

1 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

2 STATE OF LOUISIANA

3

4

5

6 IN RE:

7 REQUEST FOR DRAFT WATER DISCHARGE AGENCY

8 INTEREST NO. 127497

9 PERMIT FOR MAGNOLIA PLANTATION

10 WATER SYSTEM/MAGNOLIA PLANTATION

11 WATER TREATMENT PLANT

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18 Transcript of the Public Hearing held in

19 the above numbered and captioned matter on

20 Thursday, March 30, 2006, at Vermilion Parish

21 Police Jury, 2nd Floor Courtroom, 100 North

22 State Street, Abbeville, Louisiana, beginning

23 at 6:02 p.m.

24

25

1 A P P E A R A N C E S :

2

3 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
4 OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
5 LEGAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
6 (BY: TED BROYLES - HEARING OFFICER)
7 POST OFFICE BOX 4302
8 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70821-4302

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25

1 MR. BROYLES:

2 Good evening. Let the record reflect
3 that the time now is, I believe, 6:02 p.m.,
4 despite what that clock back there says. My
5 name is Ted Broyles. I am employed with the
6 Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.
7 I will be serving as the hearing officer this
8 evening, Thursday, March 30, 2006.

9 This hearing is scheduled to accept public
10 comments concerning the Draft Louisiana
11 Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES)
12 Permit for the Magnolia Plantation Water
13 System/Magnolia Plantation Water Treatment
14 Plant, Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana,
15 Agency Interest Number 127497, Permit Number
16 LA0120677 and Activity Tracking Numbers
17 PER20050001. The site is located at the
18 intersection of Louisiana Highway 338 and
19 Bonvillain Road (P-3-56) in, I think that's a
20 parish road, in Abbeville, Vermilion Parish,
21 Louisiana.

22 The principal discharge from this existing
23 source is made into Coulee Tigre via local
24 drainage, thence into Bayou Tigre -- is it
25 Tigre or Tigre?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

2 Tigre.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

4 Tigre.

5 MR. BROYLES:

6 I was right the first time, thank you
7 -- waters of the State classified for primary
8 contact recreation, secondary contact
9 recreation, and fish and wildlife propagation.
10 Under the SIC Code 4941, the applicant proposed
11 to discharge filter backwash from manganese
12 greensand filters and zeolite softeners, floor
13 rinse water, and sanitary waste water from the
14 operation of an existing potable water
15 treatment plant.

16 During the preparation of this permit, it's
17 been determined that this discharge will have
18 no adverse impact on the existing uses of the
19 receiving water body. As with any discharge,
20 however, some change in existing water quality
21 may occur.

22 This hearing is not being conducted in a
23 question and answer format. Please remember
24 that the purpose of this public hearing is for
25 DEQ to receive your comments concerning the

1 Draft Water Discharge Permit.

2 This hearing is to provide all individuals
3 a chance to be heard regardless of their
4 position on this Draft Permit.

5 Courteous behavior is expected of everyone
6 at all times. You may speak in support of the
7 Draft Permit, in opposition to the Draft
8 Permit, or simply to provide additional
9 information. All interested persons will be
10 given a reasonable opportunity to comment,
11 unless testimony is not related to the purpose
12 of the hearing. Your comments will be
13 evaluated and addressed in the Department's
14 written response.

15 A public notice advertising this public
16 hearing and request for public comment on the
17 Draft Permit was published in the Abbeville
18 Meridional, Abbeville, and The Advocate, Baton
19 Rouge newspapers on February 21, 2006.

20 A copy of the material associated with the
21 Draft Permit is available for inspection and
22 review at the LDEQ, Public Records Center, Room
23 127, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge,
24 Louisiana. Viewing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30
25 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

1 Additional copies are also available for review
2 at the Vermilion Parish Library Main Library
3 located at 405 East St. Victor, Abbeville,
4 Louisiana 70511. In addition, copies of the
5 public notice were mailed to individuals who
6 have requested to be placed on the mailing list
7 maintained by the Office of Environmental
8 Services on February 20, 2006.

9 In accordance with Louisiana Administrative
10 Code, Title 33, Part IX, Subpart 2, Section
11 3113.B.1, comments received by 12:30 p.m.,
12 Monday, April 3rd, 2006 will be considered
13 prior to a final decision. All comments
14 received by 12:30 p.m. April 3rd, 2006 shall be
15 retained by the Department and considered in
16 determining whether to issue or deny the Draft
17 Water Discharge Permit.

18 Written comments on this draft -- this
19 Draft Permit may be submitted to Ms. Soumaya
20 Ghosn, LDEQ-OES, Environmental Assistance
21 Division, P. O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge,
22 Louisiana 70821-4313.

23 Under Louisiana Revised Statutes 30:2017,
24 as revised by the legislature in the 2004
25 session, the Department is required to follow

1 the following order with the provision that the
2 presiding officer may give preference to a
3 public official to speak at anytime during the
4 hearing. However, any time limits set for
5 citizen testimony shall apply to public
6 citizens.

7 The Department must provide up to thirty
8 minutes to the permit applicant for an
9 introductory presentation. Thereafter,
10 preference for speaking up to one hour is given
11 as follows:

12 For the first hour, to those citizens who
13 live within a two mile radius of the location
14 of the facility;

15 For the second hour, to those citizens who
16 work within a two mile radius of the location
17 of the facility;

18 And the third hour, for those citizens who
19 live within the parish of the location of the
20 facility.

21 Thereafter, each hour of the hearing shall
22 alternate between those who are in support of
23 the Draft Permit and those who are opposed to
24 Draft Permit. The order of tonight's hearing
25 will be based on the information provided by

1 the speaker on the registration form. Anyone
2 who registered to speak but did not provide the
3 necessary information will be given the
4 opportunity to speak, however, that person will
5 be called last in the order of registration.

6 This hearing is being transcribed,
7 therefore, I will ask that each speaker begin
8 by stating for the record your name, address,
9 and any organization he or she may represent.

10 I would like to remind you to please turn
11 off all cell phones. Thank you.

12 At this time, I would like to ask the
13 permit applicant's representative to come
14 forward and make an introductory presentation
15 if he so chooses. Is there anyone from the
16 facility, the applicant, to make a presentation
17 here tonight?

18 (No response)

19 MR. BROYLES:

20 Thank you. Again, we'll have plenty of
21 time at the end if you think of something you
22 want to talk about. We've got plenty of time
23 here tonight.

24 I will now begin by allowing all persons
25 who have signed up to speak, and we'll start

1 with five minutes, in which to present their
2 comments.

3 Anyone who needs more than five minutes
4 will be allowed to finish his or her comments
5 after all the registered speakers had the
6 opportunity to speak.

7 The first to speak will be those citizens
8 who live within a two mile radius of the
9 location of the facility and I think we have
10 several of those. And again if you'll come up
11 here to the podium, the mike should be --
12 should be on. Please for our purposes and also
13 for the Court Reporter, tell us your name and
14 perhaps maybe how you spell your last name and
15 where you live and if you represent any person
16 or organization other than yourself.

