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LDEQ Announces Environmental Audit program

On Thursday, March 28, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality announced its Voluntary Environmental Self-Audit Program is open to receive applicants. The establishment of this program is to enhance protection of human health and the environment and to increase environmental compliance of regulated facilities.

Danny Bosch, an attorney representing Louisiana Chemical Association (LCA), said that “LCA supports the creation of an environmental self-audit program in Louisiana. Self-audit programs have been adopted in numerous states throughout the United States and have been proven to increase environmental compliance at facilities and enhance the protection of human health and the environment.”

LDEQ will continue to perform inspections and respond to incidents as we always have. This self-audit program serves as an added tool in the auditing process by allowing facilities to play a direct role in the compliance process. LDEQ is diligently working on transitioning to more direct electronic access for participants so that permitting, audits, and compliance work in real-time and allow for efficiency in the process.

“Voluntary compliance audit programs can encourage regulated entities to self-identify, self-report, and self-correct violations at their facilities,” said Jerry Lang, LDEQ Assistant Secretary for Environmental Compliance. “This program allows LDEQ to be in more of a mentoring role than a regulator role. At the end of the day, our goal is for industry to be in compliance with the regulations, and this program is a great tool to do that.”

For more information about LDEQ’s Environmental Audit Program, visit the LDEQ voluntary compliance audit page at [Environmental Audit Program | Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality](#).