



# DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Issue Number: 8

## DEQ'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE PARTNERS WITH DOTD, FIRE AND POLICE ON INCIDENT RESPONSE MEASURES

**W**hen an emergency occurs, whether a train derailment, an overturned 18-wheeler or a release of a chemical into the environment, DEQ's Emergency Response staff is ready to respond 24-hours a day.

The mission of DEQ's Chemical Emergency Response section is to respond to emergencies with OSHA technician level trained personnel. These technicians arrive ready to work with state, local and parish authorities. Their tasks are to ensure that the public is properly protected and that the hazards involved in the incident are safely and correctly contained and remediated.

Upon arrival at the scene, the responder assesses any potential environmental threat. Depending on the incident, air monitoring teams may be deployed to determine the extent that contamination has spread and water and/or soil samples may be taken in and around the affected area. If on a highway, State Police may initiate a road closure around the accident scene in order to effectively control random access and exposure to environmental threats and hazards at the scene in an effort to ensure public safety.

When a road closure is executed the decision is part of a deliberative response by the affected parties and is not a step that is taken lightly. Road closures are made for safety or logistical reasons, or both. Safety issues include diverting traffic away from the incident in order to keep drivers and passengers out of harm's way and safe from possible environmental threats and/or rubbernecking. If an incident occurs along a single-lane highway, the roadway itself may offer the only viable location in which emergency response equipment can be staged.

The overturned truck at the Interstate 10/Interstate 12 split in Baton Rouge on August 24 presented a situation where State Police closed traffic in both directions. This move was necessary in order for fire, hazmat and emergency crews to have complete access for the response effort. The truck, operated by R&L Carriers, contained a shipment that included flammable and corrosive materials such as phosphoric acid, hydrazine, cresylic acid and dichlorotoluene. The load being transported by this truck is similar to many found on the nation's roads and highways. Safely packaged, these loads are a minimal risk to the public. However, when accidents occur, packaging and

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protective wrapping may become breached, allowing for incompatible materials to mix. "Certain chemicals, when combined with others, can cause an extremely hazardous situation that didn't previously exist," said Bryan Riche, DEQ Chemical Emergency Responder. "Offloading these materials had to be conducted in a careful and meticulous manner. We were fortunate that no hazardous materials were spilled and cleanup operations went smoothly."

DEQ Emergency Response personnel worked in conjunction with the local fire department, Louisiana State Police and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development in order to assess the damage and keep the incident under control. Had State Police opened a lane for commuters to pass by the accident, bottlenecking, speeding and other distractions may have exacerbated the incident, placing the safety of the cleanup crews and commuters at risk. By closing that portion of the interstate, safety measures were implemented while commuters only suffered the inconvenience of a detour and delay.



Emergency personnel work to right the overturned truck

A natural gas well eruption along the Interstate 10 corridor in Ramah in November 2007 presented a similar situation with regard to effective emergency response. The heavily travelled westbound portion of the interstate had to be closed while contractors attempted to secure the well. While the road closure adversely affected commuters along the Atchafalaya Basin, it allowed emergency and cleanup personnel to effectively manage the event in a safe and productive manner.

Considering that the potential for a secondary blast or additional disruption at an accident site is always looming, staging gear and maintaining a safe distance can present added challenges. The location of the incident, time of day, weather and accessibility are all factors that go into formulating a response plan. Taking into account the rural location of the Ramah well and its proximity to the interstate, a road closure was necessary in order to give workers accessibility to the site while ensuring for public safety.



Emergency personnel block off the Interstate while chemicals are offloaded from the truck



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## EBR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIAL COLLECTION DAY

Saturday, October 23, was a beautiful fall day and DEQ staff, once again, manned the paint swap the East Baton Rouge Parish Household Hazardous Material Collection day held at Memorial stadium.

The work started well before the first carload of material was taken at 9 a.m. – bringing supplies, setting up tables, laying down plastic, getting five-gallon buckets and lids set up for easy access and suiting up with aprons, safety glasses, rubber gloves and in some cases full body suits.

While the preparation work continued, vehicles started lining up outside of the stadium parking lot located on Foss Street. Once the gates were open, cars started moving through and the paint started rolling in.