17 Thank you very much. First there's Mr.
18 Larry Langlinais.

19 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

20 Yes, I'm here.

21 MR. BROYLES:

22 Did I pronounce your last name right,
23 sir?

24 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

25 Langlinais.

1 MR. BROYLES:

2 Langlinais.

3 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

4 I guess we go to the podium here?

5 MR. BROYLES:

6 Yes, sir. Come right up here. I need
7 to remind everyone, if you have -- I see you
8 have an exhibit that you're presenting. If you
9 have anything that you want to -- DEQ to put
10 into the permanent record, you need to tell me
11 about it and I'll label it as an exhibit and
12 that'll go into our record also. So just tell
13 me ahead of time and we'll go from there.

14 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

15 Okay. Well, I put this together, but I
16 -- if I would have realized you had a Power
17 Point, I could have presented this on a Power
18 Point presentation. But basically all this is
19 is a map area and I've had a few maps out there
20 on the benches, smaller scale, showing the
21 general Bayou Tigre Water Shed area and
22 basically where Magnolia's located and I think
23 outlined in black, our properties involved.

24 But I want to first begin by just thanking
25 you all for giving this -- us this opportunity

1 and I also want to begin by saying that, first
2 of all, we're not against Magnolia Water
3 Treatment Facility. We're not against shutting
4 them down or nothing like that. They have a
5 very viable and immediate use. What we're
6 against is the process that they're using to
7 generate the water that they're serving the
8 public with. And this service that they're
9 providing, and it's very well needed as I said,
10 but it should not be provided at the expense of
11 other useful purposes.

12 I'm almost sixty-four years of age and as
13 long as I can remember Bayou Tigre has been
14 used to irrigate rice. As far as other
15 processes, we are aware that there are other
16 processes. The City of Kaplan, Abbeville, and
17 I understand New Iberia even uses a lime type
18 process. Then why can't we maybe use other
19 processes or even find another way of disposing
20 of the salt or the chlorides rather than
21 dumping it into an open channel which we are
22 and we're -- we're receiving the brunt of all
23 of this, but guess what, there are -- it's far
24 more outreaching as far as we're concerned than
25 just Langlinais Farms, Bayou Tigre, or even

1 Vermilion Parish, because there are other
2 Langlinais Farms out there sooner or later that
3 will be involved.

4 Mr. Alec Crochet recently made a comment at
5 a meeting we had with the rice growers and I
6 had never thought of it that way and thought I
7 would have to agree with him. He says that
8 there's a trend and a phenomenon occurring
9 right now as far as preparing these water
10 treatment system processes that are going on
11 similar to the REA that occurred fifty years
12 ago, rural electricity. And I've thought about
13 it and it's very true, but what's occurring
14 now, dumping this water into these -- these
15 open channels and we're having to pick up this
16 water to irrigate our crops, it's very serious
17 for us. It is very serious for agriculture in
18 general. We've always feared the hurricane.
19 We know what salt water can do now. Everyone
20 knows. Even every citizen in this area knows
21 that.

22 One of the things that concerned us, when I
23 say us I mean with Langlinais Farms and even as
24 a rice grower landowner as well, is that this
25 has been going on for ten years and no permit

1 had never been applied for. I mean, you just
2 build a house or a little attachment to your
3 house and you have to file for a permit and
4 it's hard to understand how this has not
5 occurred.

6 We also have some -- I have some personal
7 questions towards DEQ which I know they can't
8 answer, which we hope to get the answers
9 eventually, and that's designated uses. You
10 read your -- your comments earlier to say that
11 you all saw no reason why the permit could not
12 be granted or whatever. Based on what? You
13 said that primary contact recreation and
14 secondary contact recreation and fish and
15 wildlife propagations were the primary
16 designated uses. Where is agriculture?
17 Approximately a year ago I spoke with people
18 from DEQ and I was told then that that was an
19 oversight evidently and that that could
20 probably be changed, but that's one main
21 concern of ours. We feel that this should be
22 changed and what we need to do to get it
23 changed because this may even alter the
24 decisions that you're making based upon this.

25 The federal government EPA has set a

1 national goal that all point discharge
2 pollutions within watershed had to be
3 eliminated by 1985. And of their pollutants,
4 salt is one of the considered pollutants.

5 MR. BROYLES:

6 Mr. Langlinais, I'm sorry. Your five
7 minutes are up.

8 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

9 Okay.

10 MR. BROYLES:

11 I'll tell you what, I'm going to
12 continue for five more minutes.

13 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

14 Okay. Well --

15 MR. BROYLES:

16 It looks like you're on a roll. Let's
17 go ahead --

18 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

19 Right. Okay. Well, let me -- let me
20 just --

21 MR. BROYLES:

22 Would you do something for me that you
23 overlooked? Would you tell the Court Reporter
24 your name and where you live?

25 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

1 Oh, I'm sorry.

2 MR. BROYLES:

3 How you spell your name?

4 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

5 My name is Larry Langlinais and we are
6 the ones that have the property that the
7 saltwater is being discharged upon right on the
8 edge of it.

9 MR. BROYLES:

10 Tell us your address, please.

11 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

12 And my address is Lafayette, Louisiana.
13 I live in Lafayette, and was there anything
14 else that you needed?

15 MR. BROYLES:

16 That's fine.

17 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

18 That's good? Okay. I'm sorry about
19 that.

20 MR. BROYLES:

21 Another five minutes.

22 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

23 Okay. We cannot even accept the
24 revised permit either. This eight hundred
25 thirty-two parts per million over a three year

1 period, it's totally unacceptable. Rice -- we
2 cannot use this water for growing rice. It's
3 not worth the chance even.

4 And another thing, too, is, I understand
5 you all use models in determining and making
6 these decisions. Whatever that means in these
7 models, that's engineering terms I guess, and
8 you take data and history and everything else.
9 If the model would have worked, it would have
10 worked in 2004. And in 2004 we had hit record
11 breaking rains. And this data, I have it in my
12 data, comes from LSU and in May and June we had
13 as much as twenty inches of rain in those two
14 months versus ten inches over an average of a
15 thirty year period and we still had saltwater.

16 So yeah, like I said earlier, Bayou Tigre
17 has historically been agriculture. And if
18 anything else, it's more agriculture than it is
19 primary fish. I don't know of anybody who
20 fishes or swims or whatever or use boats in
21 Bayou Tigre other than maybe near the Delcambre
22 Canal. That's about the extent of it. So to
23 have it with those explanations versus leaving
24 agriculture out is just beyond me.

25 We are very concerned that this year

1 saltwater being a pollutant, this could come to
2 bite us back years down the road, thirty,
3 forty, fifty, sixty years. We may not -- we
4 probably won't be here, but it's going to be a
5 legacy we will be leaving to our kids,
6 grandkids of maybe water percolating down into
7 the -- the aquifers that we can't foresee.

