-year extension can be requested. However, that timeframe may change in light of the Supreme Court stay and ongoing litigation.



ECOS Spring Meeting attendees gather at the Omni Hotel in Nashville. Photo by ECOS.

Message from the Secretary Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

During my initial meeting at the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Spring Meeting in Nashville (April 10-13), I quickly found that the other members of this organization – environmental directors from across the country – had heard about DEQ and were deeply interested in what we are doing in a variety of areas, particularly our approach to EPA's Clean Power Plan.

Even before I arrived in Nashville, I received inquiries about interviews and meetings. In fact, I was interviewed by Elizabeth Harball of E&E News about our "dual approach" while I was in Nashville. Her story appeared on April 13, and it detailed our commitment to move forward with the outreach component of a possible initial submission to EPA while keeping an eye on the court actions which will determine how and if the plan is implemented. As we wait and watch for that outcome, we'll keep moving forward to reach a point where we can follow the path that leads to the best results for the State of Louisiana.

In addition to the Clean Power Plan, also on the agenda were sessions about produced water from oil and gas wells, the public health/environment nexus, media communication during public health emergencies, ozone and regional

Continued on page 3



haze and much more. Many of the other environmental directors were interested in Louisiana's experiences, especially with health emergencies. After all, few places face the kind of continuing weather risks that Louisiana does. I took a lot away from the ECOS meeting, and I was able to share much with other attendees.



Assistant Secretary Lourdes Iturralde, in yellow, attends a Vigilant Guard briefing at GOSHEP in Baton Rouge. Gov. John Bel Edwards is sitting in the center of the photograph with his back to the camera.

While I was in Nashville, the Louisiana National Guard staged "Vigilant Guard 2016," a hurricane preparation exercise that involved 12 federal agencies, 14 state agencies, National Guard units from six states, parish and local agencies, corporate partners and the American Red Cross and Salvation Army. The massive exercise lasted a week and involved seven sites across Louisiana. Personnel involved in the exercise worked on setting up a command post, distributing commodities including acquisition and staging, air coordination, integration of military personnel in the response effort, cyber defense, aeromedical evacuation and HAZMAT response.

I want to commend the DEQ personnel who participated in this important training. I was not able to be here for the exercise, but I asked Assistant Secretary Lourdes Iturralde to go in my stead, and she did a fine job.

I have just a couple more items I want to mention. First, the governor has signed a proclamation designating May as Air

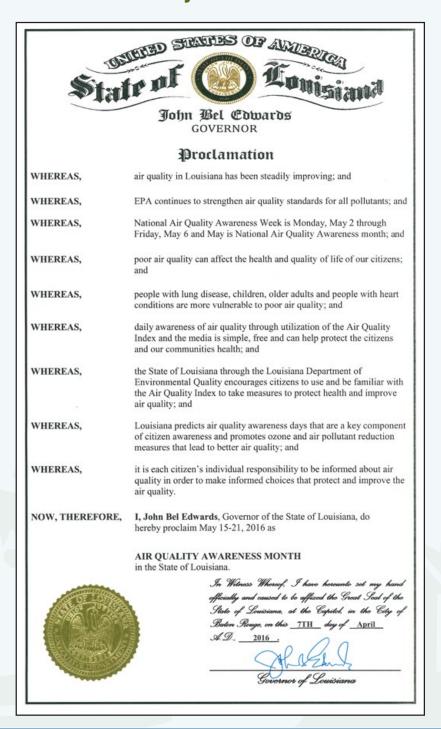
Quality Month in Louisiana. Agency personnel will be promoting actions that citizens can take to reduce ozone-forming VOC and NOX emissions. DEQ employees should try to set a good example for the rest of the community by following their own advice. Let's all work to improve our air quality.