There's a system to getting the household hazardous waste from the vehicles to the various staging areas set up outside of the stadium. Volunteers go to the vehicles to pick up whatever material is being dropped off and sort it into a variety of categories such as pesticides, household cleaners, paints or more. Paint is sorted into latex-based, which is what is rescued, oil-based, stain and other painting supplies. The latex paint, the kind you can cleanup with soap and water, is moved to a table where volunteers open the buckets. If it is still useable, it is passed on to the stirring table.

This year, DEQ staff and members of the Junior League stirred the paint to make it a good consistency. Then it was dumped into five-gallon buckets, where the paint was mixed with like colors and again stirred. When the buckets were full, lids were applied with the final color on top. The buckets were put on a trailer destined for Habitat for Humanity's ReStore where it was to be sold to the public at reduced prices.

This collection day yielded 213.5 five-gallon buckets of paint for the ReStore. That means paint that doesn't end up in a landfill and gets reused for someone's house or walls.

After 1 p.m., when the collection day was over, tired and paint-splattered volunteers broke down the tables and equipment, brought it back to DEQ, unloaded it and went home to wash off and ease the aches and pains.

Household Hazardous Materials Collection days save a variety of materials from being deposited in the landfills and DEQ staff who participate every year know that this is a great way to recycle and reuse otherwise discarded materials.



Some of the 213.5 five-gallon buckets of paint rescued



DEQ staff mix five-gallon buckets of paint

## RAIN GARDENS HELP TO PREVENT EROSION WHILE CHANNELING STORM WATER RUNOFF

As part of an effort to educate the public on water quality, the Lafayette Consolidated Government's Environmental Quality Division has built a rain garden near their compost facility at 400 Dugas Road.

Considered a best management practice, rain gardens work with the natural hydrology of a given area as rainwater is channeled into areas in need of hydration.

A rain garden is a planted depression that allows stormwater runoff from roofs, walkways, driveways and compacted lawn areas an opportunity to be absorbed into the soil. This approach reduces runoff by allowing the water to soak into the ground through native plants and soil as opposed to flowing into storm drains and surface water which can exacerbate pollution, flooding and erosion. Rain gardens can be designed for specific soils and climates, and can reduce the

amount of pollution reaching creeks and streams by up to 30 percent. Root systems enhance infiltration in enhanced through the root systems, which maintain soil permeability, provide moisture redistribution and sustain diverse microbial populations involved in the biofiltration process. Transpiration also helps the plants return water vapor to the atmosphere.

Native plants are generally recommended for rain gardens as they don't require fertilizer and are more tolerant of the climate, soil and water conditions. Native plants also attract native birds and local wildlife, which add to the overall aesthetic. The plants are usually comprised of a selection of ferns, shrubs, wildflowers and small trees that serve to take up excess water flowing into the garden. Water filters through soil layers before entering the groundwater system.

The project demonstrates how a rain garden can be built and maintained to improve water quality as well as provide aesthetic benefits. The goal is to have visitors to the Compost Facility, see the Rain Garden and consider using the Best Management Practice, whether it's residential or commercial property. Educational pamphlets as well as a web page have been developed to further educate the public on Rain Gardens and Stormwater.

"The rain garden built at Dugas Road was initiated by the City of Lafayette's Departments of Public Works, Environmental Quality and Regulatory Compliance as part of a combined effort to educate the public on improving water quality," said Bess Foret, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor for the City of Lafayette. "It demonstrates how a rain garden can be built and maintained to improve water quality as well as provide aesthetic benefits to property."

Cecilia Gayle, a landscape architect for the Lafayette Consolidated Government Traffic and Transportation Department, designed the garden at the Lafayette location. Public Works personnel participated in the planning and implementation of the garden, and architecture students from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette designed educational material, signage



Lafayette Consolidated Government employees prepare the soil for the early stage of the rain garden



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and participated in additional planting. Lafayette's Public Works Drainage Department, Compost Facility personnel, the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's department, University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology, and the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wetlands Research Center also participated in making the rain garden a success.

