



ANNOUNCING FEBRUARY'S SPOT AWARDS

Michael Accettella

(Nominated by Bob Paul)

I am nominating Mike Accettella for a SPOT Award. Mike is an ES III and works in the Surveillance Division of the Office of Environmental Compliance. Mike has been with the Department for 5 years and in that time he has developed from a new inspector to a leader in the Surveillance group here at the Kisatchie Central Office (KCO) in Pineville. Mike has become a tremendous asset to this region as he consistently works toward meeting our operational goals by completing thorough inspections and investigations. He voluntarily trains new inspectors and assists them in properly performing monthly water quality sampling efforts. He is always eager to share his knowledge with other inspectors in the KCO.

Mike is always cooperative and willing to take on new assignments involving additional work duties and in assisting other regions in performing special projects such as hurricane debris site inspections, ERP inspections, and sewage sludge hauler inspections. He has done an outstanding job performing watershed investigations where he has set an example and the "inspection model" for other inspectors to follow when conducting watershed investigations. These inspections have resulted in identifying numerous unpermitted facilities and many substandard water quality situations, which should ultimately result in a reduction in the number of impaired water bodies in our state.

Mike is always courteous and helpful to the general public, no matter what the circumstances. Field inspectors are sometimes the only DEQ employees that most of the state's citizens interact with on a regular basis and Mike always represents



Michael Accettella receiving his SPOT award

the Department in a professional and considerate manner with his relaxed and positive demeanor.

Mark Chrisman

(Nominated by Dwayne Stepter and Judy Schuerman)

I truly believe that Mark Chrisman is a shining example of what a spot award winner should be. Mark consistently exceeds all the requirements given him. Each month in the Radiation section a Shout-Out is given to the top three inspectors. Mark consistently ranks among the top three producers in the Radiation section each month when it comes to completion of all scheduled inspections and assignments within the allocated time. He constantly exceeds the monthly workload expectation given to him by his supervisor. He is willing to accept additional work assignments when necessary to help the Surveillance section



complete the work load in a timely manner. Mark has shown a willingness to provide assistance to his co-workers in his section when called upon without complaining or arguing. This has been duly noted by Mark's co-workers. Not only does Mark demonstrate a willingness to provide assistance when needed he volunteers to help co-workers when needed or when his work is done. He is willing to travel to any region if need be and stay overnight to get the job done. As an inspector in a regional office, Mark exemplifies what is expected of one who does not have his immediate supervisor present. He knows how to work independently and makes good use of time by prioritizing activities to minimize time required to complete tasks. Mark exhibits good judgment and solves problems independently. Mark consistently looks for better ways of doing things. It is for these and many other reasons I can state, that I nominate Mark Chrisman for a SPOT Award.

Dwayne Stepter

I nominate Mark Chrisman for the February SPOT Award. Oftentimes, regional office employees are overlooked by headquarters personnel because of the "out of sight, out of mind" factor. However, Mark Chrisman's outstanding work product, commitment to his job, and dedication to the department set him apart and mark him as memorable. Mark has been employed in the Shreveport regional office (NWRO) for 13 years. As an Environmental Scientist 3, Mark serves as the statewide Radon contact and has attended the national Radon Conference as our representative from Louisiana. He volunteers to assist with inspections in other regions and has been called upon several times to do so. Occasionally, since he spent seven years with the Ambient Air Monitoring section, Mark is still needed to help with the ambient air monitoring program and has assisted with audits most recently in Lake Charles, Lafayette, Alexandria, and Monroe. Mark conducted numerous facility/site inspections this fiscal year. This included x-ray inspections of x-ray tubes and RAM inspections of mostly industrial radiography field crews. Mark

is consistently one of our top performers and is always eager to help out wherever and however he can. When he completes the inspections due for a particular month in his region, he will call his supervisor, Dwayne Stepter, to ask which other regions need help completing their inspections. His proactive nature is a true asset to the department.