8 There are situations in another parish, I
9 was told, that they reached -- they did -- some
10 cane farmers were planting sugarcane and could
11 not grow cane on that land for two or three
12 years until they did a salt testing and found
13 out it was high in salt. Come to find out,
14 what had happened, a drainage ditch had been
15 dredged and the soil had been spread into the
16 field which is very common. We've all done
17 that. Most of these farmers here will tell you
18 that. Or topsoil is in much demand and need.
19 The soil will either be sold or it will be
20 given, hauled on construction sights and lots
21 and home lots. Guess what's going to happen.
22 No one's going to know that this was put there
23 twenty years ago, thirty years ago and it's
24 polluting the environment.

25 One of the things that's of concern, we've

1 talked about it, and then there's other
2 possible solutions that could be used, we refer
3 to it as a dilution, lime filters, osmosis
4 processes, injection wells, and diverting the
5 water to the Vermilion River is one possible
6 source. That's fine with me. I don't mind one
7 bit, but I have a lot of good friends here that
8 I don't know if they would want it, you know.
9 But if they approve of it, that's fine with me
10 to divert it to the Vermilion River, but not
11 without their permission.

12 Another -- another consideration to look
13 at, the City of Erath is having -- is doing a
14 survey at the moment, which someone else can
15 probably speak on that in more detail, because
16 Erath has had flooding problems prior to the
17 hurricane as we all know. And this survey is
18 ongoing right now, but some of the engineers
19 with NRCS have been diverted to New Orleans and
20 -- and other areas and have put this project on
21 hold.

22 But on our farm, we had considered doing
23 some dredging of the channels that go through
24 our facility to create what we call a reservoir
25 to install what we call tail water recovery to

1 reuse the same water that we let out of the
2 fields but not having to pump it from the
3 aquifer three hundred feet down below which is
4 more expensive and it preserves the aquifer.
5 We're recirculating the water. We didn't go
6 through that process because of the
7 consideration of the City of Erath project was
8 undertaking and we didn't want to do anything
9 until we found out what the surveyor was going
10 to recommend.

11 And so another process that I've thought of
12 that maybe alleviate this problem that we're
13 having or anyone else might have would be to
14 --we're on the -- if you look at this -- this
15 map I have here, I have some out there, the
16 plant is located about eight-tenths of a mile
17 from the Vermilion River. So to pump the water
18 there would not be a far way to go with a
19 pipeline, or possibly another alternative would
20 be instead of using your irrigation wells or
21 well, which I understand is a six inch well,
22 which to try to dilute the water that you're
23 talking about to the levels that we would
24 require to be safe for rice production, there's
25 not enough hours in the day. You would have to

1 run your well more than twenty-four hours a day
2 from the calculation figures we've done.

3 So another possibility would be to put a
4 pump in the Vermilion River, put a pipeline,
5 and flush it with cheaper water and you
6 wouldn't be using aquifer water as well.

7 MR. BROYLES:

8 Mr. Langlinais?

9 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

10 Okay.

11 MR. BROYLES:

12 I'm sorry. You are in your second
13 period now.

14 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

15 I appreciate --

16 MR. BROYLES:

17 Again, you'll have a chance at the end
18 --

19 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

20 I understand. That's great.

21 MR. BROYLES:

22 If you have -- if you want to speak up
23 later on, you'll have another chance. Next is
24 Alec Crochet.

25 MR. CROCHET:

1 I'm Alec Crochet and I represent the
2 Magnolia Planation Water System. And I don't
3 have any comments at this time.

4 MR. BROYLES:

5 Okay. Thank you, sir. Next is David
6 C. Langlinais. Again, tell us your name and
7 where you live, sir.

8 DAVID LANGLINAIS:

9 I'm David Langlinais. I'm from Erath.
10 I live at 11320 Louisiana Highway 339, Erath,
11 Louisiana.

12 MR. BROYLES:

13 Thank you, sir.

14 DAVID LANGLINAIS:

15 I'm a farmer in the area. And in 2004
16 we have -- I have some family land which
17 belongs to my mother and her sisters. It's
18 approximately two miles north of Erath. I
19 started experiencing salt problems in 2004.
20 I've been farming that property for twenty
21 years. Never experienced it before. Well, at
22 the end of the season is when we came across
23 the salt and where it was coming from. So I
24 ended up pumping quite a bit of salt on the
25 property. I can't -- I can no longer farm the

1 land. I had to get rid of my land and let
2 someone else farm it.

3 In 2005 I took on Langlinais Farms which is
4 Mr. Larry Langlinais and Steven Langlinais. We
5 started of the season and I was experiencing
6 saltwater in the early part of 2005. So
7 therefore we had to go back to deep water wells
8 which is very expensive to use.

9 So we had recently had a meeting not long
10 ago with the Louisiana Rice Growers, and Mr.
11 Alec Crochet was there. Well, I told him what
12 had happened. I had to give up my own land and
13 let someone else farm it because I can no
14 longer irrigate the rice. He told me I need to
15 plant sugarcane. Basically that's what he told
16 me. I mean, I don't know if he knows what's
17 involved in -- in sugarcane and rice, but I
18 don't think you can use the same equipment to
19 do either or both.

20 So, I mean, I don't know what needs to be
21 done, but something needs to happen. I mean, I
22 have two jobs. I got a family to raise. And,
23 I mean, that's about all I have to say. I
24 mean, something needs to be -- happen. Thank
25 you.

1 MR. BROYLES:

2 Thank you, sir. Next person is I
3 believe Steven Langlinais.

4 STEVEN LANGLINAIS:

5 My name is Steven Langlinais and as you
6 can tell, I am about to lose my voice so I
7 don't believe I will be going the five minutes.

8 MR. BROYLES:

9 Okay, sir.

10 STEVEN LANGLINAIS:

11 Okay.

12 MR. BROYLES:

13 And you live in 3005 Albert Road in
14 Erath, correct?

15 STEVEN LANGLINAIS:

16 Correct. North of Erath. I live about
17 two and a half miles from the property.

18 MR. BROYLES:

19 Thank you, sir.

20 STEVEN LANGLINAIS:

21 This is property that my father bought
22 back in the 1960s and there was a dream of his
23 that this land could be used for irrigation for
24 -- for rice crops and --

25 MR. BROYLES:

1 Do you mind speaking into the mike?

2 STEVEN LANGLINAIS:

3 All right. Can everybody hear now?

4 All right. That this land was supposed to be
5 used primarily for rice -- for rice crops and
6 eventually irrigation for sugarcane. Now,
7 somebody might make the comment, well, I've
8 never seen anybody irrigate sugarcane, but
9 there is a plan that is in effect as we speak
10 where land is being leveled and the land is
11 being utilized currently whereby it can be
12 switched from sugarcane for four years and then
13 into a rice crop for -- for the next four
14 years.