Instructional pamphlets on how to build your own rain garden are available at the Lafayette Consolidated Government Environmental Quality. For more information on the benefits of rain gardens as well as any other environmental questions, please contact Bess Foret or Kelia Bingham at (337) 291-8529, or send an email to: [bforet@lafayette.la.gov](mailto:bforet@lafayette.la.gov).

## EXPEDITED PERMITS

Since the Expedited Permit Processing Program began in August 2006, more than 2,000 permits have been approved through the program. This is an important program for the state because it cuts down on the time between when DEQ receives a permit application and makes a permit decision.

A company that is seeking an air or water permit may request to participate in the expedited permit program, but they have to meet a certain criteria. Hazardous and solid waste permits are exempt. Additionally, the applicant agrees to pay overtime and extra expenses incurred by the state to expedite the permit.

A final decision for major permits, such as Title V, usually takes about six months including a 30-day public comment period and a 45-day U.S. Environmental Protection Agency review period. Minor source permitting decisions take about two to four months, depending on whether a public notice is needed or not. These timeframes are dependent on the complexity of the permit, the number and nature of public comments and the completeness of the application.

It is estimated that the expedited permitting process can shorten the air permit decision time by six to eight weeks. For example, BioLabs Inc. received a major water permit in about six months, when it would have taken 10 months regularly. Flopam received an expedited minor water permit in four months instead of the usual 10 months.

ConAgra Foods received a minor air permit in less than a month by going through the expedited permit program. Jeld-Wen's application for a major air permit was received in September of 2006 and the permit was issued in January, 2007.

"The expedited permit program is beneficial for companies that have the resources and meet the criteria needed to participate in the program," said DEQ Assistant Secretary Cheryl Nolan. "It's important to note that the department can't supersede any prescribed public comment periods and that participation in the program is dependent on DEQ resources. We also have to agree with the applicant on expectations of the permitting timeframe. If someone wants a Title V air permit in a month, well we just can't do that. We are willing to work with an applicant to find a timeframe that works for everyone, and that ensures the permit will be protective of human health and the environment."

For an applicant to participate in the program, there must not be any outstanding fees or penalties owed to the department. The applicant must not have serious compliance history concerns, and the final decision date and the amount the applicant is willing to pay must be reasonable. When necessary, preference is given to applications that will result in new permanent jobs.

For more information on the expedited permitting process go to [www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/programs/expeditedpermitprogram.aspx](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/programs/expeditedpermitprogram.aspx).



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DEQ ON THE MOVE



Al Hindrichs of DEQ explains why and how land use changes over time effect nonpoint source water pollution and flooding with his Walnut Bayou display at the Boy Scouts Celebration of their 100th centennial at Camp Avondale near Clinton. The Centennial Celebration, Oct. 23, brought out exhibitors and the public to help the Boy Scouts celebrate.



Reggie Coleman, DEQ Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Program, demonstrates Walnut Bayou at a Girl Scout event at Whispering Pines Camp in Independence.



DEQ Staff Members Tomeka Prioleau, Curt Auzenne, Judy Schuerman and Linda Brown teach St. Amant Middle school Students about PH, acids and bases at Chem Friends, an annual science event held in Gonzales in Ascension Parish.



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## DEQ-CID LAUNCHES THE “CAN DO NETWORK” TO COMBAT ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

Stopping environmental crime really begins at the grassroots level and through a community watch presence where all eyes and ears are watching and listening. Organizing the community into an actively-engaged, environmentally attentive group is what the Criminal Investigation Division’s Can Do Network is all about.

Comprised of citizens and organizations who are concerned about environmental crimes in their area and across the state, the Can Do Network is a way by which interested parties can get involved.

Citizens and groups or organizations can report environmental concerns such as spills, releases, odors, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents to DEQ’s Single Point of Contact (SPOC) line at 1-888-763-5424. Anyone with knowledge of criminal activity can also call DEQ’s Criminal Investigation Division directly at (225) 219-3944.

By becoming a member of the Can Do Network, the public can receive status information on specific court cases relating to environmental crimes in Louisiana. Currently, 18 defendants throughout 12 parishes are awaiting trial for charges brought by CID for environmental crimes.

