



Water Permits Division e-Newsletter

A SUMMARY OF WATER PERMITTING NEWS & EVENTS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

JANUARY — MARCH 2012

PERMITS ISSUED

1/1/12—3/31/12

Individual Minors	37
Individual Majors	7
Sewage Sludge & Biosolids Use or Disposal	25

GENERAL PERMITS

Class I Sanitary	83
Class II Sanitary	16
Class III Sanitary	3
Class IV Sanitary	8
Large Construction	201
Sand & Gravel	2
Petroleum UST	0
Oil & Gas Exploration—Coastal	16
Oil & Gas Exploration—Territorial	2
Auto Dealer	1
Hydrostatic Test	3
Exterior Vehicle Wash	9
Potable Water	2
Cement, Concrete & Asphalt	1
C&D Landfill	0
Groundwater	0
Dewater PST	0
Multi-Sector	16
Light Commercial	31

% CURRENT

MAJORS	94.5
MINORS/GENERALS	99.2

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

ISSUED	87
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TMDLS

Public Noticed	3
Approved by EPA	4

ASSESSMENTS

Data Sets Evaluated	140
Solicitation of Views Letters Reviewed	151

Water Permits Division (WPD) Newsletter

DEQ Water Permits Division publishes this quarterly newsletter to provide the regulated community, citizens, and other interested parties with updates and information relevant to water permitting, water quality modeling/TMDLs, water quality certifications, and water quality standards and assessments activities. We welcome and solicit your comments, recommendations, and input. Please contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193 or Melvin Mitchell at 225-219-3197.

Water Permits Division Staff Update

Ms. Lan Pham left the WPD to pursue new endeavors. We all express thanks to her and wish her good luck.

DEQ's TMDL Program

As of March 6, 2012, LDEQ completed its TMDL commitments as a part of the Consent Decree filed against EPA Region 6. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet the water quality standards. The Consent Decree was issued in 1999 and revised in 2002. Since that time, LDEQ has completed approximately 144 TMDLs for dissolved oxygen, lead, and fecal coliform. LDEQ is currently focused on reevaluating the dissolved oxygen and minerals criteria at various locations across the state. This ongoing work will ensure that future TMDLs, and their associated wasteload allocations and load allocations, are developed based on criteria that is protective of Louisiana's waterbodies. It will also lead to the confirmation or revision of existing TMDLs. For more information contact Chuck Berger at 225-219-3366 or Stephanie Braden at 225-219-3187

Enviroschool 2012

DEQ will be sponsoring **FREE** training seminars on Permitting 101—Understanding the Basics. These sessions will give you an understanding of what permits are, the different types, and the permitting process within each media: air, water, and waste. The sessions are as follows: May 2nd, Baton Rouge; May 10th, New Orleans; May 17th, Lake Charles; and May 22nd, Alexandria. The WPD will be participating in additional FREE training seminars on LPDES General Permits. The sessions are as follows: June 5th, Baton Rouge; June 7th, Lake Charles; June 14th, New Orleans; and June 26th, Alexandria. See the Enviro-school website for more information: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2601/Default.aspx>.

New General Permit

WPD issued a general permit for short-term and emergency discharges on Feb. 26, 2012. The permit was effective April 1, 2012. A list of frequently asked questions and an applicability flow chart can be found on the following website: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=245>. For more information contact or Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193.

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Contact Information Update

The WPD is working to update all permittee contact information, including contact name, mailing address, email address, and phone number, in our permit database. The updated information will streamline the process to contact permittees in case of emergency. To update your contact information, please send an email to the PPPSD at facupdate@la.gov. Please be sure to include your facility's agency interest (AI) number and permit number.

