

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Assessment
Environmental Planning Division

Under the authority of the Environmental Quality Act, R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the secretary gives notice that rulemaking procedures have been initiated to adopt the Office of the Secretary regulations, LAC 33:I.Chapter 25 (Log #OS037).

This proposed rule serves to facilitate the settlement of environmental actions and promote the use of beneficial environmental projects (BEPs). It establishes guidance for the use of BEPs in the settlement of enforcement cases with the department. Without this rule, projects that are otherwise advantageous to the state may be delayed, withdrawn, or not performed. R.S. 30:2011(D)(1), 2031, and 2050.7 require the department to promulgate rules to regulate the use of BEPs in the settlement of enforcement cases. The basis and rationale for this proposed rule are to establish the use of beneficial environmental projects that will substantially benefit neighboring communities and reduce the load of pollutants discharged into the environment.

This proposed rule meets an exception listed in R.S. 30:2019 (D) (3) and R.S.49:953 (G) (3); therefore, no report regarding environmental/health benefits and social/economic costs is required. This proposed rule has no known impact on family formation, stability, and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

A public hearing will be held on May 25, 2000, at 1:30 p.m. in the Trotter Building, Second Floor, 7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70810. Interested persons are invited to attend and submit oral comments on the proposed amendments. Should individuals with a disability need an accommodation in order to participate, contact Patsy Deaville at the address given below or at (225) 765-0399.

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed regulations. Commentors should reference this proposed regulation by OS037. Such comments must be received no later than June 1, 2000, at 4:30 p.m., and should be sent to Patsy Deaville, Regulation Development Section, Box 82178, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2178 or to FAX (225) 765-0486. Copies of this proposed regulation can be purchased at the above referenced address. Contact the Regulation Development Section at (225) 765-0399 for pricing information. Check or money order is required in advance for each copy of OS037.

This proposed regulation is available for inspection at the following DEQ office locations from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.: 7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Fourth Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70810; 804 Thirty-first Street, Monroe, LA 71203; State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101; 3519 Patrick Street, Lake Charles, LA 70605; 3501 Chateau Boulevard, West Wing, Kenner, LA 70065; 100 Asma Boulevard, Suite 151, Lafayette, LA 70508; 104 Lococo Drive, Raceland, LA 70394 or on the Internet at <http://www.deq.state.la.us/planning/regs/index.htm>.

James H. Brent, Ph.D.

Assistant Secretary

Title 33
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Part I. Office of the Secretary
Subpart 1. Department Administrative Procedures

Chapter 25. Beneficial Environmental Projects

§2501. Applicability

These regulations apply when the department has decided to enter into a settlement in which a beneficial environmental project (BEP) is utilized. The department reserves the right to settle for the amount of cash penalty, if any, it deems appropriate in considering all of the circumstances relating to the case in which the settlement is perfected. The decision to enter into a settlement that includes a BEP is solely within the discretion of the department. Nothing in these regulations requires that the department enter into a settlement or that the settlement include BEPs. Any BEP may be accepted if it meets the terms of these regulations.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2011(D)(1), 2031, and 2050.7(E).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:

§2503. Definitions

Beneficial Environmental Project (BEP)—a project that provides for environmental mitigation which the defendant/respondent is not otherwise legally required to perform, but which the defendant/respondent agrees to undertake as a component of a settlement of a violation(s) or penalty assessment.

Environmental Mitigation—that which tends to lead in any way to the protection from, reduction of, or general awareness of potential risks or harm to public health and the environment. Environmental mitigation includes any and all projects that conform to the requirements set forth in LAC 33:I.2505.

Not Otherwise Legally Required to Perform—the approved project is not required of the defendant/respondent by any federal, state, or local law, regulation, or permit (except that early compliance may be allowed) or actions which the defendant/respondent may be required to perform as injunctive relief in the instant case or as part of a settlement or order in another action.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2011(D)(1), 2031 and 2050.7(E).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:

§2505. Project Categories

A. A BEP must be within one or more of the following categories:

1. Public Health. A public health project provides diagnostic, preventative, and/or remedial components of human health care that is related to the actual or potential damage to human health caused by a violation of environmental law or mismanagement of substances containing constituents detrimental to human health. This may include, but is not limited to, epidemiological data collection and analysis, medical examinations of potentially affected persons, collection and analysis of blood/fluid/tissue samples, medical treatment, and rehabilitation therapy.

2. Pollution Prevention

a. A pollution prevention project is one that reduces the generation of pollution through "source reduction," i.e., any practice that reduces the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant entering any waste stream or otherwise being released into the environment, prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal. (After the pollutant or waste stream has been generated, pollution prevention is no longer possible and the waste must be handled by appropriate recycling, treatment, containment, or disposal methods.)

b. Source reduction may include equipment or technology modifications, process or procedure modifications, reformulation or redesign of products, substitution of raw materials, and improvements in housekeeping, maintenance, training, inventory control, or other operation and maintenance procedures. Pollution prevention also includes any project which protects natural resources through conservation or increased efficiency in the use of energy, water, or other materials. In-process recycling, wherein waste materials produced during a manufacturing process are returned directly to production as raw materials on site, is considered a pollution prevention project.

c. In all cases, for a project to meet the definition of pollution prevention, there must be an overall decrease in the amount and/or toxicity of pollution released to the environment, not merely a transfer of pollution among media. This decrease may be achieved directly or through increased efficiency (conservation) in the use of energy, water, or other materials.

