Office of Environmental Assessment

Five Year Strategic Plan
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025

Agency Number: **13-856**
Program: **Office of Environmental Assessment**
Program Authorization: **La. R.S. 30:2011.C (1)(b)**

Vision

The Environmental Assessment Program will protect human health and the environment through effective planning, fair regulations and thoughtful thorough assessment of environmental conditions of land, water and air. Assessment activities will define environmental problems and direct the efficient and effective uses to resources through planning to analyze, reclaim, improve and protect the environment of Louisiana.

Mission

The mission of the Office of Environmental Assessment is to maintain and enhance the environment of the state in order to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Louisiana. This program provides an efficient means to develop, implement and enforce regulations, assess, inventory, monitor and analyze releases, and pursue efforts to prevent and to remediate contamination of the environment. The Office of Environmental Assessment also strives to develop plans and projects to assist stakeholders via financial assistance in environmental restoration and protection actions.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Environmental Assessment Program is to apply the best science and technology to analyze and define environmental problems and to apply effective regulatory and remediation solutions in a fair, honest and consistent manner.

Goal

The goal of the Office of Environmental Assessment is to improve the state of environmental protection through effective planning, evaluation and monitoring of the environment.

Objective 1:

The Office of Environmental Assessment, through the air planning and assessment activity, will assess and protect the general public's safety regarding ambient air quality analysis statewide July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025.

Strategies:

1.1 Design, implement and maintain the statewide ambient air quality network.

1.2 Provide requisite monitoring data for appropriate EPA databases.

1.3 Annually validate ambient air toxic data for use in determining compliance with standards and reporting emissions to EPA and the public.

1.4 Initiate the promulgation of emission control regulations to attain the standards through the State Implementation Plan.

1.5 Evaluate the air monitoring data for trends and compliance with national and state air quality standards.

1.6 Maintain information on current standards to be used as a baseline for future environmental indicator processing (i.e. 1-hour average criteria)

1.7 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.

1.8 Initiate the promulgation of emission control regulations to attain the standards through the State Implementation Plan.

1.9 Evaluate the air monitoring data for trends and compliance with national and state air quality standards.

1.10 Maintain information on current standards to be used as a baseline for future environmental indicator processing (i.e. 1-hour average criteria)

1.11 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 Indicator:

Outcome: Percent of ambient air data captured and reported per the federal requirements for criteria air pollutants.

Objective 2:

The Office Environmental Assessment through the water planning and assessment activity will assess and protect the general public's safety regarding overall quality of the water resources statewide July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025.

Strategies:

2.1 Administer the CWSRF to fund and promote wastewater projects intended to increase compliance with state and federal regulations.

2.2 Prioritize drinking water systems by parish for inclusion in the Drinking Water Protection Program through FY2020.

2.3 Encourage formation of local committees that implement water resource protection actions for local drinking water sources and ambient surface waters, and request their assistance in updating information to reevaluate each water system's risk assessment report.

2.4 Help local committees develop ordinances to protect public drinking water supplies.

2.5 Help community water systems develop new contingency plans and update existing contingency plans to implement during emergencies.

2.6 Accomplish nonpoint source pollution management updates as required under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act by implementing demonstration projects for Best Management Practices.

2.7 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.

2.8 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 impairments. Develop list of impaired water bodies requiring a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), the 303(d) list, and prioritize for TMDLs or other pollution control strategies

2.9 Develop or revise Water Quality Standards by maintaining, revising, or creating new criteria as needed to protect the designated uses of waters of the State

2.10 Report and post mercury fish tissue sample results and subsequent advisories, when needed, on the LDEQ website, in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health.

Performance Indicators:

Outcome: Percent of municipalities implementing planned wastewater improvements to ultimately ensure compliance with the federal Clean Water Act using funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Cumulative percent of community water systems where risk to public health is minimized by source water protection.

Cumulative number of watersheds where management measures described in Watershed Implementation Plans are being implemented to reduce non-point source pollution discharges.
Percent of water data received that is evaluated for technical acceptability for criteria development, assessments or modeling activities within 90 days.
Percent of verified mercury fish tissue sampling results posted within 30 days on DEQ website Water Data Portal.
Percent of official fish consumption advisories posted within 30 days on DEQ website.

Output (GPI): Number of data packages evaluated for technical acceptability.

Objective 3:

The Office of Environmental Assessment through the remediation activity will investigate and clean up uncontrolled contamination and/or monitor ongoing remediation at abandoned properties and active or closed facilities. This activity will restore sites by making them safe for reuse and available for redevelopment July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025.

