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EXCO WATER

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality recently issued a letter to ALTEC Environmental Consultants on behalf of EXCO Production Company that approves of the company's project to recycle and reuse discharge water from a nearby paper mill, International Paper Company's Mansfield Mill. The water will be used in EXCO's hydraulic fracturing process as the company drills natural gas wells throughout the Haynesville Shale development area in north Louisiana.

Eventually, thousands of natural gas wells will be completed in the Haynesville Shale development area. Each well relies on millions of gallons of water to open the underground Haynesville Shale formation. Through the cooperative effort between both companies, EXCO's water will come from the paper mill and provide a two-fold environmental benefit for the state.

First, the treated water that is going to EXCO would have been discharged, as it has in the past, into the Red River. Now, the treated water will not be discharged into the river. Approximately 90 percent of the water will stay in the formation with the remaining 10 percent being disposed of by deep well injection.

Secondly, EXCO will not have to use surface or ground water in its fracturing process.

EXCO has estimated to the department that it will use approximately 5 million gallons of water per well. International Paper estimates its water discharge flow rate at approximately 12 million gallons of water per day in compliance with its water discharge permit from DEQ.

The water will be pumped from International Paper to the Haynesville Shale development area by way of a 12-inch PVC line.

"After careful consideration and review, we approved this process because it's good for the environment and is a creative recycling, reuse project," said DEQ Assistant Secretary Cheryl Nolan. "International Paper and EXCO are working as partners to make environmentally friendly business decisions. As a department, we applaud businesses that find new avenues for environmental protection."

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BREC'S BATON ROUGE ZOO TAKES MAJOR ROLE IN PLANT CONSERVATION EFFORTS

While zoos are primarily known for their work in feeding and protecting birds as well as aquatic and animal life, the care and maintenance of their habitats is just an important. The ongoing effort to maintain and revitalize plant life at the BREC Baton Rouge Zoo is a key example of that endeavor.

With the creation of a Horticulture Department at the zoo last year, the zoo's employees and volunteer staff have put in a great deal of time and effort to bolster animal habitats throughout the zoo. The zoo is home to more than 1,800 animals from around the world, and with that diversity, several natural environments must be maintained.

"It is one thing to protect the animals, but we also have to protect their habitats," said Mary Woods, Director of Marketing and Development for the Baton Rouge Zoo.

Nancy Tarver, the zoo's Horticulture Manager, plants flowers from biodegradable pots

Plant conservation is a major area of focus at the 147-acre zoo located in north Baton Rouge. Last May, the zoo held a formal Plant Conservation Day, which was supported by the Association of Zoological Horticulturists and the Botanic Garden Conservation International.

"Plant Conservation Day is an exciting event in which we can shed light on the other living aspect of our zoo – plants," said Nancy Tarver, Horticulture Manager for the Baton Rouge Zoo. "An animal's habitat is critical to all aspects of its being, including food and shelter. We've created a day with fun activities for the whole family to help bring attention to plants and their role in conserving our planet."

The importance of plants in supporting and maintaining our ecosystem is evident throughout the zoo's grounds. Plants serve many purposes, particularly in the zoo environment, as they absorb light energy, provide food and shelter for the animals and assist in erosion control. Bearing that in mind, the zoo has reached out to the public to offer several educational opportunities related to plant and soil conservation. Activities include a native plant walk, where patrons may see examples of native, naturalized and invasive plants growing throughout the zoo; a planting activity, which allows children to dig up the soil and sow a variety of plant species; and a "Plant Conservation and You," program which discusses opportunities for home gardeners to encourage good stewardship of plants through conservation, biodiversity promotion, proper use of native species and how to identify and control invasive plant life.

One key example of the zoo's outreach is their Plant Share Program, where citizens can sow certain plant life in their yard, then later pass on successful reproductions to their neighbors in an attempt to promote plant diversity and propagation from neighborhood to neighborhood. Nearly 600 plant species are listed under the Endangered Species Act, and 29 percent of all native plants are threatened with extinction in the United States. Given those numbers, eradication of a single plant species can have a domino effect;

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The zoo continues to rebound from the loss of nearly 200 trees during Hurricane Gustav

resulting in the disappearance of up to 30 additional plant and wildlife species. However, through the Plant Share Program, the zoo is taking active measures to minimize plant extinction.