3. Pollution Reduction. If the pollutant or waste stream already has been generated or released, a pollution reduction approach, which employs recycling, treatment, containment, or disposal techniques, may be appropriate. A pollution reduction project is one that results in a decrease in the amount and/or toxicity of any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant entering any waste stream or otherwise being released into the environment by an operating business or facility by a means which does not qualify as "pollution prevention." This may include the installation of more effective end-of-process control or treatment technology, or improved containment, or safer disposal of an existing pollutant source. Pollution reduction also includes "out-of-process recycling," wherein industrial waste collected after the manufacturing process and/or consumer waste materials are used as raw materials for production off-site.

4. Environmental Restoration and Protection. An environmental restoration and protection project is one that goes beyond repairing the damage caused by the violation to enhance the

condition of any ecosystem or geographic area. These projects may be used to restore or protect natural environments (including ecosystems) and man-made environments (including the removal/mitigation of contaminated materials, such as soils, asbestos, and leaded paint, from facilities and buildings). Also included is any project which protects the ecosystem from actual or potential damage resulting from violations of state environmental regulations or improves the overall environmental condition of the ecosystem or geographic area. Examples of these projects include: restoration of a wetland; purchase and management of a watershed area or environmentally sensitive area; and providing for the protection of endangered species, i.e. developing conservation programs or habitat protection and enhancement.

5. Assessments and Audits

a. The four types of assessments/audits are:

- i. pollution prevention assessments;
- ii. site assessments;
- iii. environmental management system audits; and
- iv. compliance audits.

b. These assessment or audit projects must be performed by an entity approved by the department. The defendant/respondent must agree to provide a certified copy of the assessment or audit to the department along with an implementation report to detail the action(s) taken and/or to defend the facility's decision to forego implementation of the suggested changes listed in the audit report. Settlement agreements which include assessment and/or audit projects may be constructed with stipulated penalty amounts for failure to implement suggested changes included in the report that the department deems appropriate based on an assessment of the certified implementation report provided by the facility. Assessments and audits may not include projects that are required by enforcement and/or legal requirements.

6. Environmental Compliance Promotion. An environmental compliance promotion project provides training or technical support to identify, achieve and maintain compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements; avoid committing a violation with respect to such statutory and regulatory requirements; go beyond compliance by reducing the generation, release, or disposal of pollutants to a level below the legally required limits; or promote environmental education, including awareness of potential risks or harm to the public health and the environment. In all cases, the department will specify the approved party responsible for developing and providing the environmental compliance promotion project. Acceptable projects may include, but are not limited to, the production and or sponsorship of seminar(s) related to environmental obligations, regulations, and improvement techniques.

7. Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Response. An emergency planning and preparedness project provides assistance to a responsible state or local emergency planning, preparedness, or response entity. This is to enable these organizations to further fulfill their obligations to collect information to assess the dangers of hazardous chemicals present in a response situation, to develop emergency plans and/or procedures, to train emergency response personnel, and to better respond to emergency situations. These projects may include providing computers and software,

communication systems, chemical emission detection and inactivation equipment, or hazardous materials equipment or training.

8. Other Projects. Projects determined by the department to have environmental merit that do not fit within at least one of the seven categories above may be accepted if they are otherwise fully consistent with the intent of these rules.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2011(D)(1), 2031 and 2050.7(E).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES LOG #: OS037

Person Preparing Statement: Sharon Parker Dept.: Environmental Quality Phone: (225) 765-0399 Office: Environmental Assessment

Return Address: P.O. Box 82178 Title: Beneficial Environmental Projects Baton Rouge, LA 70884 LAC 33:I.Chapter 25 Date Rule Takes Effect: Upon Promulgation

SUMMARY (Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 953 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SUMMARIZE ATTACHED WORKSHEETS, I THROUGH IV AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE LOUISIANA REGISTER WITH THE PROPOSED AGENCY RULE.

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

No implementation costs or savings to state or local governmental units are expected as a result of this rule.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

To the extent that the regulated community is allowed to participate in beneficial environmental projects in lieu of the payment of fines and penalties, less revenue will be credited to the Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Fund. Upon the accumulation of \$6 million in this fund any additional monies which would have been credited to this fund are instead paid into the Environmental Trust Fund.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

In most cases where the beneficial environmental project involves environmental mitigation or restoration, if the cost of a beneficial environmental project is equivalent to the fines and penalties to which an entity might be subject, there will be no net benefit or cost to that entity. Where the beneficial project involves pollution prevention or reduction, an entity may actually realize a net benefit from long term cost savings and reduced liability although the expenditures to achieve the pollution prevention or reduction are equivalent to the fines and penalties to which that entity might be subject.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

No effect on competition or employment is expected as a result of this rule.

