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"The department is soliciting stakeholder participation in evaluating and possible updating the Louisiana Solid Waste Regulations. Major revisions to the regulations were made in the early 1990's. Since that time, minor revisions were made to address specific issues, but the regulations have not been reevaluated to determine whether they meet the current (*waste? what does DEQ mean?bd*) industry and environmental standards. This activity is attempting to simplify the existing solid waste regulations and make them more user friendly (*to read? to understand? what does DEQ mean?bd*) to the public and regulated community." (From DEQ web site - Introduction)

If we are to understand what this interest group is meeting to accomplish, it would be helpful if DEQ would clarify the parameters of our discussions. Some guidelines for our discussions should be set or we will never accomplish what appears to be a somewhat limited and simple task.

The task that was set for just two of the participants at the last meeting concerned E&P wastes.

The rationale against allowing Exploration and Production wastes into Municipal Solid Waste and Non-Hazardous Industrial Waste landfills is as follows:

1. DEQ should not be responsible for this type of waste. They have neither the budget nor the personnel to do it. Allowing the crossover of jurisdiction would blur the lines of accountability for the wastes.
2. Furthermore, the citizens who now have both MSW and non-hazardous industrial waste trucks going through their areas don't need yet another burden.
3. Also, these landfills should be reserved for the type of waste for which they were originally permitted. They should serve as long as possible for the purpose they were permitted. Permitting and building MSW landfills to serve the needs of citizens is a difficult and expensive process.
4. Changing the purpose of these landfills retroactively after public hearings were held on their construction and operation would be wrong and perhaps illegal.
5. Neither the Municipal Association nor the Police Jury Association have representation on this committee and it is their government and constituents who will be impacted by this should such a recommendation be made.
6. In the northern sector of the state, both the Shreveport waste facility and the Monroe waste facility are located over sectors of the Sparta Aquifer, which the LA Groundwater Commission either already has or is about to declare as "critical". Further endangerment to this aquifer is unacceptable.

It might be useful if an E & P Waste site could be opened by LADNR/OC in an area of the middle/north part of the state that would not endanger the Sparta Aquifer if this would assist industry.