St. Landry, Natchitoches and Jefferson Davis added to list of participating parishes

The DEQ Drinking Water Protection Program is a success story on the road. The program started in Avoyelles Parish in 2003 and has expanded to Acadia, Vermilion, Natchitoches, St. Landry and Jefferson Davis parishes.

The three most recent additions to the roster of parishes are Natchitoches in 2004 and St. Landry and Jefferson Davis in 2005. The program, which is aimed at increasing public awareness about drinking water, is educating the communities about how to protect their own natural resources.

The Drinking Water Protection team starts a program in a parish by first visiting local water systems. From there they visit the various schools to show kids where drinking water comes from and how easily drinking water can be contaminated. The team also works closely with elected officials. A community meeting is set up so citizens can receive helpful drinking water tips and conservation information. Citizens of the local communities are encouraged to form a committee and then they take over the job of protecting their own water. The program is geared to help citizens take control of their environment and take an active role in ensuring clean drinking water for the future.

The program will move into Calcasieu Parish next with a community meeting scheduled for early September. The theme of the program is to “Protect Your Drinking Water One Drop at a Time.”

DEQ receives award

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality received an award from the Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA) during the LRWA Annual Training and Technical Conference held July 11-15th, 2005, in Alexandria, LA.

The award was “in appreciation for support and services to LRWA and the water and wastewater industry.” The Drinking Water Protection team works closely with LRWA to protect water resources in Louisiana.
Each parish adds flavor to DWPP gumbo

How are other parishes approaching the DWPP? A look at parish program highlights.

1. Visit potential sources of contamination within a drinking water protection area. Potential sources of contamination (PSOCs) may include gas stations, dry cleaners or other facilities that sell, store, use or dispose of chemicals. Chemicals, if not handled properly, have the potential to contaminate our ground water and surface water. PSOC personnel are provided with fact sheets, a list of important contacts, and a decal that reads “Drinking Water Protection Part-
2. Distribute information. DEQ provides the committee with maps of these locations and a model ordinance to present to local govern-
3. Ordinances, planning and zoning. DEQ recommends that communi-

The Vermilion Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee has completed most of the visits to significant poten-

The drinking water protection ordi-

coverage by the Drinking Water Protec-

Ordinance passage is pending in Maur-

Vermilion Parish Drinking Water Protection Ordinance! As the Vermilion Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee nears the completion of its drinking water protec-
tion goals, the DEQ Drinking Water Protection Team members will soon have to move on and focus on other par-
ishes, but we will miss you Vermilion Parish!

Photos from the Year

Acadia Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee awarded for service

A dinner and award cere-
mony was held on July 28th,
2005 at the Rayne Civic Cen-
ter to honor the Acadia Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee in recognition of their outstanding accomplish-
ments and dedication to protecting drinking water. Mayor Jim Petitjean and Water Superintendent Mike Judice of the City of Rayne hosted the event, providing the food and the facility.

Committee members visited 128 local business own-
ericers by fuel distributors. They also en-
couraged the adoption of local drinking water protection ordinances to restrict certain new facilities using or storing fuels or chemicals from locat-
ing within 1000 feet of public water supply wells. The ordinance was adopted by the City of Rayne, the Town of Church Point, the Town of Iota, and the Acadia Parish Police Jury. The ordinance is up for public comment in the City of Crowley.

In addition, the committee requested special guest speak-
ers at their meetings to dis-
cuss such topics as fluorida-
tion, abandoned wells, cross-

connection control, and the Louisiana Ground Water Management Plan. Members of the Acadia Parish Drinking Water Protection committee are as fol-

low: Greg Arabie, Jeff Bouillou, Mary Braessaux, Ervin Braessaux, A.J. Brous-
sard, Theresa Cary, Bill Chaumont, Errol Comeaux, Kirk Cormier, Margaret Frey, Andrew Gauthreaux, Pat Gauthreaux, Donald Hilliard, Mike Judice, Ben Labiche, Ron Levy, Michael Pastor, Cindy Redlich, Gregory Richard, Sandy Serber, Nick Simonet, William Stewart, Jr., Ken Terry, Steven Thibodeaux, August Thibodeaux, Curtis Thibodeaux, Walton Thibodeaux, and Dave Tho-
mas. DEQ congratulates these dedicated individuals for their efforts to protect a precious resource.

Vermilion Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee still at it...

On the Radar            Targeted parishes through 2007

• Beauregard
• Bossier
• Caddo
• Calcasieu
• East Baton Rouge
• Lafourche
• Rapides
• Terrebonne

From left to right—Mike Judice, Rayne Water Dept. Supervisor, Howard Fielding, LDEQ Geologist Supervisor, and LDEQ Drinking Water Protection team members Mary Gentry, Geologist, and Tiffani Cravens, Geologist.

Acadia Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee nears the completion of its drinking water protection goals, the DEQ Drinking Water Protection Team members will soon have to move on and focus on other parishes, but we will miss you Vermilion Parish!