15 This has required a considerable amount of
16 earth work and dirt work and, you know, mass
17 amounts of -- volume of material in order to
18 shape the fields so that they could be used for
19 both irrigation in rice and sugarcane so that
20 when a rice farmer leaves his crop, the
21 sugarcane farmer does not have to start tearing
22 down levees, redoing roads, remaking ditches,
23 and drainage. Everything is already sloped to
24 handle both rice and sugarcane.

25 This is a very unique situation. There are

1 very few places in the world that can do this,
2 but we have worked on this and Larry has been
3 working on this very diligently for the past
4 six years one small step at a time and getting
5 all of the crops and all of the parcels
6 arranged thereby you -- whereby you can go from
7 rice and sugarcane without having to do all
8 this extra work.

9 This plan is in effect and all of a sudden
10 this thing hits us in the face. We can't
11 irrigate sugarcane because the water is too
12 salty. The water that would be irrigated would
13 have to come from deep wells. Now, there are
14 times when sugarcane farmers need irrigation --
15 need irrigation water. And you can talk to any
16 sugarcane farmer in this meeting room tonight
17 and they will tell you that a drought at
18 critical times of a sugarcane crop can be
19 devastating. On this farm that we're talking
20 about, this can be eliminated. If you get into
21 a drought period, we can irrigate sugarcane if
22 we have freshwater.

23 Now, we all know some of the problems that
24 have occurred with saltwater. I was talking to
25 a crawfish farmer right across from my house

1 this afternoon and he told me that his -- in
2 the small of amounts of water from Hurricane
3 Rita that came through his discharge pipes up
4 to his ponds back into his fields, very, very
5 small diluted portions, his sugarcane --
6 crawfish crop is about one-third of what it was
7 last year from that small amount of saltwater
8 that came into his already rice -- crawfish
9 ponds. So we know that saltwater can have a
10 devastating effect on crawfish, they can have a
11 devastating effect on rice, and it can have a
12 devastating effect on sugarcane.

13 I want to make one other comment that was
14 made earlier. I think you mentioned that Bayou
15 Tigre is not listed as agriculture. It's
16 listed for -- it's categorized for recreation
17 -- fishing and something else. Well, let me
18 tell you. Where I live on that part of the --
19 I was born and raised in that area. I have
20 never, never, never seen a boat going up in
21 that part of the Bayou Tigre. It's too
22 shallow. How can it be categorized as
23 recreation? You can't even drive a pirogue up
24 some of those streams. So I -- something needs
25 to be done to re-categorize this as an

1 agriculture field rather than for recreational
2 and fishing. And we will push to get this
3 thing done. It needs to be done. This has to
4 be re-categorized. But my voice is giving out
5 on me so I'll hand over the podium to somebody
6 else.

7 MR. BROYLES:

8 Thank you, sir. The next group of
9 speakers will be those who work within a two
10 mile radius of the location of the facility.
11 The first I have is Errol Domingue. Please
12 give us your name and where you live, sir.

13 MR. DOMINGUE:

14 Good evening. My name is Errol
15 Domingue. I live at 17237 Louisiana Highway
16 331 in Erath. I'm currently vice president of
17 the Vermilion Parish Farm Bureau Organization.
18 I live and work in the area. I farm near
19 fifteen hundred acres about a mile and a half
20 from the water treatment facility.

21 In our State we've spent millions and
22 millions of dollars to hamper saltwater
23 intrusion. You have the Teche Vermilion
24 Pumping District. It pumps freshwater down the
25 Vermilion to give us freshwater to irrigate our

1 rice. There is saltwater protection structures
2 in the lower Henry area stopping saltwater
3 intrusion.

4 The dumping of this salt hampers everything
5 that we've been fighting for the last forty
6 years. Sure it's not parish wide on a large
7 scale, but it affects an area where in these
8 times money's everything in agriculture. When
9 you're going to irrigate rice and do it for a
10 quarter of the cost with surface water than
11 deep water wells, it means the point of farming
12 or not farming for them. And I can't see when
13 there's an alternative method to treat this
14 water with, why it's not being used.

15 Cost should not be an issue. It is a
16 viable resource that we all need. But when you
17 -- in agriculture, in farming, when we have an
18 alternative method, we're forced to do it.
19 Just because it costs more to the consumer,
20 don't mean you should keep doing what you're
21 doing because it's cheaper. Whatever it takes
22 should be done. I was once told by an elderly
23 in agriculture, if what you're doing can't
24 sustain your living, do something else. And
25 what -- what the salt discharge is doing to us

1 in agriculture is not being able to sustain our
2 living. We shouldn't have to do something else
3 for another crop. Thank you.

4 MR. BROYLES:

5 Next I have Mr. James Landry.

6 MR. LANDRY:

7 Good evening. My name is James Landry.
8 I live at 1203 East Villien. I do work for
9 Magnolia Planation Water System, but I'm not
10 representing the plant. I'm a member/employer
11 on the water system. I would just like to go
12 on record stating that I'm in favor of the
13 issuance of the Draft Permit. I mean, problems
14 I understand from farmers. I think we ought to
15 have a Draft Permit the same as the City of
16 Erath's water system does. They discharge into
17 the same drainage system. I would like to see
18 a permit with the same chloride limitations as
19 the City of Erath's plant because it's a
20 tighter system. It might not just be Magnolia
21 that's putting all the salt that they claim
22 that's in the water. Thank you.

23 MR. BROYLES:

24 Thank you, sir. Next are those
25 citizens who live within the parish of the

1 location of the facility. I have one person,
2 Ernest, and please tell me your last name.

3 MR. GIROIR:

4 Giroir.

5 MR. BROYLES:

6 Giroir. Okay.

7 MR. GIROIR:

8 I was born above I-10 so I'm -- I'm
9 from north Louisiana. Sorry.

10 MR. BROYLES:

11 That's all right. Give us your name
12 and where you live, sir.

13 MR. GIROIR:

14 I've been called worse than that by my
15 own wife. My name is Ernest Giroir. I live at
16 8209 Highway 13, Kaplan, Louisiana. I'm a rice
17 farmer. I'm a citizen. I'm a landowner and
18 I'm chairman of the Vermilion Soil and Water
19 Conservation District. And I'd like to make a
20 few comments on all of them.

21 First of all as a homeowner, I have a water
22 treatment plant at my home. North Vermilion
23 Water Treatment Facility is expanding in my
24 area. I was I think the first one to put my
25 Fifty (\$50.00) Dollar deposit to get their

1 water so I didn't have to run my water
2 treatment system in my home. The discharge of
3 my water treatment in my home broke and I
4 didn't know it and it was discharging right
5 next to the -- the regenerating system and it
6 never left my property. It didn't go twenty
7 feet and it went into the soil. So my
8 treatment plant was not contaminating anyone,
9 but I -- I realized the benefit of joining a
10 group and so my wife and I joined it.

11 I'm going to go over the five minutes and
12 if you want to put me at the end, I'll be glad
13 to come back up. So when my time is up, just
14 let me know because I'm coming back.

