

DISCOVERDEQ

OUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

October 2016

Issue Number: 57

What's Inside?

Keep Louisiana Beautiful and LDEQ launch the new anti-litter bumper sticker at state conference

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown speaks at ECOS

No Further Action determination made regarding 1982 train derailment in Livingston Parish

Message from the Secretary

2016 Employee Service Awards

LDEQ Criminal Investigation Section's Maureen Kennedy honored at Keep Louisiana Beautiful banquet

LDEQ assists partners to support grocery bags-to-beds program for the needy

Shreveport has one small voice doing big things for the environment

LDEQ holds training sessions on NetDMR and the EPA Electronic Reporting Rule

Cane River and Kisatchie Bayou undergo water quality testing

Who's Who At DEQ?

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Keep Louisiana Beautiful and LDEQ launch the new anti-litter bumper sticker at state conference

eep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) held the 13th Annual Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference at the Galvez Conference Center in Baton Rouge in late September. Baton Rouge Mayor-President Kip Holden opened the conference and proclaimed Sept. 28, as Keep Louisiana Beautiful Day. LDEQ Deputy Secretary Denise Bennett welcomed the 130 attendees from all over the state to the conference and LDEQ.

The keynote speaker Dr. Wes Schulz. was professor of psychology at California State University. He spoke on how to bring about behavioral change. The conference featured presentations on recycling. reducing and reusing waste, funding your efforts, combating blight and more.

The highlight of the conference was the unveiling of the new antilitter bumper sticker to be placed on more than 10,000 Louisiana state vehicles.

contest was held statewide for advertising agencies to design the bumper sticker and come up with a new slogan. The new slogan was introduced to the attendees by First Lady Donna Edwards and LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown. The slogan. "Love the Boot - Don't Pollute," was the brainchild of local advertising agency Octagon Media, whose staff also attended the unveiling.



First Lady Donna Edwards (left), LDEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown, and Maranda White with Octagon Media present the winning bumper sticker.



Baton Rouge Mayor-President Kip Holden opened the KLB conference at the LDEQ conference center.



DISCOVERDEQ

UISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

Issue Number: 57



First Lady Donna Edwards and LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown place the new sticker on a state vehicle.

After introducing the slogan and bumper sticker, First Lady Edwards and Dr. Brown ventured outside to place stickers on two state vehicles. The new sticker will be placed on all state vehicles, replacing the older "Don't Trash Louisiana" sticker.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown speaks at ECOS

ermits issued by LDEQ reflect a rigorous process that includes measuring the permit by the agency's core values, LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said at the fall meeting of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS). One of those values is environmental justice. "Environmental justice (EJ) will always be considered," Brown told attendees at a roundtable discussion titled "Community Environment & Public Health Protection: Advancing Environmental Equity."

Sitting on the panel with Dr. Brown were a moderator, Martha Rudolph, ECOS president and Director, Environmental Programs for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; Myra Reece, ECOS Executive Committee Region IV Representative and Director of Environmental Affairs for South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; Matthew Rodriquez, ECOS Executive Committee Region IX Representative and Secretary for Environmental Protection, California Environmental Protection Agency; and Martin Suuberg, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Citing the example of a Louisiana community surrounded by a plant, Dr. Brown explained his concept of Environmental Justice. "The plant has an obligation to be a good corporate neighbor," Brown said. "What can you do as a plant to enhance the quality of life of the surrounding community?"



LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, center, served on the panel 'Community Environmental & Public Health Protection: Advancing Environmental Equity' at the Environmental Conference of the State Fall Meeting in Wheeling, W. Va., in September. Fellow panelists were Matthew Rodriquez, secretary for environmental protection with the California Environmental Protection Agency, left; Martin Suuberg, commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection; and Myra Reece, director of environmental affairs for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Moderator for the panel was ECOS President Martha Rudolph, far right, director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.



DISCOVER DE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT DE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



October 2016

Issue Number: 57

It's not that complicated, he said, plant officials can figure it out – just go ask the residents themselves. "I tell all plant managers that if you don't have a citizen's advisory group, you are not doing your job."

