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PUBLIC HEARING REMARKS

OPENING REMARKS

* * * * *

FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING
AND
REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
ON
A DRAFT WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT
FOR

Southeastern Louisiana Water & Sewer Co., LLC
Goodbee Regional Sewage Treatment Plant
Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

Agency Interest Number 153322
Permit Number LA0123269
Activity Tracking Number PER20070001

* * * * *

The Louisiana Department of Environmental
Quality held a Public Hearing and was reported at the
St. Tammany Parish Council Chamber, 24190 Koop Drive,
Mandeville, Louisiana, on Thursday, March 13, 2008,
commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Reported by:
Jan Berard,
Certified Court Reporter

□

1 APPEARANCES:

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□

1 MR. PERRY THERIOT:
2 Good evening, Ladies and
3 Gentleman. It is six o'clock. We're
4 going to do a few preliminaries,
5 here. If anybody is going to speak,
6 I'm going to remind you to please
7 fill out one of the sheets at the

8 deghea
front desk. We're going to go into
9 just a little explanation, here,
10 before we get started. I'm the
11 Hearing Officer, and my name is Perry
12 Theriot. It's going to sound like a
13 drone, because we are required by law
14 to read certain things into the
15 Record as we get going. I'm going to
16 read those things in just a few
17 minutes. But I would like to do a
18 preliminary and just let people know
19 how it's going to operate. This is a
20 Public Hearing. We're going to go
21 through everything. I'm going to
22 read the official instructions that
23 the Legislature requires us to do.
24 And then we're going to take our
25 speakers, and I'll read the rules

□

5

1 that this goes by. I do like to
2 introduce myself. I am an attorney
3 at the DEQ. We serve as Hearing
4 Officers under random allotment
5 throughout the State for permits. I
6 happened to draw this one. I am a
7 native St. Tammany person. I
8 graduated from St. Paul's High School
9 in 1972. My mother was a Librarian
10 in Folsom for many years and still

11 deqhea
12 lives on Lee Road. So I used to be
13 an Assistant District Attorney, here.
14 I love it. It's good to back in St.
15 Tammany for a little while. So I
16 was, kind of, glad I got picked for
17 this one. With that, we're going to
18 go into the formal process. Please
19 don't fall asleep while I read the
20 instructions.

21 Let the Record reflect that it is
22 6:02. My name is Perry Theriot. I
23 am employed with the Louisiana
24 Department of Environmental Quality.
25 I will be serving as the Hearing
Officer this evening, Thursday, March

□

6

1 13, 2008.

2 This Hearing is scheduled to
3 accept public comments concerning the
4 Draft Water Discharge Permit for
5 Southeastern Louisiana Water & Sewer
6 Company, LLC/Goodbee Regional Sewage
7 Treatment Plant, 350 North Causeway
8 Boulevard, Mandeville, St. Tammany
9 Parish, Louisiana, Agency Interest
10 Number 153322, Permit Number
11 LA0123269 and Activity Tracking
12 Number PER20070001. The site is
13 located on Louisiana Highway 1077 at

14 the ^{deqhea} Tantella Ranch Subdivision
15 northwest of Covington, Louisiana.

16 The principal discharge from this
17 proposed source will be made into
18 Soap and Tallow Branch; thence into
19 the Tchefuncte River; thence into
20 Lake Pontchartrain in Subsegment
21 040801 of the Lake Pontchartrain
22 Basin, waters of the state classified
23 for primary contact recreation,
24 secondary contact recreation,
25 propagation of fish and wildlife, and

□

7

1 outstanding natural resource water.
2 Under the SIC Code 4952, the
3 applicant proposes to discharge
4 treated sanitary wastewater from a
5 privately owned treatment works
6 serving the Countryside, Eagle
7 Landing, Tantella Ranch, and Bedico
8 Ranch Subdivisions.

9 During the preparation of this
10 permit, it has been determined that
11 the discharge will have no adverse
12 impact on the existing uses of the
13 receiving water quality. As with any
14 discharge, however, some change in
15 existing water quality may occur.

16 This Hearing is not being

17 deqhea
18 conducted in a question and answer
19 format. Please remember that the
20 purposes of this public hearing is to
21 allow you, the public, an opportunity
22 to express your thoughts concerning
23 the Draft Water Discharge Permit. I
24 will allow all interested parties a
25 reasonable opportunity to comment,
 unless testimony is not related to

□

8

1 the purpose of the hearing.

2 This hearing is being held to
3 give all individuals a chance to be
4 heard regardless of their position on
5 this Draft Water Discharge Permit.
6 Courteous behavior is expected of
7 everyone at all times. You may speak
8 in support of; in opposition to; or
9 simply to provide additional
10 information. Your comments will be
11 evaluated and addressed in the
12 Department's written response.

13 A public notice advertising this
14 public hearing and request for public
15 comment on the Draft Water Discharge
16 Permit was published in The St.
17 Tammany News of Covington, Louisiana
18 and The Advocate of Baton Rouge,
19 Louisiana on January 30, 2008. The

20 deqhea
21 public notice was also published in
22 The St. Tammany Farmer of Covington,
23 Louisiana on January 31, 2008.

24 A copy of the Application, Draft
25 Water Discharge Permit, and Statement
 of Basis is available for inspection

□

9

1 and review at the LDEQ, Public
2 Records Center, Room 127, 602 North
3 5th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
4 Viewing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30
5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except
6 holidays. The available information
7 can also be accessed electronically
8 on the Electronic Document Management
9 System, referred to on the website as
10 EDMS, on the DEQ public website at
11 www.deq.louisiana.gov.

12 Additional copies are also
13 available for review at the St.
14 Tammany Parish Library-Covington
15 Branch, 310 West 21st Avenue,
16 Covington, Louisiana 70433-300 and
17 the St. Tammany Library-Mandeville
18 Branch, 842 Gerard Street,
19 Mandeville, Louisiana 70448. In
20 addition, copies of the public notice
21 were mailed to individuals who have
22 requested to be placed on the mailing

23 deqhea
24 list maintained by the Office of
25 Environmental Services on January 28,
 2008.

□

10

1 In accordance with Louisiana
2 Administrative Code, Title 33, Part
3 IX, Section 3113.B.1, comments
4 received by 12:30 p.m. Monday, March
5 17, 2008, will be considered prior to
6 a final decision. All oral comments
7 received and transcribed during this
8 hearing and written comments received
9 by 12:30 p.m., March 17, 2008, shall
10 be retained by the Department and
11 considered in determining whether to
12 issue or deny the Water Discharge
13 Permit.

14 Written comments on this Draft
15 Water Discharge Permit may be
16 submitted to Ms. Soumaya Ghosn, LDEQ-
17 OES, Environmental Assistance
18 Division, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge,
19 Louisiana 70821-4313

20 Under Louisiana Revised Statutes
21 30:2017, as revised by the
22 Legislature in the 2004 session, the
23 Department is required to follow the
24 following order with the provisions
25 that the presiding officer may give

1 preference to a public official to
2 speak at any time during the hearing.
3 However, any time limit set for
4 citizen testimony shall apply to
5 public officials.