15 I have no problems with water treatment
16 plants. I have problems with the method that
17 they're using. Abbeville and Kaplan and New
18 Iberia do not use that same treatment. That
19 North Vermilion, Magnolia, Erath, and the
20 Esther Plant use and probably the new plant
21 that's going to be built in my neighborhood.
22 And by the way, many, many years ago public
23 hearings were not held in the local
24 communities. Public hearings were held in --
25 were held in Baton Rouge. In fact, I organized

1 bus loads of people that had to go all the way
2 to Baton Rouge to have hearings when State
3 Order 29-B was finally revised. And we, the
4 group that I was -- belonged to, is responsible
5 for the hearing that's taking place here today.
6 So it's -- it's a good example that we can have
7 some influence on the output of things that --
8 that are -- I think we can have some influence
9 on what affects us locally. Although I --
10 although I don't think this is a proper forum.
11 In judges chambers on behalf of presiding
12 officers sitting up like a judge and we have to
13 come up here. We should be closer to the
14 audience. I don't think this is the type of
15 public hearing that you need to have on this
16 type of -- of concern.

17 As a farmer I lost ninety-nine percent of
18 the land that I farm from saltwater intrusion
19 from Hurricane Rita. I can't farm it and
20 probably won't be able to farm it for another
21 eighteen months to two years. I turn sixty-six
22 this year. How many of you would like to have
23 to give up your profession because of saltwater
24 intrusion and we're talking the same identical
25 things from these plants. I know there's a

1 hearing when they try and build a new plant in
2 my area that I put up my Fifty Dollars. I hope
3 that I have the opportunity or the people in my
4 area have an opportunity to at least say what
5 we want in that treatment plant.

6 But probably these comments are mild
7 compared to what I want to say about, you know,
8 Vermilion Soil and Water Conservation District.
9 Larry and his brother are cooperators of our
10 Soil and Water Conservation District. We're a
11 State entity. We have farmers and landowners
12 all over this parish who are participating in
13 conservation programs to improve the soil and
14 water in this district. They are matching
15 dollars to the tune of fifty percent on most
16 practices. We cooperate with the Department of
17 Environmental Quality implementing conservation
18 practices to improve water quality and prevent
19 erosion in our conservation district which is
20 Vermilion Parish.

21 We have two ongoing DEQ projects right now.
22 Both of them are over A Million (\$1,000,000.00)
23 Dollars total in conservation money coming into
24 the district to implement conservation
25 practices. For every dollar that comes to this

1 district, the individual farmers and producers
2 spend another dollar to make sure they are not
3 polluting the water and losing soil. So I just
4 cannot understand how on one hand we are
5 granted money and projects to improve soil and
6 water in the Soil and Water Conservation
7 District here in Vermilion and we have
8 cooperators like the Langlinais and many, many
9 others.

10 And on the other hand, we have -- we have
11 water treatment plants who are allowed to
12 discharge saltwater that is way above what we
13 can use in our -- in our rice crops. We can't
14 use water above thirty-five grains per gallon.
15 If we put three floods of thirty-five gallons
16 per -- grains per gallon six inches deep, we're
17 putting six -- eight hundred pounds of salt per
18 acre on our soil. That's how much we're
19 putting on our soil.

20 MR. BROYLES:

21 Sir, the five minutes is up. Your
22 option, though, if you want to do another five
23 minutes, go right ahead, or you can come back
24 later. Which one -- which do you want? I'll
25 leave it up to you.

1 MR. GIROIR:

2 If you don't mind, I'll go on now.

3 MR. BROYLES:

4 Go ahead.

5 MR. GIROIR:

6 But I'd like to come back later if I
7 have to.

8 MR. BROYLES:

9 Okay.

10 MR. GIROIR:

11 One of the things that we do in our
12 conservation district, we work with public
13 bodies, not just individuals. We're working
14 with the City of Erath to try and alleviate
15 some flooding and saltwater intrusion. We've
16 spent a great deal of effort and a great deal
17 of time and it hasn't cost the city one penny.
18 It's being funded by state dollars and federal
19 dollars and it's all in the planning stages.
20 The hearing here today is for the plantation
21 discharges. It's not the hearing for Erath's
22 problem, Erath -- Erath's permit. If their
23 permit is not what it's supposed to be, then I
24 assure you there's going to be some interest in
25 seeing that it may show -- grief that it meets

1 the requirements that we would like to see.

2 But we're in the process of designing some
3 structures that would prevent saltwater
4 intrusion and would -- would put additional
5 water, freshwater in the system, the entire
6 system of the Erath/Delcambre area so you
7 would, instead of having the two to three feet
8 fluctuation in -- in the water in your
9 channels, you would have a -- you would
10 maintain a level -- a level of water that would
11 be conducive to agriculture use and recreation.

12 Any system we would have designed or put
13 into place for Erath would not have prevented
14 Hurricane Rita's wrath on the city because it's
15 not what we were designing to do, something
16 that big. It would take some levees fifteen
17 feet high or higher and that's not what we're
18 trying to do. What happens in Erath, before
19 you have a hurricane event, you have a rainfall
20 event. And before that rainfall event actually
21 happens in Erath, the saltwater comes into
22 Erath and the tide -- you have a tide coming in
23 and you'll have a two foot high surge of water
24 in your canals in Erath before any kind of
25 rainfall event or before a hurricane event.

1 And our system that we're trying to design
2 is that if we knew that we were going to have a
3 big rainfall event or a hurricane, you would
4 pump down all those canals. And then when the
5 -- it would prevent the saltwater intrusion
6 from the Gulf. After -- when the rainfall
7 eventually start, you start pumping off. You
8 couldn't keep off -- keep up, but at least you
9 could prevent all that flooding that had been
10 occurring in the past. It would not prevent a
11 hundred year hurricane event like Hurricane
12 Rita, but all this is going to be for naught
13 because if you continue to discharge the
14 saltwater that you're discharging and so call
15 the one in -- in Erath, all this is going to be
16 for naught because you're going to have
17 saltwater in there before -- before the -- the
18 Gulf water even comes in.

19 I don't know if Larry made it real clear to
20 you, but when you put salt into -- into service
21 water, it doesn't mix up. It layers. Salt
22 water is on the bottom. Fresh water is on the
23 top. When you pump water on your rice, you
24 pump from the bottom. You can't pump from the
25 top so naturally we suck most of it. There's

1 also another thing that occurs. Salt water
2 settles out. When you clean those canals and
3 those canals and drainage ditches have to be
4 cleaned out and you put that on the soil and
5 you spread it out, then you're really
6 contaminating the soil because you're putting a
7 hell of a lot more salt mixing with the soil.
8 So you have -- you have a long term effect and
9 you have a short term effect.

10 This area was prairie. It was -- it was
11 settled. It was settled by farmers. It was
12 settled by people who live off the land.
13 Cities came next. It's beyond me how
14 agriculture use was lost in the process. And
15 as of -- I'd like to see it go on record that
16 we would -- we would like to be informed of how
17 these streams are -- or how the designated uses
18 are determined and what procedures do you have
19 to go through to have an agriculture designated
20 use in the streams.