Still, the zoo is no stranger to the occasional challenges brought on by nature. When Hurricane Gustav swept through the zoo last year, nearly 200 trees were uprooted and lost, prompting staff and volunteers to undertake an ambitious cleanup and replanting endeavor. Through a lengthy and involved effort, much of the lost native and agricultural flora eventually returned.

"In light of the storms, the zoo has been able to maintain a variety of native plant species as much as possible, with utilization of soil integration through natural mulching as an effective method. Wildflowers and shrubs are also starting to grow in areas that previously didn't have growth, and native wildlife – not just zoo animals – are taking advantage of the flora," said Tarver.

But nature's losses have facilitated certain unforeseen benefits. One example is the presence of the callicarpa americana, or American Beautyberry, which has recently begun to grow in a part of the zoo where it previously struggled. When a nearby tree fell during Hurricane Gustav, the shade provided by that tree was lost, thereby allowing natural sunlight to afford an optimal environment for the Beautyberry to thrive. Pleasant surprises such as these have added to a newfound aesthetic and ecological development within the zoo.

"Nature is taking care of itself, so it is important for all of us to be good stewards and allow nature to take its course," said Tarver.

For information on how you can be more involved in plant conservation efforts, call the Baton Rouge Zoo at (225) 775-3877, or visit them online at www.brzoo.org.

DEQ STREAMLINES

As state government moves toward streamlining and efficiency, the Department of Environmental Quality continues to make changes that will enable to department to provide necessary services in a fiscally practical manner.

The goal is for DEQ to be off the state's general fund by fiscal year 2011.

Of DEQ's fiscal year 2010 budget of $150.7 million, $137.1 million comes from self-generated fees and federal grants, $5.9 million in federal money for hurricane-related activities and $3.5 million from the American Resource and Recovery Act. Currently, DEQ receives $4.2 million of its budget from the general fund, $500,000 of which counts on DEQ's budget, but is already delegated to the Louisiana Rural Water Association.

The general fund amount is lower than the fund received in FY 2009 when DEQ received a little more than $10 million of its $153.2 million budget from the general fund. The high for the last six years was

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in FY 2008 when $12.7 million of its $153.3 million budget was from the general fund. DEQ has made a series of cost-savings initiatives in the past year, and is continuing to look for opportunities to provide services, but with fewer resources. Some of the recent streamlining initiatives include:

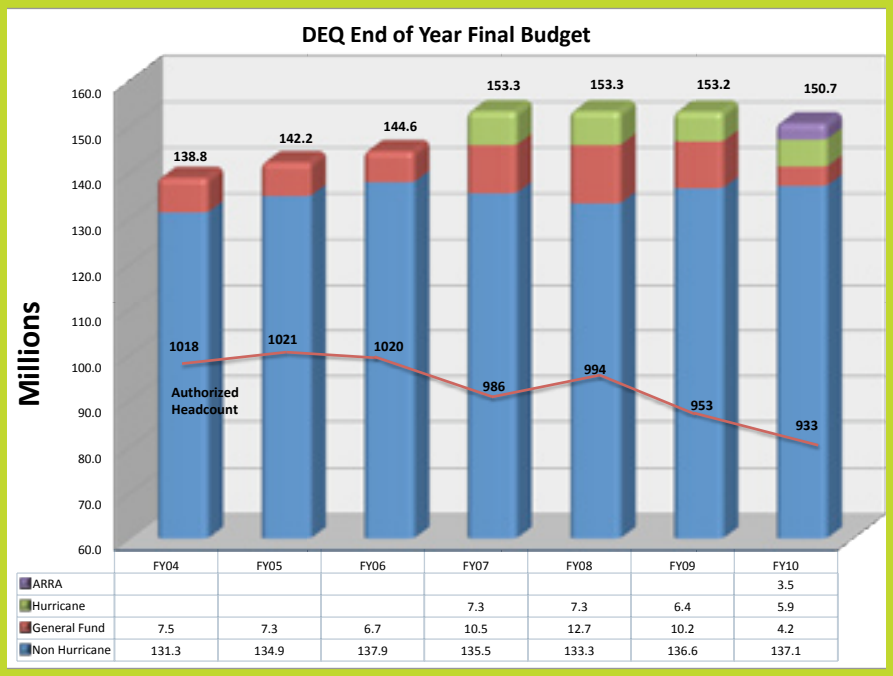
Personnel reductions: In FY 2009, DEQ reduced 59 positions for an annual savings of more than $4.4 million. These reductions were not in the form of layoffs, but rather by attrition.