Signature of Agency Head or Designee DESIGNEE

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICER OR

James H. Brent, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary Typed Name and Title of Agency Head or Designee

Date of Signature

Date of Signature

LFO 7/1/94

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

The following information is requested in order to assist the Legislative Fiscal Office in its review of the fiscal and economic impact statement and to assist the appropriate legislative oversight subcommittee in its deliberation on the proposed rule.

- A. Provide a brief summary of the content of the rule (if proposed for adoption or repeal) or a brief summary of the change in the rule (if proposed for amendment). Attach a copy of the notice of intent and a copy of the rule proposed for initial adoption or repeal (or, in the case of a rule change, copies of both the current and proposed rules with amended portions indicated).

This rule provides guidance for the use of beneficial environmental projects (BEPs) in the settlement of enforcement cases with the department. This rule serves to facilitate the settlement of environmental actions and promote the use of BEPs. Without this rule, projects that are otherwise advantageous to the state may be delayed, withdrawn, or not performed.

- B. Summarize the circumstances which require this action. If the Action is required by federal regulation, attach a copy of the applicable regulation.

R.S. 30:2011(D)(1), 2031, and 2050.7 require the department to promulgate rules to regulate the use of BEPs in the settlement of enforcement cases. BEPs have been proposed which will substantially benefit neighboring communities and reduce the load of pollutants discharged into the environment.

- C. Compliance with Act II of the 1986 First Extraordinary Session (1) Will the proposed rule change result in any increase in the expenditure of funds? If so, specify amount and source of funding.

No, the proposed rule will not result in any increase in the expenditure of funds.

- 2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, has the Legislature specifically appropriated the funds necessary for the associated expenditure increase?

- (a) Yes. If yes, attach documentation.
(b) No. If no, provide justification as to why this rule change should be published at this time.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

WORKSHEET

I. A. COSTS OR SAVINGS TO STATE AGENCIES RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED

1. What is the anticipated increase (decrease) in costs to implement the proposed action?

There is no anticipated change in costs to implement the proposed action.

COSTS	FY99-00	FY 00-01	FY 01-02
PERSONAL SERVICES			
OPERATING EXPENSES			
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			
OTHER CHARGES			
EQUIPMENT			
TOTAL	0	0	0
MAJOR REPAIR & CONSTR.			
POSITIONS(#)	0	0	0

2. Provide a narrative explanation of the costs or savings shown in "A.1.", including the increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.) anticipated as a result of the implementation of the proposed action. Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these costs.

This is not applicable.

3. Sources of funding for implementing the proposed rule or rule change.

SOURCE	FY 99-00	FY 00-01	FY 01-02
STATE GENERAL FUND			
AGENCY SELF-GENERATED			
DEDICATED			
FEDERAL FUNDS			
OTHER (Specify)			
TOTAL	0	0	0

4. Does your agency currently have sufficient funds to implement the proposed action? If not, how and when do you anticipate obtaining such funds?

No additional funding is necessary to implement the proposed rule.

B. COST OR SAVINGS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED.

1. Provide an estimate of the anticipated impact of the proposed action on local governmental units, including adjustments in workload and paperwork requirements. Describe all data, assumptions and methods used in calculating this impact.

No implementation cost or savings to local governmental units are expected as a result of this rule.

2. Indicate the sources of funding of the local governmental unit which will be affected by these costs or savings.

This section is not applicable.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

WORKSHEET

II. EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

A. What increase (decrease) in revenues can be anticipated from the proposed action?

REVENUE INCREASE/DECREASE	FY 99-00	FY 00-01	FY 01-02
STATE GENERAL FUND			
AGENCY SELF-GENERATED			
RESTRICTED FUNDS*			
FEDERAL FUNDS			
<u>LOCAL FUNDS</u>			
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

*Specify the particular fund being impacted.

B. Provide a narrative explanation of each increase or decrease in revenues shown in "A." Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these increases or decreases.

To the extent that the regulated community is allowed to participate in beneficial environmental projects in lieu of the payment of fines and penalties, less revenue will be credited to the Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Fund. Upon the accumulation of \$6 million in this fund any additional monies which would have been credited to this fund are instead paid into the Environmental Trust Fund.

III. COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS

A. What persons or non-governmental groups would be directly affected by the proposed action? For each, provide an estimate and a narrative description of any effect on costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.), they may have to incur as a result of the proposed action.

In most cases where the beneficial environmental project involves environmental mitigation or restoration, if the cost of a beneficial environmental project is equivalent to the fines and penalties to which an entity might be subject, there will be no net benefit or cost to that entity. Where the beneficial project involves pollution prevention or reduction, an entity may actually realize a net benefit from long term cost savings and reduced liability although the expenditures to achieve the pollution prevention or reduction are equivalent to the fines and penalties to which that entity might be subject.

B. Also provide an estimate and a narrative description of any impact on receipts and/or income resulting from this rule or rule change to these groups.

This section is not applicable.

IV. EFFECTS ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT

Identify and provide estimates of the impact of the proposed action on competition and employment in the public and private sectors. Include a summary of any data, assumptions and methods used in making these estimates.

No effect on competition or employment is expected as a result of this rule.