21 This was slipped by apparently and I think
22 we're the public and we need to know how we can
23 make sure that our ancestors that came here and
24 settled this land and my ancestors were
25 homestead here and they were farmers and they

1 were the first. So I want to know how and why
2 my ancestors had no influence on their
3 designated use of stream in this area.

4 MR. BROYLES:

5 I'm sorry, Mr. Giroir. That's the end
6 of the second five minutes.

7 MR. GIROIR:

8 Thank you.

9 MR. BROYLES:

10 Thank you. Next I have, I believe, I'm
11 having trouble reading, is it Mr. J. C.
12 Griffin? Tell us your name and where you live,
13 sir.

14 MR. GRIFFIN:

15 I'm J. C. Griffin and I live at 12019
16 Highway 693. I have a water system on two
17 sides of me and I have no water. I'm waiting
18 for it. I'm not here to run this water system
19 down. I just want to say that in 1978 I was
20 asked to serve on the Board of Supervisors for
21 the Vermilion Soil and Water Conservation
22 District and I accepted because it had been
23 mandated that by 1983 that our streams had to
24 be fishable and swimmable and that has not
25 occurred yet.

1 It is beyond me how this water system can
2 dump saltwater in our stream to pollute not
3 only our stream, but our underground stock
4 because that water penetrates. Along Vermilion
5 River when that water gets salty, we pump
6 saltwater and pump out of wells. That should
7 not be.

8 The government is spending millions of
9 dollars to provide freshwater to keep our
10 streams clean. They're paying farmers and
11 ranchers to -- to fix streams in so the cattle
12 don't go in and pollute the water. They're
13 making grass waterways to keep the water --
14 rain water and the drainage from bringing silt
15 into those -- those things. I would just like
16 to ask this water system to reconsider what
17 they're doing and think of not only the
18 agriculture, but the environment as well.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. BROYLES:

21 And I should have mentioned that Mr.
22 Griffin stated that he was, in the form here,
23 is opposed to the proposed permit.

24 Also opposed to the proposed permit is
25 Charles Broussard. Mr. Broussard? State your

1 name and address.

2 MR. BROUSSARD:

3 I'm Charles Broussard and I reside
4 south of Forked Island. I'm a member of the
5 Vermilion Parish Rice Growers Association and
6 also Vermilion Parish Farm Bureau which is
7 against anybody disposing of saltwater into our
8 irrigation streams, without any doubt. Those
9 of you who are historians know what I'm going
10 to say. The first herbicide on Earth was salt
11 used to destroy crops. The Roman Empire, when
12 they wanted to take over a country, instead of
13 fighting it, they mined salt and went and put
14 it on that crop plant and made them a famine
15 situation to where the -- the people had to
16 surrender to, and get their food from them.
17 And history shows that it's the first herbicide
18 used to destroy crop.

19 Russia, up until a few years ago, grew
20 their own rice, but their water supply was like
21 they were -- previous speakers was talking
22 about, had salt in the water supply and Dr.
23 Ross Caffery, Chancellor of LSU, went to find
24 out why Russia quit farming rice. It's because
25 they had pumped saltwater on that land year

1 after year and finally made it sterile and
2 Russia cannot produce rice anymore from the
3 attached area. So you can see what we're
4 trying to prevent from happening here.

5 In 1960s we had the same situation as you
6 people are confronted with now in the Cow
7 Island area. They were dumping saltwater into
8 the Ille Marone Canal which was a rice
9 irrigation canal. That's where they got their
10 water from to irrigate the rice. And they
11 contacted me because they knew I had the
12 connections in Baton Rouge to see what I could
13 do about it. I called Mr. Bouvier, spoke to
14 him personally, and he came out himself and
15 wrote a cease and desist order after he tested
16 the water and saw that saltwater going into the
17 -- into the canal. And they had to impound
18 that water in tanks and finally they decided to
19 dig a well, a disposable well, and this -- that
20 well is still there unless -- in the sixties,
21 it's still useable, to dispose of the saltwater
22 instead of going into the canal.

23 And I think -- I know -- I'm not thinking.
24 I know that in the future there will be a
25 bigger demand for water in your area than you

1 have now because of the increase to population.
2 So you should consider what's economically
3 feasible for your system to do to get away from
4 having to continue to process the saltwater.
5 You can dispose it in a disposable well and
6 that permit, I'm sure, will be happy -- the
7 state will grant you a permit to put in a
8 disposable well.

9 I'm a rice farmer, a cattleman, and a
10 crawfish farmer. So my interest is to
11 continue. Vermilion Parish is the number one
12 parish in the State of Louisiana in production,
13 production of agriculture goods.

14 Number one, if we continue to put
15 saltwater on our farm land, it will then lose
16 our production capacity. So please give
17 consideration to do something else besides
18 dumping the saltwater into the irrigation
19 system. Thank you.

20 MR. BROYLES:

21 Thank you, sir. The last person I have
22 registered to speak is Burt, is it Oubre?

23 MR. OUBRE:

24 Oubre.

25 MR. BROYLES:

1 Mr. Oubre. Tell us your name and
2 address.

3 MR. OUBRE:

4 My name is Burt Oubre. I live at 1637
5 --

6 MR. BROYLES:

7 Speak close to the mike.

8 MR. OUBRE:

9 I live at 1637 Burton Plantation
10 Highway, St. Martinville. I was just asked to
11 come here because we have problems with the
12 salt, me and my brother farm about seventeen
13 hundred acres of land in the Iberia and St.
14 Martin Parish area. And about ten years ago or
15 nine years ago, we thought we were doing the
16 right thing. The parish had dug a canal
17 through our property and for some -- through
18 some property of the farm and we pulled the
19 soil bank in into the property. It was a
20 thirteen acre field. And we planted a variety
21 of cane on the property after and we had a
22 failure. The cane -- the cane never yielded
23 more than a sixteen ton yield which is a very
24 low yield. And it happened for probably five
25 years and we blamed it on the variety. We

1 thought it was maybe the variety or just the
2 soil type. We never thought, you know, even
3 considered salt in the canals or anything.

4 Then probably six year ago, I guess, we --
5 me and my brothers have always irrigated --
6 irrigated sugarcane. We have always irrigated
7 about -- every time we had a drought situation,
8 we always irrigated about three hundred -- two
9 hundred acres to three hundred acres of
10 sugarcane. And this year -- that year we were
11 having a drought situation. We cut a slip in
12 the canal. We put a pump in place to irrigate
13 the sugarcane field. We did it one afternoon.
14 The next morning we got there and we saw a
15 current running through the canal that wasn't
16 running in the right direction. You know, it
17 was coming from a hill -- the hillside. So we
18 followed the current and the current was coming
19 from a water plant right -- right near one of
20 our fields. And so we stopped everything and
21 the water just didn't look right.

