

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

\* \* \* \* \*  
LOUISIANA ELASTOMER, L.L.C. \*  
d/b/a LAEL \*  
VIDALIA, LOUISIANA \*  
Agency Interest No. 136294 \*  
Activity Tracking No. PER20060001\*  
\* \* \* \* \*

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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

PUBLIC HEARING

AND

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

ON SUBMITTAL OF A SOLID WASTE PERMIT APPLICATION  
TO PROCESS WASTE TIRES  
AND THE ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STATEMENT (EAS)

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Pursuant to Notice, the above-entitled matter came on for  
Public Hearing on April 25, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Vidalia  
City Hall Council Meeting Room, 101 North Spruce, Vidalia,  
Concordia Parish, Louisiana, before Allen Kirkpatrick,  
Hearing Officer. Reported by Debra S. Brooks, CCR.

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Phone 1-800-300-1758

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**P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S**

**HEARING OFFICER:**

Good evening, let the record reflect that the time is 6:03 p.m. My name is Allen Kirkpatrick, I am employed with Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. I will be serving as the Hearing Officer this evening, Thursday, April 25, 2006. This hearing is scheduled to accept public comments concerning the submittal of a Solid Waster Permit Application to Process Waste Tires and the associated Environmental Assessment Statement for Louisiana Elastomer L.L.C., d/b/a LAEL, 101 North East Street, Abbeville, Louisiana, for Louisiana Elastomer, L.L.C. d/b/a LAEL facility in Concordia Parish, Louisiana. Agency Interest No. 136294 and Tracking Number PER2006-0001. The proposed facility is to be located at 2001 Biglane Road, Vidalia, Concordia Parish, Louisiana.

Louisiana Elastomer, L.L.C., d/b/a LAEL, proposes to receive and store whole tires until they are processed into shredded tire material for beneficial reuse. Shredded tire material received from offsite processors will be stored in box vans for further processing. The EAS submitted by the applicant addresses avoidance of potential and real environmental effects, balancing of social and economic benefits

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against the environmental impact costs, and alternative sites, projects, and mitigative measures.

This hearing is not being conducted in an question-and-answer format. Please remember that the purpose of this public hearing is for DEQ to receive your comments concerning the submittal of a Solid Waste Permit Application to Process Waste Tires and the associated Environmental Assessment Statement.

This hearing is to provide all individuals a chance to be heard regardless of their position on the submittal of this Solid Waste Permit Application to Process Waste Tires. Courteous behavior is expected of everyone at all times, and you may speak in support of the Solid Waste Permit Application to Process Waste Tires, in opposition to the Solid Waste Permit Application to Process Waste Tires or just simply provide additional information. All interested persons will be given a reasonable opportunity to comment, unless testimony is not related to the purpose of the hearing. Your comments will be evaluated and addressed in the Department's written response.

A public notice advertising this public hearing and request for public comment on the submittal of a Solid Waste Permit Application to Process Waste Tires and the associated Environmental Assessment Statement was

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published on April 5th and 12th, 2006 in the Concordia Sentinel, Vidalia, Louisiana.

A copy of the material associated with the submittal of this Solid Waste Permit Application to Process Waste Tires and the associated Environmental Assessment Statement is available for inspection and review at LDEQ Public Records Center, Room 127, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Viewing hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except holidays. An additional copy is also available for review at the Vidalia City Hall Mayor's office, 1001 (sic) North Spruce Street, Vidalia, Louisiana. In addition, on March 31, 2006, copies of the public notice were mailed to individuals who have requested to be placed on the mailing list maintained by the Office of Environmental Services.

In accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 33, Part VII, Subpart 2, Chapter 105, Section 105513.C.5, comments received by 12:30 p.m., May 30, 2006, will be considered prior to a final decision. All comments received by 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 30, 2006 shall be retained by the Department and considered in determining whether to issue or deny the Solid Waste Permit to Process Waste Tires.

Written comments on the submittal of the Solid

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Waste Permit Application to Process Waste Tires and the associated Environmental Assessment Statement may be submitted to Ms. Soumaya Ghosn, LDEQ-OES, Environmental Assistance Division, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821.

Under Louisiana Revised Statutes 30:2017, as revised by the legislature in the 2004 session, the Department is required to follow the following order with the provision that the Presiding Officer may give preference to a public official to speak at any time during the hearing. However, any time limits set for citizen testimony shall apply to public officials. The Department must provide up to 30 minutes to the permit applicant for an introductory presentation. Thereafter, preference for speaking up to one hour is given as follows: the first hour, to those citizens who live within a two-mile radius of the location of the facility; the second hour, to those citizens who work within a two-mile radius of the location of the facility; and the third hour, to those citizens who live within the parish of the location of the facility.

Thereafter, each hour of the hearing shall alternate between those who are in support of the Solid Waste Permit Application to Process Waste Tires and those who are opposed to the Solid Permit Application to

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Process Waste Tires. The order of tonight's hearing will be based on the information provided by the speaker on a registration form. Anyone registered to speak, but did not provide the necessary information, will be given the opportunity to speak; however, they will be called last in the order of registration. The hearing is being transcribed, therefore I ask each speaker to begin by stating, for the record, their name, address, and any organization he or she may represent. I also remind you to turn off all cell phones.

