



What's Inside?

LDEQ remains diligent during unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic

Message from the Secretary

LDEQ, LDC manufacturing hand sanitizer to aid COVID-19 fight

LDEQ will participate with EPA and others in Air Quality Awareness week in May

Louisiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust allocations to date

LDEQ takes Tulane environmental students on a tour of Waggaman air monitoring station

Storm drain markers remind everyone to keep our storm drains litter-free

LDEQ On The Move

Who's Who At LDEQ?

CONNECT WITH LDEQ



Subscribe to our monthly newsletter

Discover DEQ

LDEQ remains diligent during unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic

On Tuesday, March 10, the Louisiana Environmental Health Association (LEHA), in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), held a lunch and learn event at LDEQ headquarters regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) in an effort to get in front of a virus that would quickly be on Louisiana's doorstep. The audience heard from presenter Jenna Iberg Johnson, MSPH, a public health epidemiologist manager with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH).

Johnson covered the Office of Public Health's (OPH) planning, surveillance, testing, and recommended prevention measures for COVID-19. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus. According to Coronavirus.gov, the disease was first detected in China and has been named "SARS-CoV-2," and the disease it causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19"). It has since been detected in more than 117 locations internationally and all 50 states.

As of 12 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, there are 5,237 positive cases in Louisiana. These cases were reported in 60 of the 64 Louisiana parishes. The Louisiana Department of Health is tracking the presumptive positive test results online at <http://ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus> and updating this information daily.

Continued on page 2

SOCIAL DISTANCING 101

WHY? To prevent sick people from coming into close contact with healthy people in order to **REDUCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISEASE TRANSMISSION.**

HOW? Keep 6 feet between you and others whenever possible, avoid large crowds and gatherings, and restrict non-essential travel.

ONE PERSON'S ACTION CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.





Current risk assessment:

- People in places where ongoing community spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at an elevated risk of exposure, with an increase in the risk dependent on the location.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Persons who make close contact with persons with COVID-19 also are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is occurring also are at an elevated risk of exposure, with an increase in the risk dependent on location. A list of those countries can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.

Since the first positive case of the virus was reported in Louisiana, our state has shown to have the fastest growing number of cases per capita in the world. Officials expect even more cases of COVID-19 to continue to be identified in Louisiana in the coming days. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) suggests practicing “social distancing” and non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) to slow the spread.

“Social distancing” at its root, involves keeping a safe distance away from other people in order to avoid catching or spreading a virus. It is merely an all-encompassing way of encouraging people to avoid crowds and limiting close contact with others. That could mean working from home, canceling in-person classes, avoiding public events like concerts and sporting events, or even missing out on that spring break getaway you’ve been planning.

Gov. Jon Bel Edwards took additional measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by further limiting gatherings to fewer than 10 people, closing casinos, bars, gyms and movie theaters and limiting restaurants to delivery and drive-through orders only. The order went into effect on March 17.

On March 22, Gov. Edwards also issued a Stay at Home order to advance the state’s efforts to “flatten the curve” and encourage the public to stay at home.

A Stay at Home order is a direction for people to avoid going out in public unless it is absolutely necessary. It is different than social distancing in that it is a stricter form of social distancing. Not only does it ask that you don’t gather in groups and stay away more than six feet away from others, it asks that you leave your home only for essential services. This order is in place until the morning of Thursday, April 30, as of March 30. It will be re-evaluated before it expires, however, to make sure it doesn’t need to be extended.

Activities allowed under the Stay at Home order:

- Go to the grocery, convenience or warehouse store
- Go to the pharmacy to pick up medications and other healthcare necessities
- Go to medical appointments (check with your doctor or provider first)
- Go to a restaurant for take-out, delivery or drive-thru
- Care for or support a friend or family member
- Take a walk, ride your bike, hike, jog and be in nature for exercise — just keep at least six feet between yourself and others
- Walk your pets and take them to the veterinarian if necessary
- Help someone to get necessary supplies
- Receive deliveries from any business which delivers