Strategies:

3.1 Oversee and streamline the implementation of the RCRA Corrective Action Program.

3.2 Focus appropriate program resources and actions on GPRA-listed facilities.

3.3 Address immediate threats to human health and the environment and maximize actual environmental results by removal, treatment, or containment of contaminants.

3.4 Provide requisite compliance data for appropriate federal databases.

3.5 Provide information necessary to support enforcement actions where warranted.

3.6 Seek to return sites to active commerce through the Voluntary Remediation Program (Vision 2020 Objective 3.8.5).

Performance Indicators:

Outcome: Cumulative number of remediation sites evaluated and closed out.
Cumulative percentage of closed out sites that are ready for continued industrial/commercial/residential use or redevelopment.

Output (GPI) Cumulative number of sites returned to active commerce through DEQ's Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP).
Cumulative number of Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) facilities with remedies selected for the entire facility.
Cumulative number of GPRA facilities with remedy completed or remedy construction completed for the entire facility.

Objective 4:

The Office of Environmental Assessment through the remediation activity will direct the determination of the extent of contamination both laterally and vertically at sites with pollution and to protect the soil and groundwater resources of the state by reviewing 95% of the soil and groundwater investigation work plans and corrective action work plans received July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025.

Strategies:

4.1 Guide and direct the investigation of sites identified as contaminated in the State by reviewing investigation work plans.

4.2 Conduct appropriate administrative follow-up for each investigation work plan.

4.3 Inspect investigation activities periodically to ensure that work is being performed in accordance with the approved work plan.

4.4 Select potentially contaminated sites from Remediation Division data and perform assessment to determine the existence of soil and/or groundwater contamination according to established divisional procedures.

4.5 Guide and direct the remediation of contaminated sites by reviewing corrective action work plans.

4.6 Conduct appropriate administrative follow-up for each corrective action work plan.

4.7 Inspect remediation activities periodically to ensure that work is being performed in accordance with approved work plans.

4.8 Provide requisite RCRA data for appropriate EPA databases

Performance Indicators:

Outcome: Cumulative percentage of soil and groundwater investigation work plans reviewed.
Cumulative percentage of soil and groundwater corrective action work plans reviewed.

Objective 5:

The Office of Environmental Assessment through the underground storage tanks activity will investigate and clean up uncontrolled contamination and/or monitor on-going remediation at abandoned and active underground storage tank (UST) sites, and ensure the integrity of UST systems at active sites. This Activity will restore UST sites by making them safe for reuse and available for redevelopment, and ensure the integrity of UST systems by inspecting active UST sites July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025.

Strategies:

5.1 Perform compliance inspections of underground storage tank facilities to verify compliance with state and federal regulations.

5.2 Provide necessary oversight and direction to close UST incidents where appropriate.

5.3 Address immediate threats to human health and the environment and maximize actual environmental results by removal, treatment, or containment of contaminants.

5.4 Provide requisite compliance data for appropriate federal databases.

5.5 Provide information necessary to support enforcement actions where warranted.

Performance Indicators:

Outcome: Cumulative number of UST sites evaluated and closed out.
Cumulative percentage of registered underground storage tank sites inspected.

Objective 6:

The Office of Environmental Assessment through the underground storage tanks activity will direct the determination of the extent of contamination both laterally and vertically at UST sites with pollution and to protect the soil and groundwater resources of the state by reviewing 95% of the soil and groundwater investigation work plans and corrective action work plans received for UST sites July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025.

Strategies:

6.1 Guide and direct the investigation of sites identified as contaminated in the State by reviewing investigation work plans.

6.2 Conduct appropriate administrative follow-up for each investigation work plan.

6.3 Inspect investigation activities periodically to ensure that work is being performed in accordance with the approved work plan.

6.4 Select potentially contaminated sites from Underground Storage Tanks and Remediation Division data and perform assessment to determine the existence of soil and/or groundwater contamination according to established divisional procedures.

6.5 Guide and direct the remediation of contaminated sites by reviewing corrective action work plans.

6.6 Conduct appropriate administrative follow-up for each corrective action work plan.

6.7 Inspect remediation activities periodically to ensure that work is being performed in accordance with approved work plans.

6.8 Provide requisite data for appropriate EPA databases

Performance Indicators:

Outcome: Cumulative percentage of UST site soil and groundwater investigation work plans reviewed.
Cumulative percentage of UST site soil and groundwater corrective action work plans reviewed.