For those of y'all who wish to speak, I'm going to give you five minutes per time you get up. At this time the permit applicant's representative may come forward and make their introductory presentation. And that will be Mr. Wells?

**MR. WELLS:**

Yes. I'm Michael Wells, I live at 101 North East Street, Abbeville, Louisiana and I am with -- I am the president of Louisiana Elastomer, L.L.C. Louisiana Elastomer is a Louisiana company, which is a licensee of a technology called Tire Cycle. Tire Cycle is a technology that is trade marked, that is owned by a company called Rubber Research Elastomerics, RRE. We also have ownership in RRE, as well. We propose to operate a facility to process waste rubber materials,

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not just tires, we can process many types of elastomers, in Vidalia. The LAEL partners and principals own exclusive rights to this technology to practice this technology in the Southern United States, Canada and Mexico.

The economic impact for the area and for the state, in general, this will be an environmentally clean plant with no effluent or emissions. All that we take in is turned into a product. a saleable scrap material. It's a dry process so there's no effluent and no emissions. It will create, over a four-year period, potentially 135 manufacturing jobs. The contractors have estimated creation of somewhere from 100 to 110 construction jobs. It will contribute to the solution of a major environmental problem, while creating a renewable resource. Lower raw material costs help us, help LAEL customers recapture U.S. market share for their products. This has already happened.

Our business model is that LAEL model, in rubber, is the same as the new core model was in steel and the same as the Fort Howard Paper Company model was in paper. And that model is, that technology breakthroughs permits order of magnitude increase in recycled content. Rubber has only been able to be recycled into products at about a 5 to 7 percent rate. This technology allows

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us to go up to 70, 80, 90 percent rate, depending on the application.

Our core concepts are that we will be able to price 25 percent below the market against our competition, which is rubber compounders. We are not crumb grinders, we are polymer chemists. Tire Cycle provides flexibility to blend with existing compounds in the range of 10 to 85 percent. Regular rubber can only be blended at about 5 to 7 percent, and that's the power of our technology. Our customers have realized significant gains in their productivity. The molders, the extruders, rubber manufacturing companies see improvements in their process from the use of our product. And that savings allows them to effectively recapture, maintain and grow market share. Companies that have been using Tire Cycle products have actually recaptured market share from China with companies they're competing with in China. We have examples of that.

Our products are engineered materials, it's not just ground rubber. We process it, and it is an engineered material. We're selling a rubber compound.

Our market is huge. Annual consumption of rubber in this country alone is 18 billion pounds. 2 million pounds every hour of every day, 365 days a year

1 disappears into some product. It's also diverse.  
 2 There's over 3,500 companies that we sell to that are  
 3 rubber molders and extruders, just in the rubber  
 4 industry.

5 And in addition, the process and the facility is  
 6 totally green, absolutely no emissions. And our  
 7 approach is true recycling and the sustainable use of  
 8 resources. We process the rubber, it goes into a  
 9 product, it's used, it comes back, and we can process it  
 10 again. The only loss is the -- if it's a tire, whatever  
 11 is lost to the road. But we can redo processes on it,  
 12 so it has true sustainability.

13 We disassemble tires into various components. We  
 14 separate the raw materials by various types of rubber  
 15 compound. You have a tread compound, you have an inner  
 16 liner, you have a bead compound, a sidewall. We produce  
 17 a pure fine crumb rubber. Then we reactivate that crumb  
 18 rubber in a treatment process using the Tire Cycle  
 19 treatment that produces a rubber compound to whatever  
 20 customer specification.

21 We will produce two forms of product, crumb rubber,  
 22 fine grind reactivated crumb rubber in a powder-like  
 23 form; and slab, which is an extruded Banbury mixed and  
 24 extruded slab. These are the two forms of commercial  
 25 trade in the U.S. rubber industry. We can also process

1 waste plastics and other polymers as feed stock, so it's  
2 a versatile process. And as you may not be able to see,  
3 these are the major unit operations. We have several QC  
4 points that we check, so we do quality control. It is  
5 an engineered manufacturing process, it's not a  
6 monofill.

7 We will have low raw material costs and it provides  
8 us a marketing advantage, vis-a-vis our competition.  
9 And our competition is rubber compounders selling rubber  
10 compounding. Any price increase by the competition  
11 equals a profit margin for us because we do not have to  
12 raise our price. We do not have to raise -- Our raw  
13 material costs don't increase, as well.

14 Again, compound rubber is 18 billion pounds in  
15 domestic sales and we will go up to about a 30 million  
16 pound initial capacity. So our capacity is dwarfed by  
17 the market. We also have customers in the thermo  
18 plastics industry, this is 80 billion pounds annually,  
19 and then there's also speciality polymers, which is  
20 another 10 billion pounds. Huge markets, and we have  
21 customers in each one of those segments.