Industry officials may not be under the threat of immediate action, Dr. Brown said, but they are aware that sooner or later they will have to come to LDEQ to ask for something. "They understand that if they want to be considered in compliance by me, they have to go that extra step for the community." He acknowledged that sometimes residents may have motives that won't benefit the whole community. Buyouts are one demand that Dr. Brown said he is beginning to hear more and more. He's not really a fan this remedy. "If they take a buyout, where are they to go?"

It's always a delicate balance to determine what the community as a whole wants, Dr. Brown said. "You have to always be open to discuss issues," he said, "always listen and be proactive in outreach."

Sometimes regulations are as twisty as a plate of spaghetti. Environmental agencies face a double challenge sorting through which federal regulations apply and which state regulations apply in a given situation. ECOS is an organization of state environmental leaders who meet regularly at conferences to share information about the latest federal, state, local and tribal policies – and maybe give some advice on how to untwist those regulations.

ECOS fall 2016 meeting took place over a three-day span in late September at Wheeling, W.Va. Members interacted with their counterparts from other states, dialogued with EPA officials, enjoyed barbecue and bluegrass, and basked in some near-perfect fall weather.

No Further Action determination made regarding 1982 train derailment in Livingston Parish

DEQ recently issued a No Further Action – At This Time determination in regard to the cleanup at a site in Livingston Parish where a 43-car train derailed in September 1982. The derailment of the Illinois Central Gulf freight train resulted in the release of hazardous materials and flammable petroleum chemicals, forcing the evacuation of more than 2,600 residents. The event sparked a lingering fire that destroyed homes and buildings in the area, located where U.S. 190 meets Circle Drive in the town of Livingston. There were no serious injuries or fatalities.

An investigation found the train operator guilty of drinking on duty and recklessly handling the hazardous cargo.

In the ensuing years, several projects to clean the property and remove chemicals from the site took place under LDEQ oversight. One project involved NASA-developed remedial technology that was used to clean up the chlorinated solvents that had remained at the site. This technology involved the use of enhanced bioremediation combined with iron powder to both lower the concentration and the constituents of concern, while degrading them to less hazardous compounds.

According to the basis of decision, all sumps and wells at the site were properly plugged and abandoned in accordance with LDEQ requirements. Following the remedial actions and closure activities, all investigation derived waste and the existing wastewater filtration media were containerized and sent offsite for proper disposal.

Additional tests were conducted to ensure that the property met LDEQ remediation standards. LDEQ conducted a final inspection on Sept. 30 and verified the removal of affected infrastructure and waste.

As of Oct. 20, a No Further Action – At This Time was determined for the site. This is granted when contamination is reduced to the extent necessary to achieve the established standards.



Issue Number: 57

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

Our drive to help the Baton Rouge Food Bank replenish the supplies it lost in the August flood is in full swing. I know that LDEQ personnel are some of the most generous people in state government. The Food Bank is a worthy cause, and it's especially important that they get their shelves restocked before Thanksgiving and Christmas. No one in America should have to go hungry, and this organization is working to see that no one does. So let's get busy and help feed the needy, LDEQ!

We have made it through October and are closing in on the completion of debris removal from the August floods. There were a few small concerns along the way, but for the most part, the removal process went smoothly and was accomplished quickly. Good work by all LDEQ personnel involved.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown gives Madonna Comeaux a certificate for her 35 years of service with the State of Louisiana.

Since it is nearly November, I want to take this opportunity to encourage each of you to get out and vote on Nov. 8. Regardless of your personal political views, we are all afforded the right to vote and should do so – let your voice be heard.

Although I shook each person's hand at the ceremony, I want to take another opportunity to congratulate the 95 employees who received service awards on Oct. 11. Their combined service to the agency totals more than 1,700 years. That much experience and expertise in one place is mind boggling.