6 The Department is required to
7 provide up to 30 minutes to the
8 permit applicant for an introductory
9 presentation. Thereafter, the
10 preference for speaking up to one
11 hour is given as follows:

12 For the first hour, those
13 citizens who live within a two-mile
14 radius of the location of the
15 facility;

16 For the second hour, those
17 citizens who work within a two-mile
18 radius of the location of the
19 facility;

20 For the third hour, those
21 citizens who live within the parish
22 of the location of the facility.

23 Thereafter, each hour of the
24 hearing shall alternate between those
25 who are in support of the Draft Water

deghea

1 Discharge Permit and those who are
2 opposed to the Draft Water Discharge
3 Permit.

4 The order of tonight's hearing
5 will be based on the information
6 provided by the speaker on the
7 registration form. Anyone who
8 registered to speak but did not
9 provide the necessary information
10 will be given the opportunity to
11 speak; however, they will be called
12 last in the order of registration.

13 This hearing is being
14 transcribed; therefore, I will ask
15 that each speaker begin when they get
16 to the podium by stating, for the
17 Record, their name, address, and any
18 organization that he or she may
19 represent.

20 Again, please turn off any cell
21 phones that you may have, and we will
22 begin the proceeding now. I would
23 like to call forth at this time the
24 permit applicant representative to
25 come forward and make their

□

13

1 introductory presentation.

2 MR. DICHARRY:

3 Good evening, Mr. Theriot. My

deqhea

4 name is Paul Dicharry. I'm an
5 attorney with the Law Firm Taylor
6 Porter Brooks and Phillips in Baton
7 Rouge, Louisiana, Post Office Box
8 2471. I'm here tonight to present
9 the introductory remarks on behalf of
10 Southeastern Louisiana Water. We do
11 not believe that we will require the
12 full 30 minutes for an introduction,
13 however, if you all have any
14 questions or any rebuttal at the end,
15 we'll try to clarify and reserve a
16 little bit of that time to speak at
17 the end, pinpoints that are raised in
18 question.

19 The Goodbee Regional Plan is
20 proposed to serve, as Mr. Theriot
21 noted, the subdivisions of Eagle
22 Landing, Tantella Ranch, Bedico
23 Ranch, and Countryside. It is the
24 existing facility located at
25 Northridge, which is not included

□

14

1 within the zoning that was served by
2 this facility, nor on the map is
3 shown the future development at Villa
4 West. Villa West is not included in
5 the jurisdiction of this facility at
6 this time.

deghea

7 The first point to make in all of
8 this is that SELA, Southeastern
9 Louisiana Water & Sewer is not
10 responsible for any of these
11 developments. These developments
12 have been authorized by the Parish of
13 St. Tammany. And when they are
14 authorized by the Parish of St.
15 Tammany, the necessary infrastructure
16 in service, tug boats, current and
17 future residents must be obtained
18 someplace. Southeastern Louisiana
19 Water & Sewer is a private company in
20 the business of providing water and
21 sewage services.

22 The proposed plan has a regional
23 or a consolidated facility. It
24 offers a much greater efficiency,
25 and, therefore, better treatment of

□

15

1 the wastewaters that would come from
2 these developments, then would be
3 typical of the small package plan by
4 a single subdivision or even a single
5 home site basis.

6 Because of that increased
7 efficiency, the water quality is
8 better preserved in the area waters
9 as a result of having this level of

deqhea

10 treatment from the regional facility,
11 as opposed to having the typical type
12 of single subdivision or single home
13 site development.

14 There are two levels with that
15 which are proposed and to have a
16 permit: One is the recognition of
17 the initial loading and the effluent
18 limits. To go to a finer level of
19 limitation, it is pulled (phonetic)
20 out of the contemplative developments
21 to be built by others.

22 Realizing the limits that are set
23 in the permit are maximum and minimum
24 range permit limits. They are not
25 typical of the levels of treatment

□

16

1 obtained by the levels of treatment
2 afforded by these types of
3 facilities. Southeastern Louisiana
4 Water & Sewer have a very good track
5 record of operating this facility,
6 especially over the last five years.
7 They have been in compliance; they
8 have actually obtained better results
9 and have been in compliance with the
10 requirements established by the
11 State.

12 In addition, the proposed limits

deqhea

13 to go with this facility are
14 restrictive 552 limits, much stricter
15 than what the normals were with just
16 a regular wastewater treatment
17 facility. This affords greater
18 protection for the receiving waters.
19 Additionally, we realize there have
20 been comments that have been raised,
21 there are concerns as everyone has.
22 Area waters have been impaired in
23 some respect. There's the
24 realization issue. There's stricter
25 standards that even apply in the

□

17

1 proposed facility. And in addition
2 to the proposed primaries, that
3 includes a reopening clause which is
4 typical, so that if the State does
5 issue more stricter standards for
6 receiving waters during the life of
7 the permit, SELA would be required to
8 meet even more strict standards that
9 would be established at that time.

10 There has also been a concern in
11 waste, and I can understand this,
12 about the scenic river status of
13 receiving waters. SELA is very aware
14 of its responsibilities in this
15 regard. There's been meetings and

deqhea

16 discussions and opportunities with
17 the Louisiana Department of wildlife
18 and Fisheries, the administrative
19 agency that is responsible for the
20 Scenic Rivers Programs. And we are
21 looking at some very creative and
22 innovative methods of further
23 refining the effluent product to
24 ensure that the receiving waters are
25 not further impaired.

□

18

1 Understand that there is not
2 going to be a major impact of
3 receiving waters even with the
4 current design. It is estimated that
5 even in a wet condition, we're
6 talking about the addition of waters
7 to receiving things of about 30-
8 seconds of an inch, in terms of water
9 volume. In a dry condition, it would
10 be about three inches, but it is
11 still a minimum of water contribution
12 to the receiving water shift.

13 The application that would be
14 submitted to the Department of
15 wildlife and Fisheries and the Scenic
16 Rivers Program will be submitted
17 shortly. As I said, we have been
18 discussing some technical issues with

deqhea

19 the Department of Wildlife and
20 Fisheries in terms of making sure
21 that the application to be submitted
22 is as technically well-founded as is
23 possible.

24 There has also been a concern in
25 some of the comments as to the

□

19

1 location of the facility and the
2 flood planes. SELA understands the
3 concern, there. All of us who live
4 in Southeastern Louisiana are well
5 concerned with flood planes. I
6 understand that all of the necessary
7 equipment, including the right
8 (phonetic) equipment that comes from
9 (Inaudible) are elevated under the
10 design of the facility, and,
11 therefore, are raised out of the
12 reach of flood waters. The discharge
13 of those two receiving water
14 treatments are accurately discharged
15 on the developers' property. It is
16 not a discharge directly to the
17 waters. It is discharged and working
18 its way to those waters, so there is
19 some natural filtration that occurs
20 during transit of effluent waters to
21 the receiving water shift.

deqhea

25

Southeastern Louisiana Water, with

□

21

1

this facility, to also provide a

2

level of service to the area

3

residents in these subdivisions.