With increased input from the public, this number can be higher. By exhibiting a concern about environmental crime, citizens can have an impact on paving the way for a cleaner, environmentally friendly Louisiana. The Can Do Network offers an organized community watchdog effort, where citizens can get involved and help put an end to environmental crimes in order to preserve our own “Sportsman’s Paradise.”

Advancements have been made over the past 20 years, and DEQ-CID has developed partnerships with several district attorneys and law enforcement agencies at all levels. These relationships allow for a wider net to be cast in the apprehension and prosecution of environmental violators.



DEQ Criminal Enforcement Counsel Mike Daniels gives a presentation on the Can Do Network

In FY 09-10, DEQ-CID made 15 referrals to various district attorney offices and conducted seven arrests for environmental crimes ranging from the willful submission of forged documentation to the illegal discharge of hazardous waste into Louisiana waterways. At present, DEQ-CID has 75 active investigations.

Some recent high-profile cases are as follows:

Matthew King, 51, of Lake Charles, was ordered to pay \$2,000 dollars in criminal fines plus court costs, stemming from charges of illegally disposing solid waste on his property. King was also sentenced to 24 months of supervised probation. He must also pay \$1,000 to DEQ for the cost of investigation and \$500 to the Jefferson Davis Parish District Attorney’s office for prosecution costs.

Sidney J. Hebert, former Iberia Parish Sheriff and Environmental Compliance Solutions, LLC, owner, pleaded guilty to the negligent operation of a water treatment facility in violation of the Clean Water Act. This case was investigated by Special Agent Brett Spiers, Criminal Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Investigator Maureen Kennedy with the DEQ.



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Nathan Redwine, 61, of Natchitoches, was sentenced by 19th Judicial District Court Judge Bonnie Jackson to a suspended sentence of three years imprisonment, with five years of supervised probation. He was also fined \$3,000.00. Special conditions of Redwine's probation state that he is not to engage in any job that requires a professional license or certificate; and within 60 days, he is to place a 1/8 page advertisement in the major newspapers in Shreveport, Natchitoches and Baton Rouge stating that he was convicted of filing false statement and he misrepresented himself as an engineer. In addition, he must perform 250 hours of community service.

Investigators with DEQ-CID arrested an Opelousas man on 12 felony charges involving criminal violations of Plaisance Development Corporation's water discharge permits in St. Landry Parish. The president of Plaisance Development Corporation, Joseph L. Jones, 58, operates six wastewater treatment plants in St. Landry Parish, as well as, six wastewater treatment plants in Evangeline Parish. Jones is alleged to have knowingly violated PDC's Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit by not providing monitoring results, causing or allowing unpermitted discharges, and failing to provide proper operation and maintenance for the facilities operated in St. Landry Parish.

The tables below indicate the current status of cases actively under prosecution:

### AWAITING TRIAL

Defendant(s)	Docket Number	Parish	Prosecutor	Judge
Waguespack Rentals Inc. dba Innovative waste Systems (IWS)	24652 Filed 1/30/09	Ascension	Hon. Ricky Babin Special Assistant Mike Daniels	Hon. Thomas Kliebert
Armant Environmental Services & Charles Toth	5788 Filed 9/3/09	St. James	Hon. Ricky Babin Special Assistant Mike Daniels	Hon. Alvin Turner, Jr.
Jeffery Wayne Dabadie	5789 Filed 9/3/09	St. James	Hon. Ricky Babin Special Assistant Mike Daniels	Hon. Alvin Turner, Jr.
Walter Monroe Smith	298,727 Filed 9/16/09	Rapides	Hon. James C. Downs ADA Chris Maxwell	Hon. Thomas Yeager
Pellon E . Lawrence	303,263 Filed 8/11/10	Rapides	Hon. James C. Downs ADA Chris Maxwell	Hon. John C. Davidson
Plaisance Development Corporation & Joseph L. Jones	84083 Filed 6/24/10	Evangeline	Hon. Trent Brignac Special Assistant Mike Daniels	Hon. Thomas Fuselier
Michael Marshall	14605-10 Filed 5/5/10	Calcasieu	Hon. John DeRosier ADA David Palay	Hon. Michael Canady
Lynn John Matherne	585,169 Filed 8/13/10	Terrebonne	Hon. Joseph Waitz ADA Chris Erny	Hon. Randy Bethancourt
Tommy Francise	622-10 Filed 9/10	Iberville	Hon. Ricky Ward ADA Elizabeth Engolio	Hon. William Dupont
Miguel Ulloa Ramos	25936-10 Filed 8/10/10	Calcasieu	Hon. John DeRosier ADA David Palay	Hon. Kent Savoie