22 We got our local soil conservation district
23 to come check the water and the guy was -- Gene
24 was his name. He checked it and he said we did
25 the right thing by not pumping that water onto

1 that sugarcane because he said the soil content
2 -- the salt content was higher than the Gulf of
3 Mexico in the body of -- in that body of water.
4 So we didn't irrigate that portion of property.
5 And then that's when we started looking back
6 and questioning and that's when we finally --
7 we figured out that's why we were having the
8 failure on the cane that -- in the previous
9 years because that soil bank that they pulled
10 was from that same canal right -- coming from
11 that -- from that water works company.

12 So I think it's a problem. We need to find
13 a better way to get around it to solve the
14 problem, because Ben Langlinais works in our
15 district, you know, and he comes and visits
16 with us -- helps us on the farm every once in a
17 while and he tells us in our area he -- that
18 where we're at in Iberia/St. Martin Parish,
19 that we have one of the best -- he's seen -- he
20 sees one of the best freshwater, you know,
21 areas in the state. You know, he said we have
22 some of the best freshwater around and but it
23 looks like we're losing it and we shouldn't be
24 losing it. We're not close enough to the Gulf
25 to be losing it from Gulf, you know, like tidal

1 surge or anything like that and it looks like
2 we're losing our good freshwater source that
3 somebody brags on. And we're losing it because
4 of a saltwater problem that's coming in from a
5 water plant. And that -- I hope something gets
6 done about it and that's all I have to say.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. BROYLES:

9 Thank you, sir. That's all of the
10 registered speakers that I have. At this time
11 I want to call on anyone, even those speakers
12 who have spoken up before, if you want to come
13 at either in opposition or support of this
14 permit, you may do so at this time so please
15 come forward.

16 MR. CROCHET:

17 My name is Alec Crochet and I live at
18 7715 Pierre Road and I'm president of Magnolia
19 Plantation Water System. I want to tell the
20 people here tonight that Magnolia Plantation is
21 not an irresponsible organization. We have
22 looked at this problem and it crept up on us
23 really -- did not -- it caught us by surprise
24 we think and we do want to do what is right to
25 remediate the problem we have. We don't agree

1 that everything is our fault. The tidal action
2 in this watershed does bear some problems to
3 what the Langlinais are experiencing.

4 Additionally, we are at the top of the
5 watershed which means there's not a whole lot
6 of water to go down that canal for us to dilute
7 out our discharge. Incidentally, I prefer to
8 use the term discharge rather than dumping. I
9 resent that comment. That has been used here
10 several night -- times tonight.

11 The problem that exists with us also comes
12 to bear on the Langlinais Farms or any farm
13 that is located in the upper parts of a
14 watershed. The responsibility by Mr. Wilfred
15 as he saw it, Mr. Wilfred Langlinais, Larry and
16 Steve's father, was that he was farming rice in
17 an area that didn't have a whole hell of a lot
18 of water coming down the canals. Now, he
19 either bought a piece of land with a well on it
20 or he dug it. Very little has been said about
21 the use of water out of the wells and obviously
22 it's not brought up because of the fact that
23 it's expensive and we realize that. We have to
24 pump that water out of our well so we know what
25 the cost is.

1 As far as for remediation is concerned, we
2 will have to do what is directed by these
3 people here and we will abide by that. The
4 problem is that an irrigator irrigates out of
5 twenty-five, thirty days a year and then he
6 doesn't irrigate again if he uses his wells or
7 if he uses a canal rather. If -- when we
8 remediate, we will remediate twenty-four hours
9 a day, seven days a week, three hundred and
10 sixty-five days a year.

11 The ideas that were brought up tonight
12 about the various forms of remediating a system
13 like this, reverse osmosis and so forth, it is
14 not economically feasible for us to do. I
15 called up a guy the other day and asked him
16 what we could expect in the form of a -- of a
17 reverse osmosis setup for our -- for our school
18 -- for our water system. And he mentioned a
19 chemical plant in Lake Charles that had setup a
20 system that was Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand
21 (\$450,000.00) Dollars to install it, Fifty
22 Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars a month to
23 operate. We do not have that kind of money.

24 We represent over eighteen hundred
25 households which translation to about seventeen

1 -- about seven thousand people. Our concern
2 certainly is to get rid of this problem, but
3 for -- we would like you all to remember or to
4 be reminded that we are not irresponsible
5 stewards of our land and I'm very familiar with
6 what salt can do to land. Mr. Charles and I
7 had a discussion about a period of time that I
8 spent in North Africa where the Romans came in,
9 and he's right, they poured salt over it and
10 nothing grew.

11 So we know that this -- this is not a good
12 situation. We also know that there are wells
13 that are available. That's why Wilfred
14 Langlinais either bought the land with a well
15 or he drilled one. I don't know which and the
16 boys could probably tell me. But he saw where
17 he was. He was in the upper region of the
18 watershed where not too much water is available
19 so he had an alternative. He had a well.

20 And we understand the price of running a
21 well versus the price of the rice that you get,
22 and all that comes into play. I was born and
23 raised on a sugarcane farm. The idea of
24 irrigating sugarcane is not a novel one.
25 Between Etienne Bourre in the 1700s and Bob

1 Odom today, I'm sure somebody along the way
2 thought about irrigating sugarcane. It is not
3 widely practiced in the sugarcane delta.

4 MR. BROYLES:

5 I'm sorry, sir. Your five minutes is
6 up.

7 MR. CROCHET:

8 Can I have a couple more minutes?

9 MR. BROYLES:

10 Sure. Go ahead.

11 MR. CROCHET:

12 Again, we will abide by what DEQ tells
13 us to do. And please remember that we're not
14 here to put you guys out of business, but we
15 also would like for you to remember that we are
16 serving over seven thousand people. Thank you
17 very much.

18 MR. BROYLES:

19 Thank you, sir. Is there anyone else
20 either for or against the permit?

21 MR. GIROIR:

22 Yes, sir.

23 MR. BROYLES:

24 And please tell us your name and where
25 you live.

1 MR. GIROIR:

2 Ernest Giroir, 8209 Highway 13, Kaplan,
3 Louisiana. Comments won't be as long as the
4 previous comments. I'd like to compliment
5 Magnolia Plantation, because I found out
6 through the Louisiana Recovery Group, which I'm
7 the vice chairman of the Agriculture Task
8 Force, that Magnolia Plantation applied for a
9 grant to improve their water system and update
10 to a new system as a result of Hurricane Rita
11 damage. I hope they're getting the money to do
12 it.

13 We're not the enemy and you're not the
14 enemy, but we need to work together to solve
15 the problem. And if -- if you serve seven
16 thousand people and you can't update, then I
17 ask how can -- can Kaplan and -- and Abbeville
18 serve many, many more people, have a treatment
19 system that does not use salt. It uses lime.
20 It's not reverse osmosis. It uses lime system
21 and the lime can be sold. It's a by-product
22 and it can be used by farmers. So if you want
23 to work with the farmers, update your system
24 using lime, for instance, and maybe you can
25 make some money by selling the byproduct to

1 offset the increase in cost.