While I'm handing out congratulations, Maureen Kennedy was named an Everyday Hero by Keep Louisiana Beautiful. She was one of seven so honored at the organization's awards banquet on Sept. 28. Also deserving of recognition: on Oct. 20, the UST-Remediation Division issued a No Further Action At This Time determination for the Livingston Train Derailment site, successfully concluding an incident response that began in 1982.

Finally, I want to remind you that Nov. 11 is also a holiday, Veteran's Day. We have many veterans working at LDEQ, and we are grateful to each and every one of them. Think about the service these individuals have rendered to their country as you enjoy your long holiday weekend. They made it possible.

Let's keep up the good work and stay safe.



DISCOVER

October 2016

Issue Number: 57

2016 Employee Service Awards

35 Years

Madonna Comeaux Terri Gibson

30 Years

Ursula Anderson Amy Lewis Jackie Marve Annette Sharp **Christopher Simms** Wayne Slater

25 Years

Kristine Carter **Donald Cowart** Maria Ernestina Cuadra Jason Dewitt **David Ferrand** Gary Goay **David Greenwood** John Jennings Keith Jordan Mary Landry Nora Lane Niels Larsen Phyllis Luke Louis Martin Lisa Miller Cheryl Nolan Timothy O'brien Maureen Olinde Van Pentecost

Lisa Picou

Kevin Sweeney **Donald Trahan**

Elliott Vega

Cathy Venable Keiley Well Keith Williams

20 Years

Michael Accettella Kyle Blanchard Deanna Bloodworth Vincent Cheramie Mark Chrisman Melanie Connor Tom Cranford Donia Gillespie Helen Hebert Sonja Loyd Michael Miller **Emad Nofal** Karla Vidrine Roger Ward

15 Years

Mehdi Aarabi Laura Ambeau Malcolm Andry Mary Arnold Paul Bergeron Carrick Boffy Sandy Coon Hugh Doran Brian Fontenot Jeremy Franklin Vennetta Hayes Debra Jackson-Johnson Deidra Johnson Karen Jones Corbet Mathis

Andrew Mills Tien Nguyen Gloria Robertson Jason Roy **Tabitha Tourere** Miriam Tullier Jiyoung Wiley Davina Witte Jennifer Zimmer

10 Years

Clarissa Adams Lloyd Barnett Christopher Calvitt **Daniel Cheatham Amanda Daniel** Stanley Hazard Eugene Jarreau Dawn Johnson Cory Lormand Anthony Olivier Mary Thornhill Darlene Williams

5 Years

Kevin Borne Courtney Burdette Kandace Causey Mary Haley Chester Keating Jerry Lang Charles Lato Lina Saale Sierra Trabeau Hien Tran Tiffany White



DISCOVER

October 2016

Issue Number: 57

LDEQ Criminal Investigation Section's Maureen Kennedy honored at Keep Louisiana Beautiful banquet

DEQ's Maureen Kennedy was one of seven recipients of "Everyday Hero" Awards presented by Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center Heidelberg Ballroom Sept. 28 during the Keep Louisiana Beautiful awards banquet.

The "Everyday Hero" award for Law Enforcement – which related to enforcement of state, parish and city litter and illegal dumping laws – was presented to Kennedy, criminal investigator with LDEQ's Criminal Investigation Section (CIS).

"We are proud of Maureen and the work she does to help keep Louisiana beautiful," LDEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown said. "Illegal dumping is something that we at LDEQ will not tolerate. Remember, 'Love the Boot. Don't Pollute!"

Kennedy has been with LDEQ since 2002 and is currently a senior member of the Louisiana Environmental Crimes Task Force working with the EPA's Criminal Investigation Division. She has a Bachelor of Science from LSU and received her Peace Officer's Commission



Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser (I) and Andy Johnson, board chairman KLB (R) present Maureeen Kennedy, LDEQ CIS with her Everyday Hero award.

in 2003. Since 2008 Kennedy has been assigned to the Louisiana Environmental Crimes Task Force and conducts state and federal investigations into environmental crimes committed throughout the state. Kennedy maintains a special deputation with the U.S. Marshal Service, which affords her federal authority during those investigations.