4

With that, we will be happy to hear

5

your remarks.

6

MR. THERIOT:

7

Now, according to the schedule

8

they have given us from the

9

Legislature, here, we're going to

10

have the first hour devoted to those

11

speakers who live within a two-mile

12

radius of the facility. I have quite

13

a few speaker cards that have been

14

filled out, so, initially, what I'm

15

going to do is limit everyone to 5

16

minutes. Everyone will not -- that

17

will not be the end of your ability

18

to speak. You can come back later

19

after we've gone through the

20

mandatory portions, and anyone

21

wanting to speak again will be taken

22

in the order that the Legislature

23

gave. But I will ask you to try to

24

keep it close to 5 minutes. I'm not

25

going to cut you off, but I will give

□

1 you a signal that five minutes is
2 coming up to let you know. And you
3 can come back and speak again if
4 you'd like. I've got here the cards
5 that were brought of everyone who
6 signed up. And currently, the top of
7 the list is Mr. John J. Martin of
8 Covington. And after him, will be
9 Daniel Navo. So if Mr. Martin wants
10 to come on up. He had checked off
11 that he lives within a two-mile
12 radius of the facility.

13 MR. JOHN MARTIN:

14 My name is John J. Martin. I
15 live at 12375 Arc Road. I'm the
16 President of the Goodbee Civic
17 Association. I want to thank you
18 all, first, for giving us the chance
19 to speak. One thing I do want to
20 stress is that we do wish a regional
21 water and sewer plant. We feel like
22 the efficiency and the ability to
23 monitor one large plant, as opposed
24 to five small plants, certainly makes
25 a regional water plant something that

□

1 everybody desires. Our problem is we

2 deghea
feel like it's in the wrong place.
3 The members of the Goodbee Civic
4 Association have concerns about the
5 Goodbee regional water and sewerage
6 plant being placed on the east side
7 of Highway 1077. If that is what's
8 being said, it is to drain into the
9 Bedico River. It should be placed
10 where it can do something; that is,
11 on the west side of Highway 1077.
12 However, the permit states that it is
13 to drain into the Tchefuncte, which
14 unlikely being done, has been
15 designated as the scenic river, which
16 would make the permit illegal.

17 The proposed location is in Flood
18 Zone A. It is drained by Branches of
19 the Soap and Tallow discharging at
20 full capacity 250,000 gallons per day
21 into this area, to keep the ground
22 saturated, and then heavy rain would
23 cause water to flow over the pancake-
24 flat area of Goodbee. That can be
25 seen from pictures 1 to 9. And I

□

24

1 have copies of the pictures in there
2 for you all, after a typical rain.
3 This would cause damage to a number
4 of homes, properties, as well as to

11 deqhea
12 destruction of our wetlands. The
13 discharge with this pollution, such
14 as heavy metals, pharmaceutical
15 byproducts, which they are finding
16 now in our drinking water, and fecal
17 coliform, which we will have fecal
18 coliform released, will cause
19 irreparable damage applied to the
20 ecosystem. The plant and animal
21 bylaws should be protected for future
22 generations. I'm just asking you to
23 read number 2, the draft permit,
24 (inaudible), the water and sewerage
25 plant is given the right to destroy
 our wetlands, but should be held to a

□

27

1 strict enforcement of the law to
2 preserve.
3 The results of the question of
4 violating Louisiana's anti-
5 degradation policy, pursuant to
6 Louisiana's Triennial review, 7040801
7 has been changed to include the
8 tributaries of the Tchefuncte River,
9 which is listed as an outstanding
10 natural resource of water. Adding
11 250,000 gallons of water per day
12 would change the entirety of the Soap
13 and Tallow and the tributary of the

14 deghea
Tchefuncte. (Inaudible) of the
15 states, some change in the existence
16 of water quality may occur,
17 discharging into the Soap and Tallow
18 is illegal, since Louisiana law does
19 not allow any degradation of water
20 quality. The LDEQ has a
21 responsibility of protecting the
22 public and its resources.
23 Discharging 250,000 gallons per day
24 into a Branch of the Soap and Tallow
25 and shortly into the Tchefuncte River

□

28

1 would most assuredly ask for the
2 pollutants, such as copper, lead,
3 mercury, and fecal coliform into both
4 of these waters. The degradation of
5 either of these resources in any way
6 is illegal, and the permit should not
7 be granted. And we would like to
8 work with everybody, and, perhaps,
9 face this facility on the other side,
10 the west side of 1077 where some of
11 these concerns we have would be
12 handled by discharging into, perhaps,
13 the Bedico.

14 I also have a matter from the
15 Department of Environmental Quality
16 about the Southeastern Water and

17 deghea
Sewerage Company with numerous
18 problems that they bring, all the way
19 from '04, '05, '06, about issues they
20 had and fines that they had to pay.
21 And, I guess, my concern is if we're
22 going to have a water plant there, we
23 certainly want one that we felt a lot
24 more confidence about. I appreciate
25 it. Thank you all. I'd like to save

□

29

1 my time, if I can, for later.
2 MR. THERIOT:
3 Mr. Martin, did you want to enter
4 your board as an exhibit or not?
5 MR. MARTIN:
6 Sure, yes, sir. I have this.
7 And I have the papers. And all the
8 pictures are there. Please do. I
9 think I took some good pictures.
10 Thank you, sir.
11 MR. THERIOT:
12 At this time, I have Mr. Navo.
13 Is that how you pronounce it?
14 MR. NAVO:
15 Navo.
16 MR. THERIOT:
17 Navo, okay. Mr. Navo also lives
18 within a two-mile radius of the
19 location of the facility. Please

20 deghea
begin by putting your name and
21 information into the Record.

22 MR. NAVO:

23 74381 wilkinson Road. It's 500
24 feet from the discharge facility. I
25 have a few questions. One would be,

□

30

1 (Inaudible) into soap bayou creek and
2 if anyone from, I guess, the
3 corporation that represents them, can
4 you tell me if any of them have
5 walked the creek. And then tell me
6 if it's clear passage, cause it's
7 not. Since Hurricane Katrina, there
8 is still debris. I tried walking it.
9 It has logs up to your waste, full of
10 mud and leaves. With a half-inch of
11 rain, that whole area is a flood
12 plane. It doesn't just flow down the
13 creek. It flows to our houses. So
14 you're telling me that you want to
15 put a drainage, not subservice, a
16 service drainage, which is open to
17 run through this particular creek,
18 which goes nowhere. (Inaudible).