Consolidated activities: DEQ merged the Technology and Remediation Divisions, thereby eliminating an administrator position that resulted in more than $116,000 in savings. Also, the Contracts and Grants Division was merged with the Financial Services Division, which eliminated a manager position, which led to $77,850 in savings.

Closing the DEQ lab: By outsourcing the Laboratory Services Division, DEQ estimates a savings of nearly $1.5 million.

Fleet reduction: During FY 2009, DEQ cut its fleet size by 10 percent. The savings is projected to be $162,000 in reduced gas purchases and maintenance.

Additional savings: DEQ had $894,000 in savings in FY 2009 by reducing acquisitions, closing the Mandeville Office and by not purchasing new vehicles. In FY 2010, DEQ will have more than $3.2 million in savings based upon reduced acquisitions, contracts and the annualized cost of closure of the Mandeville Office.



SEWAGE SLUDGE HAULING

More than 100 people attended DEQ's first seminar on sewage sludge hauling regulations which was held in Shreveport on Sept. 24. DEQ held the seminar because the authority to license sewage sludge haulers was transferred from the Department of Health and Hospitals to DEQ on July 1.

Because of this newly instituted state law, sewage sludge haulers and sewage sludge pumpers must submit a Sewage Sludge Notification Form.

DEQ Environmental Scientist Kilren Vidrine provided the attendees with information on the regulations regarding registration of sewage sludge haulers, how to properly fill out registration forms and the reporting requirements necessary to abide by the regulations.

Sewage sludge is any solid, semisolid, or liquid residue removed during the treatment of municipal waste water or domestic sewage. Sewage sludge includes, but is not limited to, solids removed during primary, secondary, or advanced waste water treatment, scum, domestic septage, portable toilet pumpings, type III marine sanitation device pumpings (as defined in 33 CFR Part 159), and sewage sludge products.

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Sewage sludge does not include grit or screenings, or ash generated during the incineration of sewage sludge; however, it does include grease trap waste that is pumped or removed from a food service establishment and mixed with sewage sludge.

The seminar will be held at different regions throughout Louisiana. The dates and times have yet to be determined. The Shreveport sewage sludge presentation is available at: http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx

Beau James Brock, DEQ's Assistant to the Secretary, provided information on the Criminal Investigation Division at DEQ. In an effort to ensure the business owners and operators understand the possible penalties for violating the regulations, Brock provided examples of past illegal dumping events that were germane to the industry.

Linda Brown with the Small Business Assistance Program told the attendees how the program was in place to help them with assistance to comply with any environmental regulations.

For more information on small business, you can go to:http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2872/Default.aspx

MARATHON HOLDS SECOND READY FOR REUSE CEREMONY

Marathon Petroleum Company, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality celebrated the return to use of a parcel of land that had formerly been two oily sludge impoundments. Marathon's Louisiana Refining Division located in Garyville successfully cleaned two temporary storage facilities that were used to house oily sludges. Both impoundments are currently under post-closure monitoring. With this determination, DEQ and EPA have concluded that Marathon Petroleum has successfully conducted investigation and risk management activities.

At the Ready for Reuse signing ceremony, Marathon's Louisiana Refining Division was awarded a Ready for Reuse determination letter and certificate by DEQ and EPA signifying that the land has been cleaned and can be put back into use. Carl Edlund, EPA Region VI Director, Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division, congratulated Marathon for their commitment to environmental excellence.

Paul Miller, DEQ Assistant Secretary, noted that the project was completed in nine months and was "quite an accomplishment."

A Ready for Reuse Determination is an acknowledgment by DEQ and EPA that environmental conditions on the property are protective of human health and the environment based on its current and anticipated future use. The company plans to use the site for construction projects or as an equipment storage and staging area. The site actually meets residential soil standards, said Tom Harris, DEQ Administrator for Remediation

Carl Edlund, Director of Multi Media Planning and Permitting, EPA Region 6, presents a Ready for Reuse determination certificate to Rich Bedell, Marathon Refining Division Manager, Wally Dows of Marathon; Paul Miller, DEQ Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Assessment; and Bob Harris of Marathon, look on.

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Services. The sludge pits, which were taken out of operation in 1988, were subsequently excavated, filled with clay and capped in 1997.

"We would never think about doing that (using sludge pits) again," said Garyville Refinery Division Manager, Richard Bedell. "The days of sludge pits and land farming are over."

