

Office of Environmental Services
Five Year Strategic Plan
July, 2011 – June, 2016

Agency Number: 13-852
Program: Environmental Services Program
Program Authorization: La. R.S. 30:2011(C)(1)

Vision

The vision of the Environmental Services Program is to ensure that the citizens of Louisiana have a healthy and clean environment to live and work in for present and future generations.

Mission

The mission of the Environmental Services Program is to ensure that the citizens of Louisiana have a clean and healthy environment to live and work in for present and future generations. This will be accomplished by regulating pollution sources through permitting activities which are consistent with laws and regulations, by providing interface between the department and its customers, by providing improved public participation. The permitting activity will provide single entry/contact point for permitting, including a multimedia team approach; providing technical guidance for permit applications; improved permit tracking; and the ability to focus on applications with the highest potential for environmental impact.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Environmental Services Program is to make efficient use of available resources to conduct operations that consider both environmental impact and economic impact. Decisions will be based on sound, comprehensive information that is scientifically and economically supported. Customer assistance will be provided to the regulated community in the application process. The permit process will assure that facilities have the information they need to maintain compliance with state and federal regulations.

Goal

To maintain and enhance the environment of Louisiana through permitting and licensing, and by sponsoring and supporting programs that increase public awareness of Louisiana's environmental issues.

Objective 1:

The Environmental Services Program, through the air permits activity, will ensure statewide protection of ambient air quality by limiting levels of air emissions to federal and state standards through high quality technical evaluations of incoming permit applications and issuance of final permit decisions for sources requesting new, renewal, or modified permits July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.

State Outcome Goal: Natural Resources

The Air Permits Division supports the Natural Resource State Outcome Goal by functioning to ensure that the impacts to air quality associated with a proposed project have been minimized or avoided to the maximum extent possible and that the social and economic benefits of the project greatly outweigh its adverse environmental impacts. Additionally, the air permits division develops and implements air pollution control strategies to attain good air quality and protect citizens' health.

Strategies:

- 1.1 Provide high quality technical evaluations/draft permits for all air permit activities, in a timely manner.
- 1.2 Maintain program integrity by continuing to meet all applicable state and federal mandates to ensure that all facilities' air emissions operations are protective of human health and the environment.
- 1.3 Provide requisite permitting data for appropriate EPA databases.
- 1.4 Continue to issue air permits that are in compliance with the Clean Air Act.
- 1.5 Initiate the promulgation of emission control regulations to attain the standards through the State Implementation Plan.
- 1.6 Evaluate the air monitoring data for trends and compliance with national and state air quality standards.
- 1.7 Maintain information on current standards to be used as a baseline for future environmental indicator processing (i.e. 1-hour average criteria) (Vision 2020: 3.8.1)
- 1.8 Complete any inventory (point, area, non-road mobile, on-road mobile or biogenics) necessary to address ozone non-attainment areas or for any other special purpose.

Performance Indicators:

Outcome: Provide high quality technical evaluations of air quality permit applications and take final action in the form of approval or denial per Louisiana regulations on

90% of applications received for new facilities and substantial modifications within established timeframes.

Output (GPI): Number of air quality permits division work products completed.
Number of air modeling reviews completed.

Objective 2:

The Environmental Services Program, through the waste permits activity, will ensure statewide control of solid and hazardous waste through high quality technical evaluations on incoming permit applications and issuance of final permit decisions for sources requesting new, renewal or modification applications July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.

State Outcome Goal: Natural Resources

The Waste Permits Division (WSTPD) supports the Natural Resources State Outcome Goal and protects the environment by ensuring proper management and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes within the State. Under this program, solid and hazardous waste streams are managed and disposed according to strict federal EPA requirements and sound engineering practices.

Strategies:

- 2.1 Provide high quality technical evaluations/draft permits for all solid and hazardous waste permit activities, in a timely manner.
- 2.2 Maintain program integrity by continuing to meet all applicable state and federal mandates to ensure that all regulated facility operations are protective of human health and the environment.
- 2.3 Provide requisite permitting data for appropriate EPA databases.

Performance Indicators:

Outcome: Provide high quality technical evaluations of waste permit applications and take final action in the form of approval or denial per Louisiana regulations on 85% of applications received for new facilities and substantial modifications within established timeframes.