Continued on page 3



STAY AT HOME ORDER WHAT YOU CAN DO

- GO TO THE GROCERY STORE or pharmacy
- GO TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS after checking with your healthcare provider first
- GO TO RESTAURANTS for take-out, delivery, or drive-thru
- CARE FOR A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND
- GO OUTSIDE (keep six feet between you and others)



STAY AT HOME ORDER WHAT YOU SHALL NOT DO

- DON'T GO TO WORK unless you are providing essential services
- DON'T VISIT FRIENDS & FAMILY if there is no urgent need
- DON'T GET CLOSER THAN SIX FEET away from others when you go out
- DON'T GATHER IN GROUPS of more than 10
- DON'T VISIT LOVED ONES IN THE HOSPITAL, nursing home, or other residential care facility



Activities NOT allowed under the Stay at Home order:

- Go to work unless you are providing essential services as defined by this Order
- Visit friends and family if there is no urgent need
- Maintain less than 6 feet of distance from others when you go out
- Visit loved ones in the hospital, nursing home, skilled nursing facility or other residential care facility, except for limited exceptions as provided on the facility websites.

The Stay at Home order most directly impacts businesses and employees. For more information on the limits it places on businesses, visit <https://gov.louisiana.gov/home/>. To read the official order, visit <https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/Proclamations/2020/JBE-33-2020.pdf>.

The second half of the recommended best practices from the CDC includes non-pharmaceutical interventions. These interventions include measures that will help slow the spread of the virus with everyday preventive actions. They include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing, or having been in a public place and/or touched public surfaces
- If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places – elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, handshaking with people, etc. Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hand or finger if you must touch something
- Wash your hands after touching surfaces in public places
- Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.

Continued on page 4



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



March 2020 Issue Number: 98

- Clean and disinfect your home to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks & cellphones)
- Avoid all non-essential travel, including plane trips, and especially avoid embarking on cruise ships.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, the LDEQ is instituting a work-from-home policy that will allow a maximum number of agency personnel to work from their homes using agency computers (telecommuting). This measure went into effect March 17 and is meant to comply with social distancing recommendations from the CDC and the LDH.

LDEQ will continue to be open for business. Agency offices will operate with reduced staff, and emergency response calls and citizen complaints will be handled as they normally are. Telecommuting staff will continue to process permit applications and perform their assigned work. LDEQ will restrict staff travel and postpone hearings and meetings. Industry inspections will be postponed for two weeks.

Although LDEQ remains open for business, public access to LDEQ worksites will be restricted. LDEQ's response to the Coronavirus outbreak will continue to evolve. As conditions change, employees will receive more directives, as will the public.

The CDC asks everyone to stay diligent. If you experience symptoms that include fever, cough and shortness of breath and you've traveled from an affected location or have come in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider. Let them know of your symptoms and circumstances. This will help them take care of you and keep other people from getting infected or exposed. Also, stay home and self-quarantine for at least two weeks if you can.

Those at a higher risk of getting very sick from this illness include older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes and lung disease. More specifically, those age 60 and older with a chronic medical condition are at higher risk of getting very sick. Those age 80 and older with a chronic medical condition are at higher risk of death from the virus.

If you have additional questions about Coronavirus, Louisiana's statewide 211 network is now answering calls about COVID-19. For questions or the most current information:

- Dial 211
- Text LACOVID to 898-211
- Visit <http://LA211Help.org>

You can also visit coronavirus.gov for more information from the Center for Disease Control and <http://dh.la.gov/Coronavirus> for more local information.



Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown

“Social distancing” is a term no one had heard until about a month ago. Now it’s a mantra we all live by. That is a result of the coronavirus and the spread of the disease it causes – COVID-19. I don’t have to reiterate the numbers for you. It’s numbing to repeat the death toll and positive test tally. We don’t need to be numb. Now more than ever, we need to be proactive.

Follow the governor’s advice. Wash your hands. Maintain proper distance between yourself and others when you interact. Don’t gather in groups of more than 10. Don’t go out more than you have to. Work at home if you can. This agency has adopted a maximum work-at-home strategy. But while state buildings are closed to the public, LDEQ is still open for business. For the majority of us, that business is being conducted from home.