"Marathon continues to demonstrate that a clean environment is important to them. This ceremony is a testament to the work many people put into cleaning up this land and getting it ready to be put back into commerce," said Harold Leggett, DEQ Secretary. "The Ready for Reuse program is beneficial for economic reasons because land can be put back into use and become productive again. It's good for the environment because the contamination was addressed in a way that meets state and federal standards."

"Getting property back into productive use is one of our highest priorities," said Acting EPA Regional Administrator Lawrence E. Starfield. "This determination clears the way by providing the necessary assurances to assist in the redevelopment of this valuable resource."

For more information about DEQ's voluntary remediation program, please visit www.deq.louisiana.gov or www.epa.gov to learn about EPA's Land Revitalization Action Agenda.

LAKE CHARLES BEGINS ANTI-OZONE CAMPAIGN

Interested parties throughout southwest Louisiana have banded together to spread the word about the air pollutant ozone. The Lake Charles Chamber of Commerce, the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, Southwest Economic Development Alliance, and the cities of Lake Charles, Sulphur, Westlake, Vinton, DeQuincy and Iowa are a part of this collaborative effort.

The campaign's central focus is to reduce ozone emissions in southwest Louisiana to meet standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If an area fails to meet EPA standards, there could be consequences for that parish. Several effects could occur, including higher cost to operate a business, higher fuel cost for vehicles and stricter automobile inspections and the Lake Charles area is very close to reaching nonattainment status.

Jennifer Mouton of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Air Assessment Division gave a presentation at the Alliance's Kick-off meeting that showed the area is currently barely in compliance.

Ozone levels in Calcasieu Parish are currently in attainment, but "it's important to keep a downward trend. It's so much better to do things voluntarily instead of doing it because it's required," Mouton said. "A lot of people think that non-attainment is a smokestack issue or an industry issue, but we've found that the number of noxious emissions associated with small businesses and individuals are growing. We can no longer rely on industry to get the reductions we need to obtain."

The sources of emissions that create ground-level ozone include industry, cars, human activities, decaying vegetation, trucks, buses, airplanes, boats and ships, farm equipment, lawn and garden equipment, and elsewhere, according to the EPA.

"We will all be affected if we don't work together to meet the new EPA standards," said George Swift, President/CEO of the Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance. "It would impact every individual with increased costs and every business."

There are many things the average person can do to contribute to better air quality. Some of them are listed below:

- Maintain your vehicle; especially the emission control system.

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- Keep tires on vehicles properly inflated and keep the gas cap tight.
- Keep chemicals, household cleaners and paints tightly sealed.
- Fuel when its cool - after 6 p.m.
- Mow lawn and do other yard maintenance after 6 p.m. and avoid using gasoline powered yard. equipment
- Companies and businesses can implement an awareness program and join the Ozone Action Program.
- Carpool, bike, walk or take public transportation and take lunch to work to avoid mid-day driving.
- Reschedule discretionary maintenance such as painting, varnishing, and stripping for cooler months of the year.
- Make an effort to avoid spilling gasoline while filling vehicles, equipment or containers and don't top off your tank

More information can be found at www.allianceswla.org.

DEQ ANNOUNCES WINNERS FOR THE 2009 KEEP LOUISIANA BEAUTIFUL AWARDS

The Keep Louisiana Beautiful Program of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality presented their 2009 awards during the 7th annual Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference in Shreveport in August.

The awards are designed to give special recognition to organizations that have developed outstanding litter prevention, beautification and community improvement, waste reduction and law enforcement programs in their communities. Keep Louisiana Beautiful is a non-profit organization that supports the conference.

The awards cover four categories: Waste Reduction, Law Enforcement, Beautification and Community Improvement and Litter Prevention.

The Waste Reduction category recognizes efforts to minimize the impact of waste and promote responsible waste handling in communities. First place was awarded to CITCO Petroleum for their e-waste collection program. Second place went to the Town of Ball for their household hazardous material collection activities and community-wide clean up. Third place went to Wayne Heckford for the Ouachita Parish Environmental Hearing program CD.

Beau Brock of DEQ (far left) and Secretary of State Jay Dardenne (far right) present a first place Beautification and Community Improvement award to Ron Dunham and David Gaines of ExxonMobil Baton Rouge. They received the award for their work on the Baton Rouge Complex Greenbelt project. This category recognizes efforts to improve, beautify, and preserve visual aspects of communities.