### AWAITING DECISION BY THE PROSECUTOR

Defendant(s)	Parish	Prosecutor
Mercury Forges	Jefferson	Hon. Paul Connick ADA Allison Monahan
Nathan Redwine	East Baton Rouge	Hon. Hillar Moore ADA Brandon Fremin
Garry Glass	Calcasieu	Hon. John DeRosier ADA David Palay
Karl Doughty	LaSalle	Hon. Reed Walters
Consolidated Vacuum Trucks, Inc., Chris Tobias, & Danny Evans	DeSoto	Hon. Richard Johnson ADA Britney Green





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You can then make the Criminal Justice System aware of the public interest and concern about the outcome of environmental criminal cases. By exhibiting a concern about environmental crime, citizens can have an impact on the way these cases are litigated and handled by all branches of our Criminal Justice System. It is not the intent of the Can Do Network to compromise or interfere with the rights of the accused, nor is it the intent to interfere with the ability of the courts to act in a fair and just manner.

Many of these cases were born out of a phone call from a watchful citizen reporting a suspicious event to DEQ. From that phone call, DEQ was able to conduct an investigation and uncover the full extent of the environmental crime being reported, and ultimately bring the responsible parties to justice.

The initial meeting of the Can Do Network was held on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at DEQ Headquarters, Galvez Building.

You can get involved and make a positive difference by learning more a meeting of the Can Do Network.

Future meeting dates will be scheduled around the state, so be sure to check the DEQ Web site at [www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov) for further details.

## STUDENTS MARK STORM DRAINS IN ZACHARY

**O**n the morning of Oct. 30, a group of students from Zachary High School, public officials, DEQ employees and others took to the streets of Zachary to mark storm drains.

The storm drain marking program is a hands-on project whereby colorful markers are placed on storm drain inlets in order to remind citizens to refrain from discarding trash down the drains.

The goal of the project is to help protect our waters from pollution that can be harmful to fish and wildlife, while educating the public about nonpoint source pollution



Chris Davezac, Zachary Public Works Director; Henry Martinez, Mayor of Zachary; Logan Leggett and Jason Smith, Zachary High School Students; and Peggy Hatch, DEQ Secretary

prevention. Nonpoint source pollution is any pollutant that runs off the land from our yards, farms, forests, streets and parking lots.

The students marked 105 storm drains throughout the city of Zachary over the course of the day.

As an essential element of the state's stormwater pollution prevention program, storm drain marking is important because storm drains flow directly to our lakes, rivers and bayous, as opposed to wastewater treatment plants. Rainwater carries street litter, yard waste, pet waste, oil and chemicals from lawn fertilizers and pesticides into storm drains. Minimizing this waste is vital, as the first inch of runoff from a storm generally carries 90 percent of the pollution, while causing at least half of the water quality problems.

Like the Zachary High School students who made this effort a success, you can help be the solution. For more information, please visit [www.deq.louisiana.gov/watershed](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/watershed).

Zachary Mayor Henry Martinez, Zachary Public Works Director Chris Davezac, DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch,



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DEQ Deputy Secretary Alex Appeaning and former DEQ Secretary Hal Leggett were on hand to assist with the coordination of the effort.

## REMIEDIATION

The Remediation Division's mission is to cleanup contaminated property of all sorts to the point where that property can be reused and productive. It encompasses residential, business, superfund, underground storage tanks and industrial properties and there are different approaches for different issues. Since January 2008, the Remediation Services Division and the Underground Storage Tank Division have closed 823 contaminated sites through evaluation and remediation. These properties are now available for reuse and active commerce.