Kennedy has conducted multiple state and federal investigations related to the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. She also investigates violations of state statutes concerning solid waste, underground storage tanks and waste tires.

Kennedy's performance has proven beneficial to the Department's mission and strengthened bonds with LDEQ's federal partners. She is an asset to LDEQ CIS, EPA CID, and the state of Louisiana. Her efforts, along with the work of the LDEQ CIS staff serves as a significant deterrent for illegal dumping and other environmental crimes in the state.

LDEQ assists partners to support grocery bags-to-beds program for the needy

ave you ever wondered what to do with those ever multiplying plastic grocery bags? I have the answer!" announced Linda Hardy, environmental scientist manager with LDEQ. "I am collecting those plastic bags as part of a recycling effort for a group of ladies who will transform them into plastic cots for the homeless."

In the wake of the Great Flood of August 2016 that struck parts of Baton Rouge and surrounding parishes, a sudden need for beds was created - among other necessities.



DISCOVER

October 2016

Issue Number: 57



Plastic grocery bags are collected and sent to First Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.



Grocery bags are refashioned into plastic mats that are used as beds for the homeless.

Working in conjunction with graduate members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Hardy joined up with the sorority and the First Baptist Church in Baton Rouge to help spread the word about the project. The program is also supported by LDEQ, whose staff is actively participating in gathering the plastic bags.

The sorority, a member of Nu Gamma Omega chapter, launched the bags-to-beds program as a way to serve the community through a project that protects the environment while enhancing the quality of life in underserved communities.

With environmental ownership as one of their key service areas, the sorority's Acts of Green initiative promotes environmental sustainability through encouragement of daily recycling, litter prevention and waste management. This is done through daily green efforts designed to promote stewardship of natural resources in local communities.

Part of that is the daily recycling initiative, where chapter members team up with First Baptist Church members who refashion the bags into plastic mats, which are then repurposed into beds for distribution to the homeless.

"Each chapter member was challenged to collect 100 plastic grocery bags, and the outpouring of participation from them as well as LDEQ volunteers and others has been impressive," Hardy said.

For more information, contact Linda Hardy at: Linda.Hardy@la.gov.

Shreveport has one small voice doing big things for the environment

eaux Green was born in Shreveport more than three years ago when a young man came up with a project idea to benefit the environment. Eleven-year old Joseph "Joey" Gouthiere has made Geaux Green a force for environmental improvement in Shreveport. Geaux Green founder Gouthiere has become a familiar face in more places than just Youree Drive Middle School.

"I started the project in May of 2013. I am just sick and tired of litter being thrown on the ground," Gouthiere said. "I started Geaux Green because I love the environment but I hate litter and not recycling.



DISCOVERDEQ

UISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

October 2016 Issue Number: 57

"I have always been interested in the environment, and I wanted to start my own project that encouraged everyone to take care of our Earth, so I named my project (with the input of Dr. Jeff Silmon from Cosse & Silmon Orthodontics), designed the logo and started 'Geaux Green,'" Gouthiere said. "In the first few months of my project, I was able to secure a recycling container for my school, A.C. Steere Elementary. I also adopted the garden there, and we have regular work days where we pick up litter and take care of the garden."

People have been drawn in by Gouthiere's enthusiasm. Groups that have joined the project include the Rotary Club of Shreveport, Louisiana Sen. David Vitter, Caddo Parish Sheriff Steve Prator, former Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover, and the 2014 Shreveport City Council. On April 21, 2015, Gouthiere spoke at the Shreveport City Council meeting, where the city council members and Mayor Ollie Tyler took the Geaux Green Pledge and joined the team. Mayor Tyler presented Gouthiere with an official proclamation for Geaux Green Day on April 25, 2015.



On Oct. 1, Gouthiere was recognized by the Caddo Parish School Board for his Geaux Green efforts.

This year, Joey inducted the Caddo Parish School Board and Caddo Parish Superintendent Lamar Goree into Geaux Green and is working toward having Caddo Parish Schools recycle.