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Shreveport Green representatives receive first place in the Litter Prevention category for their Neighborhood and Education Program. The Litter prevention award recognizes litter prevention activities that were used to change the attitudes and behaviors of citizens in communities. Shreveport Green received the award for their Clean Community Challenge litter awareness and education programs. DEQ's Beau Brock (far left) and Secretary of State Jay Dardenne (third from right) were on hand.

The Law Enforcement category recognizes the law enforcement organization that has done the most to promote a clean Louisiana, either through education or the issuance of litter citations. First place was awarded to Deputy Richard Elam of the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office for his leadership in litter awareness, anti-littering and citations. Second place went to the Law Enforcement Division of the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries, for their Gross Littering Enforcement Project.

The Beautification and Community Improvement category honors efforts to improve, beautify and preserve the visual aspects of communities. First place was awarded to ExxonMobil Baton Rouge sites for their work on the Baton Rouge Complex Greenbelt Project.

The Litter Prevention category award is in recognition of litter prevention activities that were used to change the attitudes and behaviors of citizens in communities. First place was awarded to Shreveport Green for their Clean Community Challenge Litter Awareness and educational programs. Second place went to the DeQuincy Elementary School and Mr. Hershal Frazier for their "Don't Litter DeQuincy" program which helped raise litter awareness among DeQuincy's youth. Third place went to the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury for their "You Can't Afford to be Trashy" program.

Ms. Chester Lee Moses from Lake Charles won the Dianne Chandler Award. This award is presented to an outstanding Louisiana citizen in memory of Dianne Chandler of Keep Bossier Beautiful. The award is for exceptional leadership in raising public awareness on litter prevention, solid waste reduction, and roadside and community beautification. The award honors individuals who go above and beyond to promote citizen participation in activities that preserve and enhance Louisiana's natural resources and public lands. Ms. Moses has been an active member of Lake Charle's Team Green of Southwest Louisiana, even serving as president. She organized teams at schools to adopt areas to clean up around the schools. She organizes teams for Trash Bash, Beach Sweep, clean-up day and clean campuses.

PERMIT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

The Permit Support Services Division conducts some of the most diverse activities of any Division in DEQ. It consists of the Permit Application Administrative Review section, the Public Participation Group, the TEMPO Support Group, the Notification and Accreditation Section and the Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. Some of the activities are unseen but are essential to the business processes of the agency and protection of citizens.

For example, the Permit Support Service Section ensures the proper handling of permit applications. The Permits Application Administrative Review Group

receives and analyzes all incoming documents for the Office of Environmental Services. As a part of this process, PAAR conducts all initial administrative reviews of all applications. PAAR creates the initial permit activity in DEQ's data management system, TEMPO, and ensures that all documents are submitted to the records management section. This ensures that all documents are made a part of the public record in a timely manner. When permit writers receive the applications, they are ready for technical review. PAAR processed 5,791 applications last year and 67,000 pieces of mail. In addition, the Name/Owner/Operator Change function, known as NOC, was moved from Permits to PSSD a couple of years ago. Last year 1,262 NOCs were processed.

The Public Participation Group conducts all of the public notice publishing and permit public hearing functions. Last year, PPG published 606 notices and conducted 36 hearings prior to the department issuing permits.. In addition to publishing notices in newspapers, the public can receive notices by email, hardcopy, or review the notice and draft documents on the DEQ Web site located at: http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2254/Default.aspx.

The Tempo Support Group maintains both the master file data and the standards requirements library in TEMPO. TSG is responsible for creating new agency interest numbers, assigning air permit numbers, processing change requests and conducting many data entry projects.

TSG assists in testing, database mapping and TEMPO training. Team members review federal and state regulations and policies and translate them into database standard requirement language for use by DEQ personnel in permits, surveillance checklists, and enforcement documents. Last year, TSG created 6,796 new agency interest numbers and wrote 4,512 requirements.

The Notification and Accreditation Section handles the notification, accreditation and registration functions.

The Waste, Accreditations and Reporting Unit is responsible for registering of solid waste generators and transporters. This unit conducts administrative testing for solid waste operators seeking certification, as required by the regulations.

The Waste, Accreditations and Reporting unit also maintains the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act information database. This database has information on hazardous waste generators and on the Transportation, Storage and Disposal facilities.