I am doing it too. I am using technology to communicate with staff and others. It has some limitations and requires some adjustment. I have a few tips for those of you at home to be successful and productive in your improvised setting.

First, the most obvious: get a schedule and stay busy. Not only will you get more done, staying busy will help you cope with the stress of being alone. You don’t have to isolate entirely. You can stay connected with neighbors and family and coworkers by phone, Facebook, messaging, etc. You can and should get outside some too. Walk and exercise, just don’t rush over and shake hands with your neighbors if you see them while you’re out. Keep that six-foot minimum distance while you visit.

Take advantage of grocery stores that offer shop from home options or early hours for people over 60. You will find a better selection and minimize your interaction with other people.

Even as we work to minimize our physical interaction, LDEQ must do its part. We are continuing to handle emergency and citizen calls as usual. LDEQ helped organize the manufacture of hand sanitizer by Prison Industries. We donated the raw materials for the sanitizer: peroxide, glycerol and hydrogen peroxide from local industry. Working with our sister agencies, the Louisiana Department of Corrections (LDOC) and the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), we came up with a plan to gather the raw ingredients and manufacture the hand sanitizer using Prison Industries with assistance from some LSU experts. We were also able to locate a small stock of surgical masks and gloves which were donated to medical providers through GOHSEP. Small steps, yes, but enough small steps will carry you a long distance.

We do not know how long the coronavirus emergency will last or if the worst of it has passed or is yet to come. We are relying on our medical experts, and they tell us to be prepared for a long battle. Again, follow the governor’s advice. Take precautionary measures. Watch the news, but keep up your spirits. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “We must accept finite disappointment but never lose infinite hope.”

More than ever, take care of yourselves and stay safe as you go about your lives.



LDEQ, LDC manufacturing hand sanitizer to aid COVID-19 fight

As soon as medical experts recommended the use of hand sanitizers to fight the spread of COVID-19, the product vanished from store shelves. It was cleaned out by panic buyers.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality’s (LDEQ) staff is laden with scientists with a high level of technical expertise. Agency leadership wants to help the fight against COVID-19 any way they can, and so they decided to put that expertise to work and make some hand sanitizer for free distribution.

The World Health Organization (WHO), has a formula for hand sanitizer posted on the Internet. The recipe requires three main ingredients: isopropyl alcohol, glycerol and hydrogen peroxide. The Secretary of State’s Office had acquired small amounts of some of those ingredients to produce a batch of sanitizer to be used to clean voting machines in the April 4 Democratic Primary. The cleaner was to have been mixed up with inmate labor at Prison Enterprises. When the coronavirus emergency intensified, that election was postponed until June. The leftover ingredients were available.

LDEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown and Department of Corrections (LDC) Secretary Jimmy LeBlanc came up with a plan to make more hand sanitizer to meet the high demand for it in Louisiana. The only snag was getting more of the main ingredients. Surveying industry sources, LDEQ personnel located manufacturers of each of these ingredients in Louisiana. The companies were happy to donate the chemicals for the fight. ExxonMobil is donating isopropyl alcohol of proper purity. Procter & Gamble is providing the glycerol, and Solvay will provide the hydrogen peroxide. The Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) purchased some small bottles for the sanitizer. GOHSEP will also distribute the sanitizer.

Mixing the ingredients has to be done carefully. Explosive fumes can result. As the operation began at Prison Enterprises March 24, LDEQ was on-hand with a monitor to make sure no harmful gases built up. LSU chemistry professor and chemistry department chairman John A. Pojman, Ph.D., and LSU chemistry graduate student Anthony Mai are providing additional expertise.

“We have a 700-gallon poly tank on a platform about two-and-a-half or three feet off the floor,” LDEQ Environmental Scientist Senior



The mixing of the hand sanitizer occurs in a 700-gallon poly tank at Prison Enterprises.



Bottles of hand sanitizer made at Prison Enterprises

Continued on page 7



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



March 2020 Issue Number: 98

Daniel Lambert said. Lambert has been the agency's liaison in the manufacturing project. "They mix the batches in the tank, adding the ingredients in a fixed sequence. Liquid nitrogen is fed into the tank from the bottom and bubbles through the mixture to homogenize it. We have a line coming out of the tank to carry any fumes to a carbon scrubber – 250 pounds of activated carbon in a 55 barrel drum. Any vapor will be scrubbed there."