19 First of all, having this around my
20 house, obviously, doesn't add to the
21 appeal if I wanted to sell the house.
22 And you say it's going to filter

23 deghea
24 through the existing property. If
25 the property is already saturated,
 what is it filtering into? That

□

31

1 whole area when it rains, right now,
2 everybody (Inaudible) if it rains, it
3 goes in the grass and you get muddy
4 feet. You're going to be walking --
5 is it mud or sludge? It is supposed
6 to be treated, but, I guess, I don't
7 trust you. Yes, we live in a flood
8 plane, but the flood plane is
9 supposed to be fresh water. I don't
10 know what you're going to be adding
11 to it. But, I think, if you clear up
12 Soap Bayou or Creek, whatever you
13 want to call it, get a clear passage
14 and run a direct route, put a
15 subservice drainage and drain it into
16 the northern areas of Bedico. That's
17 alternatives. But what you're trying
18 to give us now is really something
19 you can't live with. Thank you.

20 MR. THERIOT:

21 Thank you. At this time, I have
22 on my sheet, Mr. Gary P. Blanchard.
23 Mr. Blanchard, also lives within a
24 two-mile radius of the facility.

25 MR. BLANCHARD:

1 I don't know what else to add.

2 MR. THERIOT:

3 First of all, give us your name.

4 And where do you live?

5 MR. BLANCHARD:

6 Gary Blanchard. 74395 wilkinson

7 Road. And I am a house away from

8 this planned plant. It's going to be

9 a problem. I echo the same concerns

10 about the drainage and such. We have

11 drainage problems now after a

12 moderate rain. The drainage ditches

13 won't handle what we have now. Other

14 than that, I think, Mr. Martin has

15 brought up some interesting points

16 that I wasn't aware of. Thank you.

17 MR. THERIOT:

18 Thank you, Mr. Blanchard. Now, I

19 have Ms. Verda Blanchard, who also

20 lives within a two-mile radius.

21 MS. BLANCHARD:

22 Yes, I do. I live with my son,

23 Gary Blanchard. And I have the same

24 concerns.

25 MR. THERIOT:

deghea

1 Thank you, Ms. Blanchard. The
2 next one I have is Mr. Edward Fauls.
3 Mr. Fauls is listed as living within
4 a two-mile radius.

5 MR. FAULS:

6 I'm Edward Fauls. I live at
7 12212 Arc Road. The problem I have
8 with this (Inaudible), I'm sure this
9 gentleman and his company does a fine
10 job wherever they are, but our
11 situation, I don't know of any
12 reports showing that we had a problem
13 with the water. However, if the
14 Council arbitrarily approves all of
15 these month to unit (phonetic) homes
16 going through one house at five acres
17 to two and a half houses at an acre,
18 yeah, certainly, we're going to have
19 problems. But, I mean, I thought,
20 like I said, (Inaudible) I thought
21 the Parish was supposed to take all
22 of this into consideration before
23 they arbitrarily approve these
24 things. People can come in and buy
25 cheap, at farm prices and then they

□

34

1 want to divide them up by
2 construction lines. Of course, you
3 all have nothing to do with it. So

deghea

4 for those of us who are already there
5 and are abiding by the rules, with
6 operating septic tanks and our own
7 wells, we're now going to have to
8 change around so that the
9 construction corporations of St.
10 Tammany can have their way. So I
11 understand what (Inaudible) before we
12 talked to this (Inaudible). Cause
13 it's not even clear that the way they
14 said this water is going to drain.
15 Or is it going to drain? Because
16 there's a lot of down timber and as
17 this gentleman has brought about the
18 river being (Inaudible). I mean, we
19 don't want this stuff in our yard
20 anyway. So I wish you would consider
21 that. Thank you.

22 MR. THERIOT:

23 Thank you. At this time, I have
24 Michael Heisser. Mr. Heisser is also
25 listed as living within a two-mile

□

35

1 radius.

2 MR. HEISSER:

3 That's correct. I reside at
4 75560 Tantella Ranch Road. And I
5 concur with each one of you that have
6 spoken tonight, your concerns. I

deghea

7 have the same concerns. My concern
8 adding to it would be that at one of
9 our meetings, it was stated that the
10 plant would not have any emergency
11 back-up power. When the plant shuts
12 down because of some power back out
13 or block out, there's no power at the
14 plant and emergency power would be
15 brought in from, I believe, it was
16 Abita. SELA would bring in the power
17 from Abita. Now, if this plant is
18 relying on power to operate, what
19 would be the time line and what would
20 be the weather conditions that stop
21 this power? And whether we could
22 keep the plant not operating for that
23 period of time? That's all I have so
24 far. Thank you.
25 MR. THERIOT:

□

36

1 Thank you, Mr. Heisser. I now
2 have Mr. Bernard Gottfried. Mr.
3 Gottfried is also listed as living
4 within a two-mile radius of the
5 facility.
6 MR. GOTTFRIED:
7 My name is Bernard Gottfried, and
8 I have property sitting on Highway
9 1077. It's 74030 Highway 1077. And

deqhea

10 this project affects a large
11 percentage of my property. Across
12 the front on Highway 1077, I have 755
13 feet of ditch. And on the, let's
14 see, the south side, I have 2100 or
15 2200 of ditch. I am not opposed to a
16 regional sewer facility. I am
17 opposed to anything that puts any
18 more water into that ditch. I
19 haven't seen the bottom of that ditch
20 in two months. It just -- I don't
21 know where all the water is coming
22 from. But it just keeps coming, and
23 coming, and coming. And I can't see
24 it getting any better.
25 what's happening as more and more

□

37

1 homes are built in that area, there's
2 going to be less water being absorbed
3 in the ground, and that water is
4 going to funnel into the ditches.
5 And it's just going to get worse and
6 worse. So I don't know what they are
7 going to do with that sewer system,
8 but I sure hope it is directed in
9 another direction, because we're
10 unable to accept any more water in
11 those ditches. Thank you.
12 MR. THERIOT:

deghea

13 My next sign up sheet is Mr. Mike
14 Stack, who also listed himself as
15 living within a two-mile radius
16 location of the facility.

17 MR. STACK:

18 My name is Mike Stack. I live at
19 76045 Tantella Ranch Road. And I'm a
20 member of the Goodbee Civic
21 Association. As we showed earlier on
22 the screen, I was accessing DEQ's
23 site for the electronic data,
24 (Inaudible), and John touched on it
25 very briefly the fact that SELA,

□

38

1 Southeastern Louisiana Utility, and
2 the firm by DEQ in the past forwarded
3 their operation are not in compliance
4 with their treatment plants.
5 (Inaudible) as of September of '07,
6 when they had to pay the State
7 \$150,000. DEQ had found 44 treatment
8 sites that were not in compliance.
9 They had problems, such as too much
10 suspended solids, fecal coliform
11 bacteria, and nutrients which suck
12 oxygen from the water known as BOD,
13 is the technical term or the acronym.
14 I also found on the EPA website, that
15 SELA was penalized under the Clean

deghea

16 Water Act to 2.1 Million dollars.
17 They knew their plant was deficient
18 and not in compliance, but yet they
19 continue to add homes and services to
20 these plants. These raise some
21 serious questions. And as far as I'm
22 concerned, it's not a very good track
23 record. This is all public record.
24 From a personal standpoint, I, as an
25 individual, went (Inaudible) we have

□

39

1 our own separate treatment plants.
2 And I'm conscientious about keeping
3 it running properly. If somewhere in
4 the future, like, some rural people
5 have to be, are mandated by the
6 Parish trying to (Inaudible) original
7 system that doesn't work as well as
8 my own treatment plant, I'm going to
9 be upset. That's, basically, all I
10 have to say. Thank you.