The unit responds to questions from the public and public information requests regarding these reports. Several workshops per year are conducted for the regulated community and interested public to update them on any changes in processes, reporting issues or software updates.

Waste, Accreditations and Reporting also maintains the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act information database for HW Generators/TSDs and issues or delists HW ID numbers.

WAR also processes asbestos and lead accreditations, asbestos management plans, asbestos and lead training providers and trainer recognition, asbestos notification for demolition or renovation activities and issues asbestos disposal verification forms and lead project notifications, and lead letters of approval for contractors. Last year, this group issued 4,340 ADVFs and issued 3,097 accreditations. This group ensures that abatement personnel meet the necessary requirements. This reduces exposure incidents to workers and the public.

The Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program accredits and audits laboratories and stack testers that submit data to DEQ to ensure that the approved methods are used and the data submitted by contracted laboratories is accurate, precise, and reliable. This group accredited 187 facilities and conducted 66 audits last year.

The Permit Support Services Division does just that – it supports the activities of the division.

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OPEN BURNING PROHIBITED IN LOUISIANA

Backyard trash burning is prohibited in Louisiana, as are most other types of open burning. In some areas of the state, backyard trash burning is part of the culture – but it's illegal. Setting fire to a 55 gallon drum or a burn pile in your yard that includes household trash, household cleaners, cans and other non-vegetative trash, is illegal. While some may believe it's the preferred method of trash disposal, such actions are detrimental to human health and the environment.

This kind of burning releases fine particulate matter into the air that can settle in the lungs. It also produces other harmful pollutants, some of which contribute to ground level ozone. When you see smoke there's usually a fire and some sort of air pollution. That's why most open burning is prohibited in the state. If you have a trash pile and burn household waste, construction debris or anything other than vegetative matter, you could pay a fine.

Some materials that should NEVER be burned are:

- Plastic and other synthetic materials
- Tires and other rubber products
- Paints, household and agricultural chemicals
- Asphalt shingles, heavy oils, wire
- Newspaper, cardboard and other paper products
- Buildings and mobile homes

There are some safer ways to dispose of trash that do not adversely affect health or the environment and will not get you a fine.

- Composting leaves, branches and other vegetative debris creates a nutrient rich mulch.
- Reduce the amount of trash you create by buying larger packages or buying things like cleaning items, household products and more in bulk.
- Properly dispose of your trash. Learn about local waste hauling services and take advantage of household hazardous waste events to take oil, paint, household chemicals and more. Call the local government to find out what services they provide.
- Reuse items when possible or donate used items to a local charity. That old tire would make a great swing and someone can use your old sofa.
- Recycle when possible. That old soda bottle can be recycled into a T-shirt; a newspaper into cereal cartons.
- Freecycle – This is a free Web-based service that helps find homes for items that might otherwise be

Open burning of household trash is prohibited in Louisiana

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thrown away. It also offers innovative alternatives to trash burning. One such freecycle Web site is www.redstickfree.org.

- If there is a municipal incinerator available, use it.

If you are unsure of how to properly dispose of your trash, contact your local government because outdoor fires pollute the air and can make it difficult to breathe. Citizens can call DEQ to report illegal open burning at 225-219-3640, toll free 1-888-763-5424 or call the DEQ regional office that serves your parish. You may call the regional office for any environmental issue or complaint with the information below:

- **Northwest Regional Office in Shreveport**
Otis Randle, *Regional Manager* - 318-676-7476
Parishes served: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, De Soto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster

- **Northeast Regional Office in Monroe**
Larry Baldwin, *Regional Manager* - 318-362-5447 - Monroe and 318-487-5656 - Pineville
Parishes served: Avoyelles, Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, La Salle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Rapides, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll and Winn

- **Southwest Regional Office in Lake Charles**
Billy Eakin, *Regional Manager* - 337-491-2667
Parishes served: Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis and Vernon

- **Southeast Regional Office in New Orleans**
Mike Algero, *Regional Manager* - 504-736-7717 - New Orleans, 985-532-6206 – Lafourche, 985-624-4446 - North Shore
Parishes served: Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, St.Tammany, Terrebonne, Washington

- **Acadiana Regional Office in Lafayette**
Robert Freeman, *Regional Manager* - 337-262-5584
Parishes served: Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermilion

- **Capital Regional Office in Baton Rouge**
Bobby Mayweather, *Regional Manager*- 225-219-3600
Parishes served: Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, St. Martin, Tangipahoa, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana

If you are interested in reading the open burning regulations, they are available at the DEQ Web site, www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/1674/Default.aspx. The regulations are under the air quality section, Title 33, Part III, Section 1109.