"I am pleased LDEQ is able to assist this project. Every little thing counts in the battle to flatten the curve of COVID-19," Brown said. LDEQ remains open for business, he said, and is still meeting its obligations even though its offices are closed to the public. "We are busy coping with our normal workload and adjusting to so many of our staff working from home, but we will go the extra mile to contribute to this effort."

LDEQ will participate with EPA and others in Air Quality Awareness week in May

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), honoring the year leading up to their 50th Anniversary, has announced that May 4 through May 8 is Air Quality Awareness week (AQAW). EPA partners with AirNow, NOAA National Weather Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Department of State. May is designated as "Improving Our Nation's Air." EPA will be associating our AQAW theme with this broader effort.

This year the theme is **Better Air, Better Health!** The goal is to promote air quality awareness and the effects of air quality on health, as well as encourage people to check the Air Quality Index (AQI) daily.

EPA and AirNow request the state's participation in this effort. Louisiana has been a part of this effort and continues to support it.

There will be a series of featured daily topics for Air Quality Awareness week.

- *Monday – Wildfires & Smoke*
- *Tuesday – Asthma & Your Health*
- *Wednesday – Where's Your AQI Coming From?*
- *Thursday – Air Quality Around the World*
- *Friday – Announcement of state and local events*

AirNow will release a website to support AQAW on Monday, May 4, the first day of AQAW (see www.airnow.gov/airaware). EPA will be using the hashtag #AQAW2020 on social media posts.



Louisiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust allocations to date



Louisiana's Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust is funding alternative fuel school buses to help improve air quality in Louisiana.

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) solicited proposed project applications for the Louisiana Volkswagen (VW) Environmental Mitigation Trust three times with the third application window completed Oct. 1, 2019. Proposed projects were solicited for consideration by LDEQ, the Department of Natural Resources (LDNR), and the Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD), and many have been awarded over the past year.

To date, Louisiana has awarded \$11,917,845 to 16 Parish School Boards who applied for funding under the VW Environmental Mitigation Settlement. Approximately 156 of the 351 buses receiving funding are propane or compressed natural gas (CNG) driven. Additionally, LDOTD is replacing old diesel equipment and vehicles with \$6,616,268 in VW Funding.

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry was also awarded funding for proposed projects that include replacing seven vehicles with \$693,791 of funding. The Town of Hornbeck was

awarded \$75,000 to replace an old diesel dump truck with a clean-burning CNG emergency roadside nurse dump truck that will be used to refuel other CNG vehicles. So far, \$664,000 has been awarded to 10 cities, towns, and universities to purchase 24 Dual Port Level II Electric Car Chargers, seven DCF Fast Chargers, and an electric charger to charge a city bus.

In 2017, Volkswagen (VW) pleaded guilty to charges that the company had installed software in its model year 2009-2016 2.0-liter and 3.0-liter diesel cars which circumvented Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emissions standards using a "defeat device." These vehicles emit up to 40 times more pollution than emissions standards allow in the form of nitrogen oxides (NOx), a pollutant that harms public health and contributes to ozone or smog formation.

A federal court in California approved the Volkswagen settlement on Oct. 25, 2016. Volkswagen is required to pay \$2.9 billion into an environmental mitigation trust fund to be shared among the states and tribes. Louisiana received more than \$19 million over the past three years from this settlement. The money has been used to offset the excess air pollution caused by VW's actions.

Three Louisiana state agencies were designated to receive equal shares of the fund: LDEQ, LDNR and LDOTD. These agencies were tasked to allocate the VW Mitigation Trust funds. LDEQ was designated the lead agency by the Office of Gov. John Bel Edwards.

The agencies proposed to pool their funds to target the replacement of eligible diesel school buses. The bus replacement program offers partial funding to school districts to replace older diesel buses with electric, alternative fuel or high-efficiency diesel vehicles. However, government and non-government organizations, alike, were also eligible for consideration.

To learn more about the VW Environmental Mitigation Settlement, visit <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/louisiana-volkswagen-environmental-mitigation-trust>.