11 MR. THERIOT:

12 Thank you, Mr. Stack. Next I
13 have Judith Heisser. Judith is also
14 listed as someone living in a two-
15 mile radius of the facility.

16 MS. HEISSER:

17 Good evening, my name is Judith
18 Heisser, and I reside at 75560

deqhea

19 Tantella Ranch Road. I am really
20 glad that the people who have gone
21 before me up here have done their
22 homework. I haven't, but I have a
23 personal opinion about this. I moved
24 to the country to enjoy the country.
25 And as some of my neighbors have

□

40

1 already stated, even with a two-inch
2 rain, we experience some water in our
3 yards. And it's really hard to enjoy
4 or my grandchildren to enjoy being in
5 the country with a lot of water all
6 around us. God forbid that the water
7 is contaminated. It's bad enough
8 when it's fresh water. My concern
9 is, not that I'm opposed to a
10 treatment plant or to a water
11 facility for the area, but that it be
12 a very good one. Thank you.

13 MR. THERIOT:

14 Thank you, Ms. Heisser. That
15 completes all the people who marked a
16 sign-in sheet that live within the
17 two-mile radius of the location
18 facility. I have looked through the
19 sign-in sheets, the next in line
20 would be those who would be working
21 within the two-mile radius of the

deghea

22 location of the facility. I do not
23 have any sign-in sheets that have
24 checked off that they work within a
25 two-mile radius of the location of

□

41

1 the facility. So I will proceed to
2 the third category, unless there's
3 someone here who wanted to fill out a
4 sheet who works within a two-mile
5 radius of the facility. Is there
6 anyone who wishes to speak who would
7 be willing to sign one of the sheets
8 who works within in a two-mile
9 radius? Let the Record reflect that
10 no one wanted to speak. So with that,
11 we'll go to the third category for
12 those citizens who live within the
13 parish who have signed up. I also --
14 I have only one speaker who has
15 signed up as living within the parish
16 and that's Mr. Matthew Allen. Is Mr.
17 Allen here?

18 MR. ALLEN:

19 Thank you for allowing me the
20 time to speak.

21 MR. THERIOT:

22 Mr. Allen?

23 MR. ALLEN:

24 Yes.
Page 37

deqhea

25

MR. THERIOT:

42

1

Your name and address.

2

MR. ALLEN:

3

Matthew Allen at 72630 Clark

4

Allen Lane, Covington, Louisiana

5

70433. We live on a ridge across the

6

river, down the street from the 190

7

bridge. And one of my main points

8

that I wanted to make was about the

9

canal that cuts across the Soap and

10

Tallow Branch directly into the

11

Tchefuncte River. I was out there

12

yesterday on a friend's property

13

looking at it, and it definitely

14

flows into the river. It does not go

15

south to 190. My understanding of it

16

is full (phonetic) after 190, because

17

190 acts as a dam to Tallow Creek

18

without proper drainage. Excuse me.

19

I'm a teacher and I can do this in

20

front of students, but not in front

21

of you all. Highway 190 acts like a

22

dam for Tallow Creek because of the

23

improper drainage underneath the

24

highway. I agree it could be

25

relocated, just west of 1077 would

1 not be appropriate. I would say the
2 southwest quadrant, south of 190
3 would be a better position for it.
4 Now, we go swim in the river, fish in
5 the river with my children. By
6 emptying through this drainage ditch
7 into a river, it puts us at a risk
8 cost. It will affect a much broader
9 stretch of the river than it is
10 stated in the permit. I would like
11 to thank you. That's all I can say.

12 MR. THERIOT:

13 That would complete all of the
14 sign-in sheets that list themselves
15 as living within the parish. From
16 now we start from -- where you live
17 or where you work is not important --
18 if you wish to speak and you signed,
19 we're going to open the podium to
20 that. The first one I have on my
21 list of sign-in sheets is Ms. Lisa
22 Jordan.

23 MS. JORDAN:

24 My name is Lisa Jordan. I'm a
25 Supervising Attorney at a Tulane

□

1 Environmental Law Clinic. The

2 deqhea
3 address is 6329 Freret Street, New
4 Orleans, Louisiana 70118. And I'm
5 here on behalf of the Gulf
6 Restoration Network, Louisiana
7 Environmental ASHA Network, Ms. Hazel
8 Sinclair, Loretta O'Reilly, Oneil
9 Couvillion, and Kelly Fitzmorris. We
10 submitted written comments in
11 connection with this application on
12 behalf of these groups and
13 individuals. And we pretty much put
14 everything we wanted to put into the
15 Record at that time. However, I do
16 want to comment briefly on a few
17 other things. What Mr. Dicharry said
18 when he stood up is that SELA is
19 working with the Fish and Wildlife
20 service, because they have to get a
21 permit.

22 MR. DICHARRY:

23 Department of Wildlife.

24 MS. JORDAN:

25 I'm sorry, the Department of
 Wildlife and Fisheries. The State

□

1 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,
2 because this is an effluent stream
3 (phonetic) that requires a permit
4 from that Department, as well as the

5 deghea
6 Department of Environmental Quality.
7 And what Mr. Dicharry said was that
8 they were working in connection with
9 the Department of wildlife and
10 Fisheries to do more, to do more
11 treatment, to do better treatment, to
12 do better than what is currently on
13 paper. And what I'd like to say is
14 if they can do more in connection
15 with the Fish and wildlife service
16 application, then they can do more in
17 connection with the Department of
18 Environmental Quality application.

19 Because the Tchefuncte and the Soap
20 and Tallow Branch are what we refer
21 to in the law as "outstanding natural
22 resource of water," which, basically,
23 means it is of exceptional value, and
24 it is to be protected as much as
25 possible. Because of that status,
 the law provides that you just can't

□

46

1 degrade the water at all. And, of
2 course, discharges of fecal coliform
3 and the other things that they are
4 proposing to discharge, would degrade
5 the water.