One example of how the remediation process works with a contaminated former business property is the old Sears Building in Lake Charles. The Sears store was built in an older downtown section of Lake Charles that has been predominantly occupied by commercial and industrial establishments since the 1880s. The site has been home to many businesses, including multiple automotive service stations and one cleaning establishment. The building consisted of a 30-year-old brick, masonry and concrete structure with a 200-car capacity parking garage on the roof. The site had been inactive since 1999 and the property was owned by the city of Lake Charles.

Lake Charles wanted to sell the property for commercial redevelopment as a hotel/condominium/retail space. The goal of the city was to reuse the property in a way that would help revitalize downtown. In early 2007, multiple site investigations and a Risk Evaluation/Corrective Action Program evaluation were performed on the site to delineate the extent of contamination. The results of these investigations showed soil contamination. The RECAP evaluation recommended remediation of the soil to a depth of two feet below ground surface. The estimated volume of soils that was to be excavated was 1,170 cubic yards. The city of Lake Charles submitted a Voluntary Remedial Action Plan, which went out for



Completed Sears Building in Lake Charles

public review and was approved by DEQ Dec. 1, 2008. Remedial action began on Dec. 8.

In order to access contaminated soils, the existing building had to be demolished. Prior to demolition, all asbestos containing material had to be removed from the building. The asbestos abatement removed approximately 65,000 square feet of 12-inch by 12-inch floor tile and associated mastic material and also 3,500 square feet of transite siding. Prior to soil remediation, soil samples were taken for waste characterization, and a generator waste profile sheet was prepared for the chosen landfill. Also, offsite soil samples were analyzed as a source of backfill once soil removal was completed. Approximately 242 cubic yards of concrete covering the surface soils was removed from the site and transported to a concrete recycler. Approximately 1,176 cubic yards of excavated soil were loaded into truck trailers and transported to Jefferson Davis Landfill in Welsh.

Confirmation samples were taken from the bottom and side walls of the excavated area and sent to a laboratory for analysis prior to backfill. All sample results were below the proposed remedial standards. A request to backfill was sent to DEQ and was approved on Jan. 16,



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2009. Backfill and site restoration operations began on January 22 and were completed on February 20.

A Certificate of Completion was issued on April 14 and the site is currently vacant, awaiting reuse.

“This active turnaround of contaminated sites back into a state of active commerce is helpful for the environment and commerce. This sets a positive example for reducing the number of once blighted properties,” said Tom Harris, Administrator for the Remediation Services Division. “Actively reducing the number of blighted properties and turning them into reusable sites is the core mission of the Remediation Services Division.”

## NetDMR

A discharge monitoring report, known as a DMR, is a self-reporting document that is generated by permittees that have a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. The DMR contains information pertaining to water discharges into waters of the state.

For years, anyone required to turn in a DMR had to fill out the paperwork and mail it in to the department. However, in 2009 DEQ began a push to be more user friendly and incorporate e-business into several areas in an attempt to become more efficient. In June 2009, DEQ began accepting discharge monitoring reports online. To begin the program, Net DMR was made available to 390 major and significant minor facilities, as well as to others who expressed interest in the program.

As the program continues to grow, more facilities with Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits will be able to use NetDMR.

Between the start date and May 2010, 137 permits had been registered and approved for NetDMR. Twenty-five facilities are currently submitting online and 410 DMRs have been electronically received.

Carol Webre, with Chemical Waste Management in Sulphur, uses the NetDMR system monthly.

“I love it,” she said. “With the old DMRS there were entries that I needed to make and change so that I knew it was completed accurately. DEQ has taken that out of my hands and made it easier for me. If I do anything that is not right, it flags me. I’m grateful that DEQ went to this format. I use it every month.”

The ultimate goal is for NetDMR to be available to all permittees in Louisiana that are required to submit Discharge Monitoring Reports. Currently the application is available to major and significant minor permits. Other permittees interested in using NetDMR should email [deqnetdmr@la.gov](mailto:deqnetdmr@la.gov) with permit numbers and contact information. These permits will be added to a priority list and permittees contacted as NetDMR becomes available.