LDEQ takes Tulane environmental students on a tour of Waggaman air monitoring station

On March 5, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) staff took a group of Tulane University environmental students on a tour of the temporary air monitoring station recently set-up in Waggaman. The new air monitoring station is funded and operated by LDEQ. It was set up in response to ongoing odor complaints in Jefferson Parish. The location was picked because it is central to neighborhoods, multiple landfills and the Mississippi River.

The Tulane students have been tasked with picking an ongoing, local environmental issue. They will use that issue to create an informative piece with the hope of educating the public. The students can choose any medium for their informative piece. They came with audiovisual equipment with which they filmed the tour and took pictures. Their questions were thoughtful and relevant to the topic of air monitoring.

LDEQ Environmental Scientist Peter Cazeaux guided the tour. Cazeaux said the station was set up to monitor spikes in particulate matter readings and chemicals readings, along with wind direction and speed to pinpoint sources.

“Hopefully, we can say what a definitive source of the odor is. If it is the landfill, we can say the levels aren’t high, or if they are high, we can go ahead and address that,” Cazeaux said.

He reviewed the equipment with the students and indicated that the public could access the air quality data at any time via the LDEQ website, <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/>. The Waggaman site is listed as the Jefferson Parish site, and the data updates hourly. The public can also sign up to receive notifications regarding a specific site at <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/Subscriptions/Manage>. Through this subscription, they will be notified via email when Air Quality Index (AQI) levels are recorded that are considered “unhealthy for sensitive groups” only.

To receive customized air quality notifications, the public can register for EnviroFlash. EnviroFlash is a free automated notification system, designed by EPA. Interested parties can sign up for forecast emails by going to the LDEQ website, <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroflash>, or visiting www.enviroflash.info, selecting “LA” from the state menu, then select the forecast area. With EnviroFlash, the subscriber has complete control of their forecast subscription, and can select the level at which they want to be notified about air quality (from “GOOD – Green” to “VERY UNHEALTHY – Purple” and multiple other options in between).

The most frequently asked question during the tour was “What does LDEQ do with the data collected?” In the event the station records a spike in particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5), carbon monoxide (CO) or sulfur dioxide (SO2), the air monitoring team would send the data collected as well as the meteorological data (MET) from the incident to the LDEQ Office of Environmental Compliance’s (OEC) Surveillance Division.



LDEQ Environmental Scientist Peter Cazeaux (far left) and Air Planning and Assessment Administrator Jason Meyers (far right) show Tulane environmental students around the air monitoring station in Waggaman.

Continued on page 10



The OEC Surveillance Division's goal is to protect citizens of the state by conducting inspections of permitted and non-permitted facilities, by responding to environmental incidents such as unauthorized releases, spills, citizen complaints, natural disasters and other emergency situations, by providing compliance assistance to the regulated community when appropriate, by assessing and monitoring air and water quality for compliance with standards and by promoting case information management for vigorous and timely resolution of issues of non-compliance.

As part of their environmental protection mission, the Surveillance Division pulls the data collected along with any citizen complaints submitted to LDEQ's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) hotline. From there, an investigation is undertaken to diagnose the potential source(s) of discharge, along with the nature and degree of those discharges to ensure any anomalies are identified and corrected.

The Single Point of Contact (SPOC) hotline is the main communication point for citizens to report concerns including spills, releases, odors, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents. In the event of an environmental emergency, citizens are encouraged to first contact their local authorities – police, sheriff, fire department, etc. Citizens can report the incident online to SPOC at <https://internet.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/ONLINESERVICES/FORMS/FILE-A-CITIZEN-COMPLAINT> or leave a message by calling 1-888-763-5424.

Storm drain markers remind everyone to keep our storm drains litter-free

Did you know that litter such as food wrappers, cigarette butts and other trash often makes its way into storm drains? And those storm drains ultimately lead into our state waterways?

Educating the public about the damage that cigarette butts, Styrofoam containers, plastic and other types of litter can have on the environment is one of LDEQ's missions. That's why LDEQ promotes the placement of storm drain markers near many storm drains – to inform the public that those drains are entrance points to our waterways.