6 So, basically, the law provides
7 that you cannot discharge into at

8 all. They are indicating they have
9 other alternatives, and we would like
10 to see those alternatives in
11 connection with the Department of
12 Environmental Quality application.
13 The Department of Environmental
14 Quality is a public trustee of the
15 environment for all of us. And the
16 Department is required to determine
17 that if there is any alternative
18 projects that they can come in and do
19 that would be better than what
20 they're doing now with their
21 constitutional duties. So it sounds
22 like the Department of Environmental
23 Quality needs to look into this.

24 I also wanted to comment briefly on
25 the fact that they are discharging

□

47

1 fecal coliform into the Tchefuncte
2 and the Soap and Tallow Branch. And,
3 of course, the Tchefuncte is impaired
4 for fecal coliform. That basically
5 means it's already polluted with
6 fecal coliform, and I, probably,
7 don't need to explain what fecal
8 coliform is. But it's what you get
9 from flushing your toilet and
10 sanitary wastewater treatment

11 deqhea
12 facilities. So because that water
13 quality is already impaired, it's
14 already polluted, the law requires
15 that they not discharge anymore.
16 They cannot cause or contribute to a
17 violation of the water quality
18 standard. If you already violate a
19 standard, then anymore is going to
20 make it worse. So the fecal coliform
21 discharge from this facility is a
22 problem.

23 The last thing I wanted to
24 mention is Mr. Dicharry also spoke to
25 SELA's record and I know a couple of
 the individuals have come up here and

□

48

1 the looked at research, the fines
2 that they had to pay and, I think, we
3 even put that down, as well. But, I
4 think, he says that they've gotten
5 better, and actions speak louder than
6 words. So if they can do better, if
7 they can have a better discharge
8 system, for example, that's obviously
9 the best thing. You don't put
10 anything into the water, if you don't
11 have a discharge system. And there
12 are places all around the country
13 doing no discharge systems in

14 deghea
connections with subdivisions. So
15 that's what we want. We haven't seen
16 an analysis of why that's not
17 possible here. And we think it's a
18 requirement of the law.

19 Again, if SELA really is doing
20 better -- and they would also have a
21 criminal violation. In addition to
22 the EPA fines and penalties, there's
23 criminal violations. So they
24 definitely don't have a good track
25 record. If they're better, then,

□

49

1 again, they can prove it with this
2 particular application.

3 I also want to mention that I'm
4 here as Supervising Attorney with
5 respect to Ms. Heather Gaw, who is a
6 student attorney at the clinic, and
7 she'll be coming up soon to speak.
8 Thank you.

9 (Appause by the audience).

10 MR. THERIOT:

11 Thank you, Ms. Jordan. Next, I
12 have signed up is Ms. Heather Gaw.
13 Is that how it is pronounced?

14 MS. GAW:

15 Yes, sir. My name is Heather
16 Janice Gaw. I also work at the

17 deqhea
18 Tulane Environmental Law Clinic as a
19 student attorney. It is 6329 Freret
20 Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118.
21 I represent Loretta O'Reilly and
22 (Inaudible). And I would like to
23 discuss the problems based on the
24 Soap and Tallow Branch and the
25 Tchefuncte River. I am also
 introducing the affidavit from Barry

□

50

1 (Inaudible) as Exhibit A. On August
2 2nd 2007, Chuck Brown, Assistant
3 Secretary of the DEQ, sent a letter
4 to the St. Tammany Parish President,
5 Kevin Davis, saying, "the parishes
6 and municipalities need to take
7 action to address the issue of water
8 discharges due to pollution in the
9 Lake Pontchartrain Water Basin."
10 They should think again about using
11 better treatment systems while
12 planning these new sources and
13 discharges treated sanitary
14 wastewater. These measures should
15 include developing better plans,
16 considering wastewater a reclamation
17 and reuse. If waste discharges do
18 not comply with State and Federal
19 water quality goals, then the LDEQ

20 deqhea
cannot issue the permit.

21 Permitting discharges under this
22 would-be draft permit will further
23 pollute the outstanding natural
24 resource waters. Soap and Tallow
25 Branch and the Tchefuncte River are

□

51

1 outstanding natural resource waters.
2 Like my supervisor says, this means
3 that they've been determined to be of
4 exceptional value and the instruction
5 at even both levels of these
6 pollutants cannot be allowed because
7 of this value. More notably, both
8 waters, the Tchefuncte and Soap and
9 Tallow, are currently treated with
10 excess mercury and fecal coliform.

11 The draft permit will allow
12 discharges and pollutants, including
13 biological oxygen demand, chemical
14 oxygen demand, solids, oils,
15 bacteria, petroleum, lead, chlorine
16 and other pollutants into the Soap
17 and Tallow Branch. LDEQ emphasized
18 the distance of this would-be
19 discharge from the Tchefuncte River,
20 saying that it is far enough that it
21 would not have any affect. However,
22 this really shouldn't matter.

1 discharges nullifies the
2 effectiveness of having more
3 stringent limitations. According to
4 Footnote on Page 4 of the statement
5 of basis, the dissolved oxygen limit
6 of 5 milligrams per liter is the
7 lowest allowable average of daily
8 discharges over a calendar month.
9 Yet, monitoring is only required by a
10 graph sample twice a month. This
11 means that by sampling you could have
12 an option level of zero, as long as
13 one other sampling produced a result
14 of 10 milligrams per liter. And
15 these levels can vary widely, as per
16 time of day and temperature.

17 So the sampling results can be
18 selective and easily manipulated to
19 confuse the desired results. And
20 these low levels dissolve oxygen and
21 are harmful and intolerable to
22 support a way of life. The
23 monitoring is, therefore,
24 insufficient to protect the Soap and
25 Tallow Branch, especially since the

deghea

1 waterbody is an outstanding natural
2 resource water and no in-stream
3 monitoring is currently required.

4 LDEQ did not perform enough analysis
5 on the permit. They conducted no
6 environmental analysis whatsoever,
7 much less one that considers the
8 adverse affects of allowing
9 discharges from 68,000 to 400, to 263
10 to 200,000 gallons of treated sewage
11 per day into a little or low flow
12 outstanding natural resource water.

13 Additionally, the Soap and Tallow
14 Branch and the Tchefuncte River are
15 water quality limited segments.
16 States are required to create lists
17 of water that do not meet water
18 quality standards. And are not
19 expected to meet those standards.
20 The State must then establish a total
21 maximum daily loads for all water
22 quality in limited segments to
23 improve their water quality. Because
24 the Soap and Tallow Branch has been
25 determined to require more than

□

55

1 secondary treatment, the Branch is a
2 water quality limited segment.

3 Therefore, to make sure the

deghea

4 discharges won't further degrade the
5 waters, LDEQ must determine a total
6 maximum daily load for the Soap and
7 Tallow Branch before it can issue the
8 permit. And it failed to do so.
9 Therefore, LDEQ must deny the Goodbye
10 Draft Permit without those proper
11 limitations: monitoring, scientific
12 testing, and issuance of a total
13 maximum daily load. Thank you.