Otis Randle, Regional Manager of NWRO, said "Mark is a valued employee here in the NWRO. He is always very pleasant and positive about whatever task he is asked to perform. He readily accepts additional tasks and duties presented to him even though they may be outside of his normal job requirements and work schedule. Mark interacts well with his fellow employees and the public and is eager to assist in any way he can. Mark's work reflects a level of commitment and dedication that is hard to come by. He takes great pride in his work product and presents a positive image of the department to those around him. He is a great asset for the department and is most deserving of the recognition of his peers."

Judy Schuerman

Chrissie Gubancsik

(Nominated by Ray Clement)

I would like to nominate Chrissie Gubancsik for a SPOT award for the month of February. Chrissie has been employed by the Department of Environmental Quality since March 4, 2002. She began her employment in the Enforcement Section, proceeded to the Remediation Section, and finally moved to the Underground Storage Division, Group 2, where she serves as an Environmental Scientist DCL-A.

During her tenure with our Department, she has truly distinguished herself as to what an employee should be. She has worked tirelessly to assist her

fellow employees with training, provided direction on their caseload, and assisted them in providing service to the regulated community.

She has been available to the regulated community to assist them with their many needs in Enforcement, Remediation, Emergency Response, and the Underground Storage Tank areas, even on her time off. She has been very effective in bringing the regulated community and their Response Action Contractors together to find better solutions for their remedial activities, which has moved them to final closure and successful termination of their projects.

She has been involved on ROG Oversight Committee as a member. She has assisted the committee in reviewing difficult projects to help direct and implement cost effective methods to remediate and close out sites.

She has played a major role during hurricane recovery efforts by acting as a team member and liaison between disposal sites and workgroup in Baton Rouge for the SWRO region.

She has been acting as the UST Notification Contact Person at SWRO fielding questions, request for assistance, and handling incidents and closures occurring in the region.

As DCLA for the region in the UST Section, she has assumed more responsibilities for assisting the regional staff with questions on remediation, UST, and Emergency Response areas as they pertain to actions considered and undertaken.

On a personal note, Chrissie has worked and served with distinction, giving of herself to better serve her community and our state, bring honor to our Department, and should receive the recognition for a job well done.



Johnell Elmer receiving her SPOT award

Johnell Elmer

(Nominated by Kathleen Landry and Judy Rouly)

I would like to nominate Johnell Elmer for a SPOT Award. Johnell is an Administrative Coordinator in the Office of Compliance/Surveillance Division at the Southeast Regional Office. Johnell does a thorough job in her region as well as helping the administrative coordinators in other regions. On many occasions I have gone to Johnell for answers, and she always comes through. If she doesn't know the answer, she will do everything she can to find it. Each year when we are preparing for our audit, Johnell leads us in getting organized, and updating our records. Her help is invaluable, and I appreciate all that she does for us and for DEQ. For her continued hard work and dedication, I think Johnell deserves the SPOT award.

Kathleen Landry

I would like to take this opportunity to nominate Johnell Elmer for a SPOT award. She consistently does an outstanding job not only at the Southeast Regional Office but also in assisting the other regional liaisons in preparing for our annual state audit. She has always been a "go-to" person when



we have a question about preparing for our audit and getting our books ready for the ORM audit each year. She has demonstrated leadership and initiative in updating all of us on the new requirements for the new state audit and helping us to organize our paperwork and logs to show what is expected from each of us for this audit. Just recently she put together a list of items that we will need to submit for our ORM audit and helped us to answer the questions that are required for this audit. She has always been available to answer any questions we might have and to also provide us with a guideline to follow if we don't understand something regarding the Office Coordinator position or preparing for our state audit. If anyone deserves recognition for a job well done, it is Johnell. I can't thank her enough for the help she has given me in the past and the present. She gives 110%, if that were possible. Her dedication and determination to make LDEQ shine is shown in the outstanding work she does not only at her office but in the assistance she has given to the other regional offices as well.

Judy Rouly