Storm drain marking is a somewhat solitary task that can be performed in compliance with the current social distancing guidelines in light of COVID-19, almost anyone can perform this task with relative safety and appropriate distance from others. Boy Scout troops, church groups and various benevolent organizations have volunteered to place the markers in their communities – and it's often performed as a service project that meets the Eagle Scout requirements for Scouts USA.



Examples of the types of storm drain markers that are available.

The markers can be applied with adhesive on or near curbs where storm drains are located.

Designed to inform the public about nonpoint source pollution, the markers serve as a reminder to keep litter out of our local and state waterways. Litter not only pollutes those waters, it often clogs storm drains and causes flooding and the scattering of trash during high rain events.

To request storm drain markers from LDEQ, you may contact LDEQ Environmental Scientist Greg Waldron at **Gregory.Waldron@la.gov**. Markers are free to individuals and organizations; however, please ensure there is no conflict of interest and that proper permission has been granted before contacting LDEQ. The storm drain markers are funded through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 grant.



LDEQ On The Move

On March 5, the East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (MOHSEP) held its annual meeting with representatives from offices of homeland security and emergency preparedness of Region Two parishes as well as with state agencies to discuss the potential rise in the Mississippi River water levels over the next few months. In this meeting, the group also discussed the overall status of emergency preparedness teams, resources and upcoming changes everyone could look forward to.

LDEQ's Air Planning and Assessment Administrator Jason Meyers and the LDEQ Mobile Air Monitoring Lab (MAML) team were also in attendance to offer tours of one of the new MAMLs highlighting their capabilities and plans to utilize it as a tool for the LDEQ Emergency Response team. While still undergoing calibration, the new MAMLs will soon be deployed throughout the state on Special Monitoring Projects to provide instantaneous, on-site data directly relating to a multitude of air quality issues (whether emergency-related or not).



One of two new LDEQ Mobile Air Monitoring Labs (MAML).



The MAML team talks capabilities and answers questions for tour attendees.



Tour attendees were impressed with the new MAML and had many questions regarding its use.



Who's Who At LDEQ?



Sarah Baquet – Environmental Chemical Specialist Advanced, Waste Permits Division, Office of Environmental Services

Baquet is a native of Ville Platte, who moved to Baton Rouge in 2007 when she joined LDEQ as an environmental chemical specialist. She earned a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from the University of Louisiana – Lafayette in 2001. Baquet's time working at LDEQ has been in a supporting role in the hazardous waste permitting process. She was recently promoted to the environmental chemical specialist advanced position in the Waste Permits Division.

Baquet enjoys spending time with family (especially her granddaughter and new grandson), camping with her husband, attending LSU football and baseball games, traveling, reading and saltwater fishing.

Cameron Collins – Environmental Scientist, Surveillance Division, Northwest Regional Office, Office of Environmental Compliance

Collins, a Shreveport native, is an environmental scientist in LDEQ's Surveillance Division. He graduated in December 2018 from Louisiana State University - Shreveport with a Bachelor of Science in environmental science.

While an undergraduate, he worked as a student researcher at the LSU Agricultural Center and as an ASE certified automotive technician. He enjoys mountain biking, traveling and spending time with his family.



Ashley Menard – Environmental Scientist Staff, Emergency and Radiological Services Division, Office of Environmental Compliance

Menard is a native of Maurice. She earned a Bachelor of Science in biological sciences from LSU in 2005. She began her career with LDEQ in the Emergency and Radiological Services Division in 2008 as a radiation inspector. While working full time at LDEQ, Menard earned a Master of Health Physics at Oregon State University in 2017.

She has 11 years of experience conducting X-ray and radioactive materials inspections at licensed facilities and was recently promoted to environmental scientist staff in the Emergency and Radiological Services Division. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling and baking.



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



March 2020 Issue Number: 98

Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Fourth Quarter Summaries

Fourth Quarter 2019 Enforcement Actions:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions>

Fourth Quarter 2019 Settlement Agreements:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division>

Fourth Quarter 2019 Air Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter>

Fourth Quarter 2019 Water Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes>

Fourth Quarter 2019 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits>