22 The Vidalia plant's potential customers will be  
23 companies currently selling -- currently using Tire  
24 Cycle products and there are customers we're in the  
25 process of sampling, testing and evaluating compounds

1 designed for their particular product. We have a list  
2 of qualified accounts that are included in our executive  
3 summary, those are potential customers. We have a  
4 detailed sales and marketing plan. The LAEL facility  
5 will have the capability to produce rubber compound to  
6 meet customer specifications on a number of rubber  
7 products, tread rubber for new tires and for recapped  
8 tires, industrial rollers and conveyor belts, shoes,  
9 soles and heels, custom molded products such as wiper  
10 blades. One of the largest wiper blade plants in the  
11 world is over in Texas and we do business with those  
12 people. Gaskets, rubber moldings, anything rubber or  
13 plastic we -- companies who make any rubber or plastic  
14 products are our potential customers. And that's it.  
15 Thank you, everyone, for coming.

16 **HEARING OFFICER:**

17 I will now begin by allowing all persons who have  
18 signed up to speak five minutes in which to present  
19 their comments. Anyone who needs more than five minutes  
20 will be allowed to finish his or her comments after the  
21 registered speakers have had the opportunity to speak.  
22 Do we have anyone who would like to speak, if so you  
23 need to fill out one of these lovely green forms.

24 (No response.)

25 **HEARING OFFICER:**

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First to speak, those citizens who live within a two-mile radius of the location of the facility. Going once, going twice, three times. Okay. The next group of speakers are those who work within a two-mile radius of the location of the facility. Going once, going twice, three times. Next, those citizens who live within the parish of the location of the facility.

(No response.)

**HEARING OFFICER:**

All right. Nobody that would like to speak in support of the Solid Waste Permit?

(No response.)

**HEARING OFFICER:**

Okay. Are there any other comments? I'll remind you -- Okay, I'll remind you that the comment period for the submittal of the Solid Waste Permit Application to Process Waste Tires and the associated Environmental Assessment Statement for Louisiana Elastomer, L.L.C., d/b/a LAEL, ends at 12:30 p.m. --

**MAYOR COPELAND:**

I'm the Mayor, if I can say a few things.

**HEARING OFFICER:**

Oh, certainly.

**MAYOR COPELAND:**

First of all, we want to thank each and every one

1 for coming here tonight. And on behalf of the City of  
 2 Vidalia we want to welcome Louisiana Elastomer for  
 3 coming to Vidalia. We think it will have a tremendous  
 4 economic impact on our area. We're looking forward to  
 5 them coming, a job producer, et cetera, and so on like  
 6 that. And not only that, we think they'll be a good  
 7 industrial company to our area. We, again, would work  
 8 very closely with them through the years. We're excited  
 9 about them coming to Vidalia and we believe they're a  
 10 good company in good standing. And we've checked all  
 11 the issues out, and to our satisfaction. We're, again,  
 12 elated that they're coming to Vidalia, Louisiana. And  
 13 that's basically it. Held it below five minutes, that's  
 14 unusual for a politician.

15 **HEARING OFFICER:**

16 Mr. Mayor, could you give your name and your  
 17 address and all that for the record.

18 **MAYOR COPELAND:**

19 Sure. My name is Hiram, H-y-r-a-m, Copeland, C-o-  
 20 p-e-l-a-n-d, my address is 603 Elm Street, Vidalia,  
 21 Louisiana. I'm the Mayor of Vidalia.

22 **HEARING OFFICER:**

23 Thank you. All right. I'll remind you that the --  
 24 Anybody else?

25 (No response.)

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**HEARING OFFICER:**

Okay. I'll remind you that the comment period for the submittal of this Solid Waste Permit Application to Process Waste Tires and the associated Environmental Assessment Statement for the Louisiana Elastomers, L.L.C., d/b/a LAEL, ends at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 30, 2006.

If there are no other comments, I would thank you for your attention and the participation in this hearing. Let the record reflect that the time is 6:25 p.m. This hearing is closed. And we'll be here until 7:00 so if you want think of something to say and come back, we'll be here until 7:00. So there you go. Did we have any exhibits submitted? Mr. Wells, did you want to put an exhibit or anything in or anything like that?

**MR. WELLS:**

No, I don't have any.

**HEARING OFFICER:**

Oh, you don't? Okay, that's fine. I was just asking.

(Public Hearing concluded 7:00 p.m.)

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

STATE OF LOUISIANA

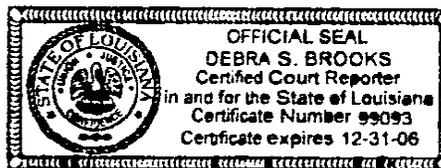
This certification is valid only for a transcript accompanied by my original signature and original seal on this page.

I, Debra S. Brooks, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this Public Hearing was taken do hereby certify that public hearing as hereinbefore set forth in the foregoing 14 pages of typewritten matter; that this Public Hearing was reported in the stenomask reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding; that I am not related to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature at Rhinehart, Louisiana, this 3rd day of May, 2006.

*Debra S. Brooks*

DEBRA S. BROOKS, CCR, #99093



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