LAG260000 Issuance Update

As a result of the June 10, 2011 Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit remand of the oil and gas territorial seas general permit LAG260000, the DEQ has determined that it is necessary to modify the general permit to remove the outfall for produced water. Facilities wishing to discharge produced water were asked to apply for coverage under an individual permit by submitting the Oil & Gas-IND (O&G-IND) permit application, due to LDEQ by April 1, 2012. To date, twenty (20) O&G-IND permit applications have been received. Authorization to discharge produced water in the territorial seas will require participation in an evaluation of the effects of produced water discharges on the environment and human health. A stakeholder meeting was held on Feb. 23, 2012 to accept input from all stakeholders regarding the minimum study requirements/protocols and requirements for an evaluation of the effects of produced water discharges on the environment and human health. Written comments on these requirements were also encouraged / accepted through March 23, 2012. A second stakeholders meeting is planned for May / June 2012 (date not yet determined) to discuss comments received. Questions may be directed to Melvin C. Mitchell at (225) 219-3197, Bruce Fielding at (225) 219-3231 or Jennifer Sheppard at (225) 219-3499.

Antidegradation

LDEQ is reviewing the antidegradation policy in the water quality regulations and still plans to update the applicable regulations in the spring or summer of 2012. For more information contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193.

Modification to LAJ660000

WPD proposes to modify Sewage Sludge Use or Disposal General Permit LAJ660000 for persons with an LPDES permit that have sewage sludge pumped out or removed from a sanitary wastewater treatment works and sold, given away, and/or transported off-site for a fee or other consideration. The modifications will clarify applicability of the general permit, streamline obtaining coverage under this general permit, and refine the recordkeeping and reporting requirements. For more information contact Eura DeHart at 225-219-3213.



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Integrated Report Updates

On March 22, 2012 a final decision was reached by EPA on the 2010 Water Quality Integrated Report. Integrated Report category determinations for dissolved oxygen assessments on three coastal subsegments (LA021102_00, LA070601_00, and LA120806_00) were changed from category 4b to category 5, thus requiring TMDLs be developed by EPA. All other assessments and Integrated Report categories for the 2010 Integrated Report were fully approved by EPA. The 2010 report, particularly Appendix A which contains all water quality assessments for the state, can be found on the DEQ Website at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WaterPermits/WaterQualityStandardsAssessment/WaterQualityInventorySection305b/2010WaterQualityIntegratedReport.aspx>. The 2012 Integrated Report is currently under internal review. For more information contact Al Hindrichs at 225-219-3212.

DEQ receives EPA 506K grant

DEQ recently received final approval from EPA to fund a comprehensive water quality characterization effort that will take place in streams across the state. The grant from the EPA will support DEQ's data collection efforts as outlined in DEQ's Quality Assurance Project Plan for the project. The plan summarizes DEQ's effort to gather field water quality, nutrient, algae, habitat, macroinvertebrate and fish community data to support evaluation of nutrient levels that are protective of aquatic species in the state. Contact Kris Pintado at 225-219-3218 for further information.

106 Supplemental Grants

The Clean Water Act provides DEQ with supplemental grant funds through Section 106 of the Act to help address a variety of water quality problems. WPD Water Quality Section personnel have recently completed activities funded under the FY10 Permits and Enforcement grant. Work completed under the FY10 Permits and Enforcement Grant included additional testing and development of the LAR10, LAG26, and LAR05 online permit applications as well as complete deployment of online help for the LAG33 online application. Work plans for more recent Section 106 supplemental funds for FY11 have been approved and developed for FY11 to further support the State Monitoring Strategy by providing for further data collection in Louisiana ecoregions to support nutrient criteria development and to fund EPA's contractor to conduct the National Wetlands and Lakes Surveys. For more information contact Tara Nixon at 225-219-3189.

Sewage Sludge Haulers and Disposal Sites

WPD has registered 269 haulers for 2011-2012. **The 2011 registrations expire June 30, 2012. All registered haulers must reapply by May 1, 2012.** LDEQ sent an email reminding approved haulers to re-register for 2011. The Annual Sewage Sludge Reporting Forms for the reporting period of Jan. 1, 2011 to Dec. 31, 2011 were due Feb. 19, 2012. **If you haven't submitted your reporting form, you may not be approved for the 2012 -2013 year.** A list of all approved sewage sludge disposal facilities and a list of all approved sewage sludge haulers is posted on the DEQ Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Internet site <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WaterPermits/Biosolids.aspx>. Both lists will be updated every 60 days. For more information contact Eura DeHart at 225-219-3213 or Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193.

Water Permit Issuance Trends

Average Number of Days to Issue Water Permits