Joey Gouthiere, Geaux Green, receives an official Proclamation for Geaux Green Family Volunteer Day, Nov. 19, from Shreveport Mayor Ollie Tyler at the Shreveport City Council Meeting.

Geaux Green sponsors Green Volunteer Day to encourage the citizens of Shreveport to help clean up the world, starting with Shreveport. This year the Geaux Green Family Volunteer day will be held Nov. 19 in conjunction with the National Family Volunteer Day. Family Volunteer Day is a day of service that celebrates the power of families who work together to support their communities and neighborhoods. Geaux Green has focused the day on litter.

"I encouraged the city council members to inform the citizens in each of their districts about this special day and to encourage them to get involved and pick up litter with their neighbors," Gouthiere said.

On Oct. 11, Gouthiere received an official proclamation for this event from Mayor Tyler at the Council Meeting.

If you would like to help Gouthiere with Geaux Green and Family volunteer day, sponsorships are available, and donations are tax deductible. Needed supplies include: gloves, masks, all-natural bug spray, snacks/water, trash bags, litter grabbers, marketing (billboards/t-shirts/commercials), and, most of all, volunteers.



DISCOVERIDIE

October 2016

Issue Number: 57

LDEQ holds training sessions on NetDMR and the EPA Electronic Reporting Rule

n September and October, LDEQ sponsored free training sessions for communities, businesses and organizations in order to provide information on NetDMR and the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit electronic reporting rule. NetDMR refers to the electronic reporting system for submitting Discharge Monitoring Reports, or DMRs, online.

The sessions provided an overview of the requirements of the electronic reporting rule and their compliance dates.

Sessions were held in Lake Charles, Alexandria, Metairie, Pineville, Shreveport and Monroe.

LDEQ holds frequent sessions that cover a variety of topics related to protecting and preserving our environment. Sessions are free and open to the general public, as well as businesses, organizations and government representatives.



Attendees at an Enviroschool session at DEQ Headquarters in Baton Rouge.

To learn more, or to sign up for a future session, visit the Enviroschool page: http://www.deg.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2601/ Default.aspx.

Cane River and Kisatchie Bayou undergo water quality testing



Environmental Scientist Staff Ronnie Kay lowers a water sampling canister into the Cane River.

hroughout the year, environmental scientists based out of LDEQ's Northwest Regional Office in Shreveport took several water quality samples from various waterways in central Louisiana. The surveys are a routine part of each regional office's ongoing duties year-round as it relates to conducting water surveys in waterways that fall under each office's jurisdiction.

Such water surveying tasks are conducted by water survey teams in each of the six regional offices and two regional office substations for waterways that fall under the jurisdiction of the respective office.

The goal is to preserve the water quality of Louisiana's water bodies and ensure that all of them are meeting water quality standards that support their designated uses such as fish and wildlife propagation and/or recreational use as it relates to fishing, swimming and boating.

Ronnie Kay, LDEQ environmental scientist staff, is part of a team that is assigned a list of waterways with the task of extracting water samples from those on a monthly basis, year-round.



DISCOVERDEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

October 2016 Issue Number: 57

Kay's recent sampling targeted subsegments of the Cane River and Kisatchie Bayou in Natchitoches Parish. "Water bodies such as the Cane and Kisatchie are targeted for sampling once a month – regardless of its impaired or non-impaired status," Kay said. The Northwest Region has 52 subsegments which are monitored every four years. Red River, a trend station, is monitored annually.

"I grew up in Natchitoches Parish and went swimming and fishing in Kisatchie Bayou as a kid," Kay said. "Kisatchie Bayou was always special and I want to keep it that way for all to enjoy. Kisatchie Bayou is also one of Louisiana's scenic waterbodies."

October marks a new round of sampling, as the new list of waterways requiring sampling is published every October. Environmental scientists from each LDEQ regional office and substation in the state will then schedule testing for waterways falling under their jurisdiction.