Secondly, a report on the internet news site WalletHub ranks Louisiana 50 out of 50 in percentage of recycled municipal solid waste. We need to improve on that. The EPA estimates that in 2013, Americans generated about 4.4 pounds of waste per person per day. That's actually an improvement from previous years, one that the federal agency attributes to increased recycling. Every ounce of solid waste that is recycled is an ounce that is taken out of the waste stream. It's an ounce that doesn't have to be picked up, transported and compacted in a landfill. It's an ounce that won't generate emissions as it decomposes in a landfill. Everything that is recycled and reused reduces the need to find and process new material, reducing the burden on the environment.

There is much still to be done. First Lady Donna Edwards has implemented a recycling plan at the governor's mansion. DEQ is recycling paper, cans, and plastic at its headquarters building. These are small steps, but we can take them together and set a good example.



Governor John Bel Edwards proclaimed May as Air Quality Awareness Month





How to get air quality information

t is important to know about your air quality and now you can get air quality information, your way.

1. If you want to know when the ozone, SO2 or PM2.5 standards are exceeded in real time, you can subscribe to that service. When an exceedance occurs you will receive an email providing the requested information. Subscribe by going to https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/Subscriptions/Manage and marking the notifications you would like to receive. The link is under Notifications on the My Air Quality button on the DEQ home page.

2. If you want to know what a certain air quality monitor is reading currently, you can go the DEQ home page, www.deq. louisiana.gov, and click on the My Air Quality button on the right hand side. There you will find options such as "What is the current air quality in my area?" The monitors' locations and current readings are available. There is also much more information offered on the site.

3. If you want to know when the air quality is predicted to be poor for the next day so you can plan, sign up for **EnviroFlash**. EnviroFlash is an electronic information system designed to communicate air quality information to the public. It is a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. It provides instant air quality information that citizens can customize for their own needs. It provides this information via e-mail. To register for EnviroFlash go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash.

Enviroflash Program

How do I sign up?

Sign up for forecast emails by clicking this link for the www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash, select "LA" from the state menu, then select the forecast area or go to:

http://batonrougearea.enviroflash.info http://shreveportarea.enviroflash.info http://lakecharlesarea.enviroflash.info http://thibodauxarea.enviroflash.info

http://neworleansarea.enviroflash.info http://alexandriaarea.enviroflash.info http://monroearea.enviroflash.info http://lafayettearea.enviroflash.info

Why should I subscribe?

EnviroFlash provides you with timely air quality information that you can use to plan your daily activities and protect your health. With EnviroFlash, you have complete control of your forecast subscription. Subscription is fast, easy and free, and you decide which forecasts to receive. You can change or discontinue your subscription at any time through the automated EnviroFlash web page.

You pick the level at which you want to be notified about air quality.



Persons concerned about small children and people with cardio-pulmonary health problems (such as asthma) usually select to be notified when the air quality is predicted to be **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS**. People who work or exercise strenuously may also select this category due to their increased deep respiration.

People who do not have heart or lung health risks and are not as concerned about air quality may prefer to only be notified when **UNHEALTHY** air is forecast for the general public.



Water management experts from a 16 country delegation visit DEQ

EQ welcomed a group of water management experts from across the globe in Baton Rouge March 31. The New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council hosted the delegation, which consisted of officials representing 16 countries. Accompanied by liaisons from the U.S. Department of State, the group visited DEQ headquarters to receive information on the Source Water Assessment Program and its relationship to the Drinking Water Protection Program being implemented across Louisiana.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, DEQ Secretary, welcomed the delegation, which included researchers, professors, executives, government officials and a journalist from Chile, Egypt, Hungary, Israel, Laos, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Paraguay, China, Peru, Russia, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Vietnam.



DEQ environmental scientists John Jennings (left) and Jesse Means give a presentation to the delegation.

A slideshow presentation and discussion by John Jennings and Jesse Means from DEQ's Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Unit followed after Brown's remarks.

Jennings and Means provided an overview of potential sources of drinking water contamination, how to pinpoint and evaluate those potential sources, identification of wells, and how DEQ uses mapping, topography and sound science in conjunction with community outreach in their mission to combat drinking water contamination.