DEQ ON THE MOVE

DEQ Southeast Region staff help children play the DEQ recycle game at the Lacombe Wild Things Festival

Al Hindrichs, DEQ Environmental Scientist, demonstrates how rivers meander with Walnut Bayou, for kids at Ocean Commotion.

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HOLIDAY RECYCLING

More garbage is produced in December than any other month, but with a little pre-planning it doesn't have to go to the curb.

You can pass a good time and take care of the environment too. DEQ suggests a few simple tips to help.

"Pre-Cycle" your Christmas tree

You can pre-cycle by taking recycling and reuse into consideration when you buy. An artificial tree doesn't have to be discarded and if you buy a live tree, you can replant it in your yard. If you have a cut tree, remember that tinsel, flocking and decorations must be removed before recycling. Recyclable trees are usually collected the first two weeks in January and are used in coastal restoration projects or ground up into compost or mulch. Call you local sanitation department or waste hauler/recycler to find out what your community does with used Christmas trees. To inquire about Coastal Restoration Projects and the Christmas Tree Recycling Program, contact: Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority 617 North 3rd - http://dnr.louisiana.gov/crm/addresses.asp.

Gift-wrapping innovations and buying recycled products

Save and reuse gift bags or use Christmas theme fabric with Velcro fasteners instead of paper wrap. Another option would be to use decorative gift boxes for your gifts. Many more products are being made with recycled content. Buy recycled when possible and ask the retailer if you cannot find the product you want with recycled content.

Foam Peanuts are recyclable

Most local mailbox or postal shipping stores will take your foam peanuts for recycling. To find them call The Peanut Hotline at 800-828-2214. If you are a retailer who would like to participate, go to www.loosefillpackaging.com/hotline.

Many Christmas items can be recycled

Most cardboard can be recycled and you can use rechargeable batteries for toys, cameras and gadgets. When those batteries no longer hold a charge, call the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at 800-8-battery or go to their web page at www.rbrc.org for the nearest battery-recycling drop off.

Have a safe and environmentally friendly holiday season. Remember to never burn wrapping paper or Christmas trees in the fireplace. For more holiday recycling ideas go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/87/Default.aspx. If you have recycling ideas to share email DEQ at deqassistance@la.gov. You can call the DEQ Recycling and Litter Section at 225-219-3265 or toll free at 800-305-6621.

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BROWNFIELDS CONFERENCE

In mid-November, New Orleans will play host to thousands of people from around the country for the National Brownfields 2009, Sustainable Communities Start Here Conference. This conference is the largest, most comprehensive conference focused on cleaning up and redeveloping Brownfields properties.

Brownfields are abandoned or underused industrial and commercial facilities available for re-use. Expansion or redevelopment of such a facility may be complicated by real or perceived environmental contaminations. Brownfield land or simply a brownfield is land previously used for industrial purposes or certain commercial uses. The land may be contaminated by low concentrations of hazardous waste or pollution, and has the potential to be reused once it is cleaned up.

For three days, Nov. 16 to 18, the conference will be in the Crescent City and attendees will network, enjoy educational programming, deal making, more than 200 exhibitors and business development information and opportunities. The conference is cosponsored by the U.S. EPA and ICMA, and attracts more than six thousand registrants and hundreds of exhibitors. Click here to view the entire educational program

This year the keynote speaker will be Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Registration for the conference is free. When you sign up you gain access to more than 150 educational and learning opportunities, plenary sessions, 200 exhibitors, scores of networking events, special training sessions, film screenings, book signings and much, much more. Whether you're a newcomer to the world of economic and environmental redevelopment or a seasoned professional looking to make new connections and increase your business, Brownfields 2009 offers something for you.

Click here to register for the conference

For more information on DEQ's Brownfields and Voluntary Remediation programs go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/269/Default.aspx

Brownfields2009
NEW ORLEANS, LA | NOVEMBER 16-18

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY'S THIRD QUARTER SUMMARIES

3rd Quarter 2009 Enforcement Actions:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/225/Default.aspx

3rd Quarter 2009 Settlement Agreements:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2838/Default.aspx

3rd Quarter 2009 Air Permits:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx

3rd Quarter 2009 Water Permits:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx

3rd Quarter 2009 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2586/Default.aspx

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