Output (GPI) Number of solid waste work products completed.
Number of treatment, storage and disposal (hazardous waste facilities) work products completed.

Objective 3:

The Environmental Services Program, through the water permits activity, will ensure statewide control and limit pollutant levels for the protection of Louisiana surface waters through issuance

of final water permit decisions, water quality certifications, bio-solids registration and management activities July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.

State Outcome Goal: Natural Resources

The Water Permits Division (WPD) supports the Natural Resources State Outcome Goal and protects the environment through the Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permits, water quality certifications, and bio-solids oversight controls and limits effluent pollutant levels to the regulated waters of the state of Louisiana. Water permits contain specific scientifically based limitations and requirements which ensure the waterbody designated uses are achieved and maintained. Water quality assessment functions within WPD assist with the protection and improvement of the water resources of the state through objective scientific evaluation of water quality and the development of regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to address impairments. WPD plays a crucial role in the contribution to a healthy environment, and affords protection to the citizens of the state; and partners with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to further national and state level goals of natural resource protection.

Strategies:

- 3.1 Provide high quality technical evaluations/draft permits for all surface water permit activities, in a timely manner.
- 3.2 Maintain program integrity by continuing to meet all applicable state and federal mandates to ensure that all regulated facility operations are protective of human health and the environment.
- 3.3 Provide requisite permitting data for appropriate EPA databases.
- 3.4 Continue to utilize strategies to maintain the number of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits that are identified as “current”.
- 3.5 Continue to issue major and minor Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits, including Stormwater General Permits.
- 3.6 Review environmental data for water to define environmental problems and facilitate planning activities to develop regulatory and non-regulatory pollution control strategies to meet time schedules and requirements of the Clean Water Act.
- 3.7 Accomplish water quality assessments as required under Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (The Integrated Report) by compiling and assessing technical data on all water bodies in order to determine possible water quality impairment. A list of impaired water bodies, the 303(d) list, is then developed to show where Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) need to be established and incorporated into the Water Quality Management Plan (Vision 2020 Objective 3.8.4).

- 3.8 Continue to develop Water Quality Standards by maintaining, revising, or creating new criteria as needed to protect the designated uses of waters of the State (Vision 2020 Objective 3.8.3).
- 3.9 Report and post mercury fish tissue sample results and subsequent advisories, when needed, on the DEQ website, in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.
- 3.10 Report and post swimming advisories as needed in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Performance Indicators:

Outcome: Provide high quality technical evaluations of water quality permit applications and take final action in the form of approval or denial per Louisiana regulations on 89% of applications received for new facilities and substantial modifications within established timeframes.

Percent of water quality modeling documents finalized for public notice within 80 days of beginning the review process in support of permit limitations for point-source discharges.

Percent of water data received that is evaluated for technical acceptability for criteria development or assessments within 120 days.

Output (GPI): Number of individual water quality permit actions completed.
 Number of general water quality permit actions completed.
 Number of water quality certification activities completed.
 Number of biosolids hauler certifications completed.

Objective 4:

The Environmental Services Program, through the permit support services activity, will administratively process 86% of permit applications, registrations, notifications, and accreditations within established timeframes July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.

State Outcome Goal: Natural Resources

This activity supports the Natural Resources State Outcome Goal through the review of applications, registrations and notifications by Permit Support Services Division staff. These are proactive measures which ensure compliance, provide for clean water, air, and land and improved quality of life for people to live, work, and play in a healthy environment, and promote a sustainable tax base.

Strategies:

- 4.1 Provide administrative services to the three media permitting divisions.
- 4.2 Receive and analyze all incoming documents to ensure proper placement in DEQ's Electronic Data Management System (EDMS).
- 4.3 Create permitting records in TEMPO (Tools for Environmental Management Protection Organizations).
- 4.4 Conduct certification testing for solid waste operators.
- 4.5 Review Asbestos Management Plans for schools and state buildings.

Performance Indicators:

- Outcome: Administratively process permit applications, accreditation applications, registrations and notifications within established timelines.
- Output (GPI) Number of name, ownership, operator changes completed.
Number of asbestos management plan activities completed
Number of asbestos accreditations issued.