"We get many opportunities to spread the word on drinking water protection but never to an international audience like this. It was one of my more interesting presentation experiences. I enjoyed interacting with the attendees and feel they appreciated our efforts," said Jesse Means, DEQ environmental scientist in the Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Unit.

The presentation offered the delegation ideas about methods they could possibly bring back to their home countries to develop their own drinking water protection plans, well monitoring approaches and outreach strategies. The approach is designed to engage citizens on being more proactive in watchdog efforts.

Jennings and Means took questions from the audience and ended the presentation stressing the significance of contingency planning and public education as key points in spreading the message across the state about the importance of drinking water protection.



DEQ's Small Business/Small Community Assistance Program assists small businesses with regulatory compliance, permit applications

mall businesses that use even small amounts of chemicals or emit some pollutants may be subject to environmental regulations. They may not be aware of it, but any unpermitted release puts a business at risk of receiving a citation or compliance order from DEQ regulators. If you own a small business, how do you find out if you are in compliance? Jonathan McFarland, administrator of the Business and Community Outreach Incentives Division (BCOID) in the Office of the Secretary, has an answer.



DEQ's Jonathan McFarland, right, makes a point during a presentation to the Small Business Advisory Council at the Capitol March 29. Don Begneaud, center, council member, and Mike Mitternight, Chairman of the council, left, listen.

"The Louisiana Small Business/Small Community Assistance Program was created by the Clean Air Act," McFarland told the Small Business Advisory Council at the Capitol on March 29. "It can help you understand what you need to be compliant. It's not designed to catch offenders. It guarantees confidentiality. No information will be shared that can identify specific small businesses with violations detected through compliance assistance."

The Small Business Advisory Council is a diverse group of small business owners representing each region of the state. Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and the National Federation of Independent Business in Louisiana (NFIBL) founded the council in 2010 for the purpose of advising LED and state officials about issues affecting the competitiveness of small businesses in Louisiana.

McFarland said the DEQ program is designed to help business owners understand complex environmental regulations, how the regulations apply to their businesses and how they can get into and stay in compliance. The program offers on-site compliance consultations, pollution prevention audits, initial compliance audits of newly permitted facilities, help with permit applications for water and air discharges, advice on solid and hazardous waste management, how to fill out necessary reports to DEQ and much more.

"You have to have 100 or fewer employees," McFarland said. "You have to be independently owned, not dominant in the field, not a major facility nor publicly traded."

The list of business that could fall into the category of small business and qualify for the assistance includes dry cleaners, metal fabricators, mobile home parks, sand and gravel mining, shipbuilders and many more, McFarland said.

If you are interested in DEQ's Small Business/Small Community Assistance Program, you can find out more by visiting the website at www.deq.gov/smallbusiness or call (225) 219-3969 or 1-800-259-2890 or email sbap@la.gov.





Participants of the 2016 Louisiana Envirothon

School teams participate in 2016 Louisiana Envirothon

or the 12th year, the Louisiana Envirothon partnered with DEQ and others to host the Louisiana Envirothon environmental competition at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens in Baton Rouge. Ten junior high and high school teams participated in the environmental problem-solving competition that consisted of testing in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, a current issue on Invasive Species and an oral presentation. Winning teams received recognition and were awarded plaques, medals and cash prizes.

Participating schools teams were Baton Rouge Magnet High School, Baton Rouge Magnet High School Bulldogs, East Feliciana High School-Team One, East Feliciana High School-Team Two, Episcopal School of Baton Rouge-Unicorn Environmentalists, Keithville Elementary/Middle School-4-H Club, Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts, Quitman High School-FFA, Sherwood Middle Academic Magnet and Woodlawn-FFA.

Winners of 2016 Louisiana Envirothon are:

- 1st Place: Baton Rouge Magnet High School- Bulldogs
- 2nd Place: Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts
- 3rd Place: Sherwood Middle Academic Magnet

Louisiana's first Envirothon was born in 2004, sponsored by Canon and the Governors' Environmental Education Commission in conjunction with DEQ and other partners. At that time, The Canon Envirothon was North America's largest high school environmental education competition. Reaching more than 500,000 students across North America annually, the Envirothon succeeded in its mission to develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who are willing and prepared to work towards achieving a balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.