14 MR. THERIOT:

15 Thank you, Ms. Gaw. Hand him the
16 exhibits, so he can mark it in.

17 (Note by reporter: This exhibit is marked
18 Exhibit A.)

19 (Applause by audience).

20 MR. THERIOT:

21 My next speaker I have marked is
22 Mr. Matt Rota. Did I pronounce it
23 correctly?

24 MR. ROTA:

25 Sure did. My name is Matt Rota.

□

56

1 I work for the Gulf Restoration
2 Network, P.O. Box 2245, New Orleans,
3 Louisiana. And I think everybody who
4 has already spoken before me has
5 spoken very well to the multitude of
6 problems with this permit and with
Page 50

deqhea

7 having this wastewater treatment
8 facility at the place that it is
9 being proposed. I just want to
10 highlight a few things that people
11 have said. One thing is, I think one
12 of the most crucial things about this
13 is the designation of this waterbody.
14 It is a natural scenic river
15 waterbody. It is an outstanding
16 natural resource waterbody. And by
17 law, you cannot degrade this
18 waterbody, period. That's what the
19 law states. And if LDEQ permits
20 this, without proof to show that it
21 is not degrading the waterbody at
22 all, it is violating its own laws,
23 and that is plain illegal and should
24 not be happening.

25 But within this permit, they actually

□

57

1 say, "oh, if we only lower the
2 quality of water just a little bit,
3 it doesn't matter." Again, that
4 violates the strict law that's in the
5 books, and it shouldn't be changed.

6 So, therefore, we, like a lot of
7 other people, we are in favor of
8 legalizing a sewerage treatment plant
9 in order to get better treatment, to

deghea

10 protect our waters. But there are
11 also ways to do this better. And one
12 thing is not to discharge into an
13 outstanding natural resource
14 waterbody and, actually, showing
15 alternatives. There have been
16 alternatives that have been shown
17 today. And there are other
18 alternatives, such as, no discharge
19 and other things that have not been
20 adequately addressed within these
21 permits. And we need to be able to
22 see those alternatives, because the
23 position and discharge that we're
24 talking about is simply not
25 acceptable.

□

58

1 Another thing I wanted to hit on
2 is another way that this would
3 completely violate Louisiana
4 standards and that is within this
5 waterbody, we're supposed to be able
6 keep a certain amount of resolved
7 oxygen and that's 5 milligrams per
8 liter. And as it was stated before
9 me, they have a footnote that says,
10 "the average has to be 5 milligrams
11 per liter." well, this is,
12 basically, a no-flow stream when it

deghea

13 is in the dry season, and, therefore,
14 it would be making up the entire flow
15 or very close to it. And the water
16 quality regulations state very
17 strictly that you cannot go below 5
18 milligrams per liter, not an average.
19 That means that any measurement they
20 take cannot go below the 5 milligrams
21 per liter. And it is, therefore,
22 again, not legal.

23 This is an important body of
24 water, because people live by it,
25 swim in it, boat in it, and it has

□

59

1 been recognized by the State by
2 multiple agencies of the importance
3 of this river. And one of the
4 reasons that they would say, "well,
5 we didn't say that these houses are
6 okay, so, therefore, we're just
7 coming in here and supplying the
8 service. well, people -- yes, people
9 need to be able flush their toilets.
10 That is also the responsibility to,
11 if you're building that subdivision,
12 to make sure that that waste is being
13 disposed of correctly and abiding by
14 the laws. So whoever is building it,
15 needs to abide by the law. And

deghea

16 that's what we want to make sure sees
17 happen. Thank you.

18 (Applause by audience).

19 MR. THERIOT:

20 Thank you, Mr. Rota. My next
21 sign up sheet is for Ms. Loretta
22 O'Reilly, Jr.

23 MS. O'REILLY:

24 Hello. My name is Loretta
25 O'Reilly, Junior. I live at 16501

□

60

1 Bricker Road in Covington. I've
2 heard a lot of wonderful, thoughtful
3 comments tonight. And I believe in
4 science. And I'd like to encourage
5 the DEQ to please uphold its own
6 laws. We all want to live in a great
7 parish, and most of us have been here
8 a pretty long time. And we have seen
9 tremendous, tremendous change, a lot
10 of it is mysterious and unnecessary.
11 The Parish, they need to hold their
12 feet to the fire. They allow things
13 that have happened illegally to be
14 done. And you can look all around us
15 and the evidence is right before our
16 eyes. Sites where there is no tree
17 barker left. Things that have no
18 erosion control. They just have all

deghea

19 these best management practices that
20 have been created for everybody's
21 could, and nobody does it. There's
22 little integrity going on. And I
23 really do hope that the Department of
24 Environmental Quality in Louisiana
25 will please uphold its own laws and

□

61

1 ordinances.

2 (Applause by audience).

3 MR. THERIOT:

4 Thank you, Ms. O'Reilly. We're
5 going to take a short little break,
6 before I call my next speaker, to do
7 a little repair on the camera. A
8 little technical glitch here in the
9 back.

10 (At this point, there was a recess. After
11 the recess:)

12 MR. THERIOT:

13 It's 7:08, and we're back on the
14 Record. At this time, I have one
15 more sign-up sheet, Mr. Edmond
16 Christy.

17 MR. CHRISTY:

18 Thank you. My name is Edmond
19 Christy. And, technically, I live in
20 Jefferson Parish, but I have a
21 weekend retreat on the Tchefuncte

deghea

22 River, north of this particular
23 development, where I've been swimming
24 and fishing for more than 60 years.
25 So I have a little bit of innate

□

62

1 protectionism about the Tchefuncte
2 River.

3 I find this project emptying into
4 a wild and scenic river is totally
5 without merit. It is illegal, as
6 many people have stated. And part of
7 this, it says that water quality will
8 not be adversely impacted, but it may
9 change. Well, what does that mean?
10 That means it's going to get better?
11 I don't think so.

12 Another comment, earlier today
13 was said, "about 250,000 gallons a
14 day." Well, if you know the
15 Tchefuncte River at the end of
16 June/July, early August gets very
17 low. It's a slow-moving stream.
18 250,000 gallons is not an
19 insignificant amount of water to be
20 added to that stream. Other comments
21 have been made about contaminants and
22 pharmaceuticals, and things like that
23 showing up in water these days. And
24 I don't have enough technical data

deqhea

25 here with me to discuss that. But I

□

63

1 would like to suggest that any
2 regional treatment system, such as
3 this one, be put on the other side of
4 1077, where it drains into some
5 waterbody that may not be as affected
6 as the Tchefuncte River. Better yet,
7 if they put it into a pond and maybe
8 even raise catfish in the pond and
9 prove that the effluent is not
10 deleterious. Again, I think that
11 this particular proposal, the
12 emptying into the Tchefuncte River,
13 250,000 gallons a day is, in fact, as
14 we pointed out, it's the wrong thing
15 to do; it is illegal. And I urge DEQ
16 to not approve this requested permit.
17 Thank you.