The City of Alexandria has been using electronic DMRs since October 2009. “Filing DMRs electronically saves time and money. The city no longer has to pay for certified mail for DMR submittal,” said Ann Wilson, Superintendent of Environmental Services. Another benefit is the system lists due dates for future reporting, which is helpful for quarterly and semiannual DMRs. “At a glance, I can see when reports are due to ensure they are filed on time,” she said.

For more information about NetDMR, go to: <http://www.deq.state.la.us/portal/ONLINESERVICES/NetDMR.aspx>.

## HOLIDAY RECYCLING

Louisiana, like the rest of the nation, produces more garbage in December than any other month. Reducing, recycling and reusing helps reduce trash while protecting the environment. It is estimated that 25 percent more trash is generated between Thanksgiving and New Years than during the rest of the year. A little planning can reduce this amount substantially. You can “Be the Solution” by following a few simple tips from DEQ.

Christmas cards are a good place to start. Used Christmas cards, especially those with large pictures



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to cut out, can be used as tree decorations, gift tags and other package decorations or can be donated to a nursery, day care or scout troop for arts and crafts work. Consider sending electronic greeting cards if you have internet access.

Breaking the "gift wrap" habit isn't easy, so here are a few ideas to get you started. Design your own gift wrap by using paper grocery or department store bags, the newspaper comics or flyers and adding decorations such as drawings, stamped patterns, or pictures cut from magazines. Let the kids do the designing. It will keep them busy on stormy days. Spruce up brown paper wrapping with pretty bows, which can be saved and used for many years. When you purchase gift bags or wrapping paper, look for the recycle contents, buy sturdy products and save them for next year's wrapping. Save your gift boxes or just put a bow on the larger or already decorated boxes. Christmas and holiday theme fabric or fabric bags can be used for wrapping and are reusable. Gift baskets are a good alternative to boxes and can be very attractive. Gift cards make an environmentally friendly gift. Consider buying gifts and products that are environmentally friendly and useful.

Take recycling and reuse into consideration when you buy a tree. You can purchase an artificial tree that doesn't have to be discarded or a live tree that you can replant or donate it to a school, nursing home or other place to plant in their yards. If you have a cut tree, remember that tinsel, flocking and decorations must be removed before recycling.

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 Web page at [www.rbrc.org](http://www.rbrc.org) for the nearest battery recycling drop off. Remember that most cardboard and paper can be recycled.

When the big day arrives, have a bag or box set aside to collect useable ribbons, bows and package decorations. Flatten the gift boxes for easy storage. If there is salvageable gift wrap, save it and put torn paper in a bag for the trash. Do not burn gift wrap or decorations in the fireplace.



If you should be lucky enough to get a new appliance, toaster, clock radio, toy, or coat, consider giving away your old ones to a local charity or thrift store.

You can recycle your broken or burned-out holiday lights, by mailing them to Christmas Light Source Recycling Program, 1923 6th Ave., Ft. Worth, Texas 76110. The bulbs will be recycled, and the proceeds will be used to purchase books for the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. For more information, go to [www.christmas-light-source.com](http://www.christmas-light-source.com).

To find where to recycle foam peanuts, call the Peanut Hotline at 800-828-2214. If you are a retailer who would like to participate or for more information, go to [www.loosefillpackaging.com/hotline](http://www.loosefillpackaging.com/hotline).



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For more recycling ideas, go to [www.deq.louisiana.gov/recycling](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/recycling). If you have recycling ideas to share, email us at [deqassistance@la.gov](mailto:deqassistance@la.gov). You can call the DEQ toll free at 800-305-6621.

## LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY'S SECOND QUARTER SUMMARIES

### 3rd Quarter 2010 Enforcement Actions:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/225/Default.aspx>

### 3rd Quarter 2010 Settlement Agreements:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2838/Default.aspx>

### 3rd Quarter 2010 Air Permits:

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

### 3rd Quarter 2010 Water Permits:

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

### 3rd Quarter 2010 Solid and Hazardous

### Waste Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2586/Default.aspx>

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