From 2004 until 2012, the Louisiana Envirothon competitions were held at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Cade Farm, a model sustainable agricultural complex. It consisted of a two-day competition, with the winning team moving on to the national competition.

In 2012, Canon discontinued its sponsorship of the event, however, DEQ and its Louisiana partners continued to hold the Envirothon. It was moved the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, Burden Center, in Baton Rouge, where it has been held since.

This year, the highest scores on station tests were: Aquatics: Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts; Forestry: Baton Rouge Magnet High School- Bulldogs; Soils: Baton Rouge Magnet High School-Bulldogs; Wildlife: Baton Rouge Magnet High School-Bulldogs; Current Issue on Invasive Species: Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts; Orals: Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts.

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

Envirothon partnered with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 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 to host the competition.

For more information on Envirothon, or to enter a team for next year's competition, please visit www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon or follow DEQ on Facebook and Twitter@LOUISIANA_DEQ.



First Place Team Baton Rouge Magnet High School - Bulldogs



Second Place Team Louisiana School for Math, Science and Arts



Third Place Team Sherwood Middle Academic Magnet



DEQ volunteers help with West and East Baton Rouge Household Hazardous Materials Collections Days

ast Baton Rouge Parish held its spring Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day (HHMCD) at Memorial Stadium in Baton Rouge. On a bright, sunny Saturday in April, 30-plus volunteers participated in the DEQ paint booth.

Volunteers unload usable latex paint and process it. First, the cans are opened and, if usable, pre-stirred. Then they are given to another group, whose members stir the paint more thoroughly. The paint then proceeds to the volunteers, fondly known as the "witches," who separate paint by similar color for placement into five-gallon buckets. The "witches" continue stirring the paint until it's blended. Some very interesting and beautiful colors are created by the mixing. The five-gallon buckets are then sealed, marked with the color and put in a trailer to be taken to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore for resale at low prices to consumers. This year, DEQ recycled 120 five-gallon buckets from unused paint.

Vehicles coming through the line are counted. This year, DEQ volunteers and other volunteers processed approximately 750 vehicles, a figure that was higher than recent HHMCDs. DEQ has been participating in the Household Hazardous Materials Collection days since their inception.

The next HHMCD will be held in Ascension Parish, and is scheduled for 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center. It is located at 9039 St. Landry Road in Gonzales. This event is for Ascension Parish residents only and will require a valid ID.

HHMC days are an excellent way to properly dispose of materials you can't throw away.

DEQ volunteers also helped with the HHMCD in West Baton Rouge in March. This year, a total of 117 vehicles came through. Twenty-eight volunteers, including DEQ volunteers, staged the event. Collected totals included:

- 52 tires
- 1,299 lbs. of electronics
- 843 lbs. of batteries
- 255 gallons of oil
- 5 gallons of cooking oil
- 40 gallons of antifreeze
- 25 gallons of oil filters
- DEQ recycled 105 gallons of latex paint that was donated to Habitat for Humanity
- 3,150 lbs. of paper was shredded and recycled
- A total of 5,321 lbs. of hazardous waste was disposed of properly



DEQ volunteers open and stir used paint to prepare it be mixed with similar colors in five-gallon buckets at the paint swap.



Some of the 120 five-gallon buckets of paint remixed and donated to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.



Camp Minden



DEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown, left, Louisiana Army National Guard Adjutant Maj. Gen. Glenn Curtis, Senate Environmental Committee Chair Sen. Mike Walsworth, Sen. Ryan Gatti, Rep. Gene Reynolds, Gov. John Bel Edwards, Rep. Terry Brown and Rep. Patrick Jefferson, gather near the newly installed contained burn chamber during a tour of Camp Minden on March 8.