Ronnie Kay pours the water samples into various plastic containers. The samples will be tested in a lab.

Kay noted that when a water body is added to the integrated report, additional monitoring will be conducted through watershed based inspections. The goal of this approach is to achieve tangible improvements in water quality so all designated uses are met

The testing begins with the environmental scientist lowering an MS-5 Hydrolab monitor into the water. The Hydrolab, about the size and shape of a small baseball bat, is a specialized meter with sensors that read water temperature, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen and conductivity. It immediately gathers data that produce a profile of the waterway, which the technician will annotate in a log book, along with the water conditions and the weather.

The data will be reviewed against the sample to determine the environmental health conditions of that particular water body.

Next, a metal cylinder is lowered into the water and filled to capacity. The water collected from the cylinder is then poured into plastic containers and labeled for subsequent lab testing. Each bottle's sample will be used to test for specific constituents -- ie., the presence of alkaline, chloride, total dissolved solids, total suspended solids, turbidity, magnesium, potassium, sodium, calcium, iron, silicon, manganese, ammonia, phosphates, nitrates and nitrites.

A separate bottle will be filled with water that will be used to test for any presence of fecal coliform. This test is time-sensitive and must be submitted to the lab within six hours of extraction in order to pull a qualified reading.

The samples are then placed on ice for preservation on their way to the lab, and the technician will then move on to the next location on the schedule, if applicable.

Should results come back from the lab noting areas of concern or other issues, that water body will be identified as requiring long-term readings and additional sampling. In such a case, the technician may then install a fixed Hydrolab monitor in the waterway onto a post or stationary mount in order to secure a long-term reading. Readings will be taken every 15 minutes and fed into a computer where data can be analyzed in order to determine whether measures need to be taken to remediate any areas of concern for that water body.

The posting of a water advisory at a water body may be necessary in order to reduce pollution or address a particular concern that affects safety and/or public health. The ultimate goal is to ensure that all of Louisiana's waters are safe, free of harmful pollutants and maintain their designated use (such as swimming and fishing).





Issue Number: 57





Keith Horn – Senior Environmental Scientist -- Underground Storage Tank and Remediation Division

Horn earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Conservation at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He then earned a Master of Science Degree in Biology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Following a stint with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, he began his career at LDEQ in 1992.

He has 24 years of experience in site investigation/assessment, remediation and related areas. He was recently promoted to Senior Environmental Scientist in the Underground Storage Tank and Remediation Division.

Aimee Preaux - Environmental Scientist - GIS - Nonpoint Source Program

A New Orleans native, Preaux rejoins LDEQ from the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. She earned a bachelor's degree in news-editorial journalism, and a master's degree in environmental science, both from LSU. She will be working in the Nonpoint Program. Preaux previously worked for LDEQ in the GIS Center from 1995 to 2000.

Since leaving LDEQ, she worked at the University of New Orleans managing land use surveys and researching cumulative impacts to wetlands, completed a year of doctoral coursework at UC Santa Barbara Geography, supported EPA's Katrina-Rita response efforts in Louisiana, and worked for FEMA in hurricane recovery. Her most recent work includes evaluating habitat suitability for oysters and analyzing swamp restoration areas for the Coastal Sustainability Program at Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation.





Bradley D. Gauthier – Environmental Scientist, Surveillance Division, Office of Environmental Compliance, Capital Regional Office

Gauthier is a native of Hessmer who moved to Baton Rouge in 2001 to attend LSU. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in 2005. He recently joined the DEQ Surveillance Division as an environmental scientist after working at the Department of Natural Resources since 2011.

Gauthier enjoys outdoor activities, running, kayaking, swimming, LSU football, traveling, cooking, hiking and camping.

Issue Number: 57

Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

Third Quarter 2016 Enforcement Actions:

http://www.deg.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/EnforcementActions.aspx

Third Quarter 2016 Settlement Agreements:

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

Third Quarter 2016 Air Permits:

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

Third Quarter 2016 Water Permits:

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

Third Quarter 2016 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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