18 (Applause by audience).

19 MR. THERIOT:

20 Thank you, Mr. Christy. That
21 concludes all of the sign-up sheets
22 that we have at my desk, up here. At
23 this time, I usually ask if there is
24 anyone who would like to speak who
25 didn't sign a sheet, but would be

□

1 willing to sign a sheet to speak.
2 Many times during a meeting, someone
3 decides that they would like to say
4 something. So if you would like to
5 say something, now would be the time
6 to do it. And we'll have you sign a
7 sheet. Is there anyone who would
8 like to speak?

9 Mr. Dicharry, you asked to be
10 given a few minutes at the end. So
11 we're going to give you a few
12 minutes. And, I believe, the only
13 other speaker that used up their time
14 was Mr. Martin, I believe, who wanted
15 like to come back. At this time, I
16 would let both of you have a few
17 minutes.

18 MR. DICHARRY:

19 Thank you, Mr. Theriot. Just one
20 point of clarification, a point has
21 been raised before by others that
22 SELA has received fines in the past.
23 There is no attempt to conceal that.
24 SELA is very well aware of its past
25 history. However, if you look at the

□

1 record, you'll find that the fines,

2 deqhea
3 the result of those fines, were a
4 result of activities of prior
5 management. The owners of the
6 company did not run away from the
7 responsibility. When the situation
8 was discovered that non-compliance
9 was occurring, actions were taken to
10 improve the performance of the
11 company. The settlements represent
12 the commitment of the company to the
13 governmental agencies that those past
14 practices would not be continued in
15 the future.

16 The management of the company
17 today, the management of the company
18 for the last several years, were
19 those people who took the problems
20 that were before and turned those
21 into a company's performance that, as
22 I noted before, has become a model in
23 Southeastern Louisiana for proper
24 performance of wastewater treatment.

25 You can look at the record and
 look beyond just at those

□

1 settlements, look at the inspection
2 reports, look at the records of the
3 various SELA facilities over the last
4 several years, and you will find that

8 deqhea
9 emergency generator. When we asked
10 about an emergency generator, what we
11 were told is that one would be
12 trucked there if there was an
13 electrical failure. And, of course,
14 if you've ever been around in Katrina
15 or the other floods or the ones we
16 had a few years ago, you can't get
17 anyplace. The roads are underwater
18 and gone. That's what I have in my
19 pictures, just under a little rain.
20 How are they going to keep that sewer
21 plant from dumping sewerage out of
22 the plant, get a generator there, get
23 it hooked it up, get people there to
24 man the generator has me very
25 concerned. I think something better
 than that has to be done.

□

68

1 The other thing I'm concerned
2 with is, once again, if we are a good
3 corporate citizen, why are we putting
4 this in a Flood Zone A and dumping
5 into a scenic river? We have Flood
6 Zone B, Flood Zone C on the westside
7 of 1077, right across the road, where
8 Bedico which is not a scenic river
9 that perhaps could be used. And
10 Bedico drains down through St.

11 deghea
12 Tammany Parish into the swamp, which
13 would help to absorb some of the
14 pollutants, and then finally into
15 Lake Pontchartrain. So if we're
16 going to be a good corporate citizen,
17 and we've improved and we've got new
18 management, why are we starting out
19 putting this in a Flood Zone and
20 dumping into a scenic river, which is
21 totally illegal?

22 I do think I would really like
23 the LDEQ to stop this permit. It is
24 illegal. They have tremendous
25 problems with it. And we'd like to
work with these people or somebody

□

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1 else to get this permit in a place
2 that is going to be beneficial for
3 St. Tammany Parish and not create
4 problems in the future. Thank you
5 very much.

6 (Applause by audience).

7 MR. THERIOT:

8 Since I have no more speakers,
9 that would conclude our formal
10 speaker portion, and I'm going to
11 prepare you for my closing remarks
12 that we give. But before I do, I
13 always like, on my hearings, to tell

14 deghea
you a little bit about how I feel
15 about those hearings, which is along
16 with jury duty, I think these
17 hearings are unique to the United
18 States. I don't know of anywhere
19 else that public business is done in
20 this way. I think it's a great idea.
21 I think people out here come out
22 here. And I would like to
23 congratulate everyone who came out.
24 I think it is important that people
25 take part in some of the official

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1 decisions that are made by their
2 Government. We're spending millions
3 of dollars trying to teach some of
4 the people around the world to do the
5 things that we do here in the United
6 States. I would like to thank you
7 each for coming. I think it's a good
8 thing that people do take an
9 interest. It's good to be back in
10 St. Tammany to see everybody here.
11 Being an American is a wonderful
12 thing. And I think one of the things
13 that makes it wonderful, that makes
14 it really nice is that people come to
15 this. We don't shoot each other. We
16 don't walk out. We don't get in

17 deqhea
18 fights. I've never been to an
19 hearing where people got -- I've been
20 in some heated hearings. But I've
21 never been in one where people did
22 anything violent, and I think that's
23 a marvelous tribute to the people who
24 live here in Louisiana and within the
25 United States.

Now, I'm going to give you all

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1 the formal remarks that we give for
2 each one at the end of one of these
3 things.

4 I would like to remind you that
5 the comment period for the Draft
6 Water Discharge Permit for
7 Southeastern Louisiana Water & Sewer
8 Company, LLC/Goodbee Regional Sewage
9 Treatment Plant ends at 12:30 p.m.,
10 Monday, March 17, 2008.

11 All the received comments and
12 request for notification of the final
13 decision as well as the transcript
14 from the hearing are processed by the
15 Public Participation Group and a copy
16 is available on EDMS.

17 The permit writer reviews the
18 comments that were made and uses any
19 appropriate additional information in

20 deqhea
updating the draft permit.

21 The names and addresses of all
22 the commentors, those who spoke at
23 the hearing and those who requested
24 to be notified of the final decision
25 and information is added to the

□

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1 Public Comment Data base.

2 A final draft of the permit and
3 the response to the public comments
4 is prepared and forward to the Office
5 of Environmental Services Assistant
6 Secretary for final approval.

7 Upon the issuance of the permit,
8 a letter informing of the decision
9 and the appeal process and including
10 the basis of decision and response to
11 the public comments is mailed to all
12 the commentors, those who spoke at
13 the hearing, and those who requested
14 to be notified of the final decision.

15 I received two exhibits during
16 the hearing regarding the Draft Water
17 Discharge Permit for Southeastern
18 Louisiana Water & Sewer Company,
19 LLC/Goodbee Regional Sewage Treatment
20 Plant.

21 If there are no other comments, I
22 would like to thank you for your

Reporter

deqhea

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Louisiana License #24012

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jan Berard, Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the voice-writing method of the proceedings herein, reported by me at the time and place hereinabove stated and thereafter transcribed under my supervision to the best of my ability and understanding.

Jan Berard, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
Louisiana License #24012

□