Gov. John Bel Edwards and dignitaries appear at a press conference at Camp Minden on March 8. From left, Maj. Gen. Glenn Curtis, Minden Mayor Tommy Davis, Rep. Gene Reynolds, Gov. Edwards, Sen. Mike Walsworth, Sen. Ryan Gatti, DEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown, EPA Region VI Director Ron Curry, Minden City Councilman Wayne Edwards and Citizens Advisory Group member Ron Hagar.



Gov. John Bel Edwards and guests listen to a presentation by Explosive Service International (ESI) officials. The company is managing the contained burn of the surplus M6 explosives at Camp Minden.



DEQ helps celebrate Earth Day 2016 in Baton Rouge and Lafayette



Joshua Tate, DEQ Engineer, explains Enviroscape, a model that helps illustrate nonpoint source pollution and its origins, to guests at Earth Day.



DEQ Environmental Scientist and Earth Day Coordinator Linda Hardy talks with interested people at the DEQ booth for Earth Day in Baton Rouge.



On Earth Day, under the Trapper's Cabin (Le Cabanage de Piegeur) at Vermilionville in Lafayette, India Ambeau, environmental scientist, explains different scenarios with Enviroscape. The model helps illustrate the origin of nonpoint source pollution.



Marissa Jimenez, DEQ environmental scientist, mans an Earth Day booth at the celebration at Baton Rouge Community College.



DEQ On The Move



DEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, center, asks a question during a tour of the Vertex facility in Marrero on April 15. The plant tour was sandwiched between two meetings with community leaders and concerned citizens who asked questions about operations at the plant. DEQ personnel who accompanied Brown on the visits included Confidential Advisor Bijan Sharafkhani, Press Secretary Greg Langley and Southeast Regional Office Manager Mike Algero.



DEQ Southeast Regional Office staff (L to R) Kristen Bonds, Whitney Brasher and Jeff Dauzat, demonstrate Walnut Bayou, an interactive river model, to Ben Franklin Elementary students, teachers and parents.

For the 5th year, LDEQ Southeast Regional Office participated in the 7th Annual Ben Franklin Elementary School Environmental Awareness International Day Fair on April 8th in New Orleans. Adrienne Gossman, Jeff J. Dauzat, Kristen Bonds, and Whitney Brasher demonstrated "Walnut Bayou," LDEQ's interactive river model, to the elementary school aged kids and big kids too!

The participants enjoyed playing with the walnut shells and learning about water quality, erosion, and life below sea level. LDEQ staff handed out prizes for correctly answering environmental questions.



Who's Who At DEQ?



Nick Vlahos – Geologist – Waste Permit Division

Vlahos graduated with a bachelor's degree in geography from LSU in 2009. Before coming to DEQ in Jan. 2016, he worked as a GIS Specialist at Arcadis for 4 years. He is from Alpharetta, Ga., and enjoys fly fishing, golf and LSU athletics.

Lakeisha Davis - Accountant - Financial Services

Davis graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting in 2013. She joined DEQ in February of 2016. Prior to working at DEQ, she was an assistant manager at Murphy Oil, Inc. where she worked for nine years.

In her leisure time, she enjoys being a mother to her beautiful baby boy, Micah, as well being a praise team leader at New Life Ministries in Independence. Davis is a native of Amite, Louisiana.





Elisabeth Moore - Paralegal - Legal Services

Moore is originally from California, where she worked in law firms and with children in the entertainment industry. Moore received her paralegal studies degree from El Camino College in Torrance, Calif., and received her bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from Cal State University in Dominguez Hills. She received honors in her major.

She also received a business degree and a legal clerical certificate from Citrus College in Glendora, Calf. Elisabeth has worked in the legal field for 19 years. Her favorite skill is communication.

Moore spends her free time helping her children with their educational studies, riding her bike and serving as a children's group leader at her church.



Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's First Quarter Summaries

First Quarter 2016 Enforcement Actions: http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/EnforcementActions.aspx

First Quarter 2016 Settlement Agreements: http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/SettlementAgreements.aspx

> First Quarter 2016 Air Permits: http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx

> First Quarter 2016 Water Permits: http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx

First Quarter 2016 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits: http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/divisions/wastepermits.aspx