2 If I -- if I indicated you were the bad
3 guys, then I apologize. I want to join you.
4 That's why I put up my Fifty Dollars, because I
5 want the same type of service in my area that
6 you're providing. But we can't -- we can't
7 pollute our system, our freshwater system, to
8 provide that -- to provide that service. We
9 have to find or furnish systems to -- so we can
10 provide a product at a price that we all can
11 afford.

12 I think you've been in business for ten
13 years, using the same system. You haven't
14 raised your rate for ten years. You bragged
15 about that. I don't think that's fiscally
16 responsible. I think you should have been
17 raising a little bit over the years, set money
18 aside so that when you come to this type of
19 situation, you have -- you have some money
20 reserves that you can update your system. In
21 agriculture we have to set money aside if we
22 are to survive the poor times.

23 Usually in agriculture we make money one
24 year out of every five and we pay a lot of
25 income tax on that one year, but we have to try

1 and save a little bit up of that money we make
2 in that fifth year so that we can survive the
3 rest of the time. Increase your rates.

4 Everybody has to increase that. We pay more
5 for gas and we pay more for everything else.

6 Using deep well water or subsurface water
7 is not the answer for growing of agriculture
8 products. I don't care who you talk to, they
9 recommend that you use surface water at all
10 possible. Save the -- the aquifers for human
11 consumption. We have a -- a Water Commission
12 in the State of Louisiana. Number one priority
13 of that Commission for use of water in
14 Louisiana is the human factor. They get first
15 priority. Agriculture is related down the
16 line. Eventually we won't be able to get that
17 water.

18 That's why those of us that can use surface
19 water are trying to make sure we know how to
20 use it and how to set a tail water recover
21 systems so we can reuse that same identical
22 water. I have one like that I set up in more
23 than one place and I don't use any deep water,
24 well water at all. We keep reusing that same
25 water and none of that water ever leaves the

1 place. So if I'm contaminating anything, I'm
2 contaminating the same land that I farm. I'm
3 not letting the water leave the property that I
4 farm. Thank you.

5 MR. BROYLES:

6 Thank you. Is there anyone else? Yes,
7 sir.

8 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

9 Yes. My name is Larry Langlinois again
10 and I am from Lafayette. You need the address
11 again?

12 MR. BROYLES:

13 No, sir.

14 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

15 Okay. To respond to some of the
16 comments that Alec made concerning water wells
17 and, like Ernest said, that's not the answer.
18 We have two farms. One was purchased in 1945
19 by my daddy and all that land along Bayou Tigre
20 from Erath all the way up to where we are on
21 that first -- that primary property that was
22 purchased in '45, has been under irrigation
23 from Bayou Tigre. The only time we needed well
24 water -- which originally there were no wells.
25 Murphy Broussard, Howard Pitken, Robert Cordon,

1 all these people, were using water from there,
2 but occasionally we had droughts that became a
3 problem.

4 So all of these farmers ended up drilling
5 wells, not as a primary source, but as a
6 backup. And he -- sure, it cost more to
7 irrigate with wells, but there's a big push,
8 like some of the comments that Ernest made, for
9 conservation, for preserving that aquifer, to
10 preserve it for Magnolia and everyone else to
11 have viable potable water. But what we're
12 complaining about here and what Ernest says
13 well and others, this picture is bigger than
14 just pumping with a well to irrigate or
15 anything like this.

16 Part of our conservation is preserving our
17 aquifer. NRCS offers a service. People put in
18 some fish ponds, one acres, two acres. Prior
19 to digging those fish ponds, it would be a wise
20 situation that you call in and have your salt
21 check to six feet deep to be sure that you have
22 enough clay that will prevent -- prevent your
23 pond from just spreading out. Sure, we have a
24 lot of clay in Vermilion Parish, but don't be
25 surprised, and it happens. They have some

1 permeable porous stratus and it will not hold
2 water. And who's to say that there's not one
3 of those stratus in all the hundreds of miles
4 of stream traversing here in Vermilion Parish,
5 that where this saltwater is going would just
6 percolate down into your water table. You and
7 I won't see it. Fifty years, seventy-five
8 years from now, we don't want to leave the
9 legacy or Magnolia leave a legacy that we
10 contaminated and polluted the aquifer system.

11 I was told -- I heard a few years back as
12 well the re's an area in the Vermilion River
13 that's recharging the aquifer. Another
14 question, thinking about these wells, years ago
15 they had wells south of there where Charles
16 Broussard is that were used to irrigate because
17 they're posted for saltwater. Wells were all
18 right then. Why is it today that those wells
19 are extremely salty and cannot be used to
20 irrigate crops? Something is happening. That
21 system is getting contaminated. This will keep
22 moving further north and guess what, we're just
23 talking here, going into Lafayette, Opelousas,
24 but everywhere else, this phenomena is growing
25 and it's great and I -- we support it. I

1 support it. We need it, but it should not be
2 at the expense of contaminating and polluting
3 our environment in ways that we haven't yet
4 even thought about.

5 The Oubres brought up an example we had not
6 heard of yet. By gosh, that -- that could
7 easily happen. These ditches are all cleaned
8 and dredged every so many years and it's going
9 to be contaminated with salt that's going to
10 either be hauled on a lot or spread into a
11 field. No one's going to know about it until
12 it's too late.

13 The other farm where we have a well, that
14 is our only source of irrigation, but I
15 mentioned earlier a tail water recovery system
16 and we were very serious. We had been accepted
17 and approved by the government to put it in.
18 And because of the project Ernest mentioned
19 that's ongoing to survey and study the
20 situation in the Erath area, we decided to hold
21 off because they might be recommending
22 deepening and dredging all those channels to
23 create extra reservoir. That was mentioned two
24 or three years ago so we held up on that.

25 But if you look at that map that I have up

1 there, you're going to see that the property
2 near Magnolia has a lot of traversing channels
3 on the upper end of this watershed. We were
4 going to deepen those channels four feet
5 deeper. The local drainage district had
6 approved it and they were willing to do it and
7 we were going to use that as a reservoir to
8 practice conservation to not overuse the
9 aquifer so that people could use it for potable
10 water. That's the primary source for water,
11 potable water for human consumption. That's
12 primary. By doing this, we're conserving the
13 aquifer.

14 So those are some of the things I wanted to
15 just mention, that we hope you would just look
16 at this a little more on a conservation side,
17 you know. And we want to work with you and we
18 hope you want to work with us. That's the
19 thing we don't know that you want. We have
20 access of -- to agencies and sources that maybe
21 we can help you, I don't know, but we're
22 willing to. Most of us are I think from what
23 you have heard.

24 MR. BROYLES:

25 Mr. Langlinais, your time is up. Do

1 you need a couple more minutes?

2 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

3 I just want to mention one other thing
4 concerning --

5 MR. BROYLES:

6 Go right ahead, sir.

7 LARRY LANGLINAIS:

8 -- the percolation of water into the
9 water table. Most of you are probably familiar
10 in Lafayette near the Northgate Mall where the
11 Tourism Center Office is. They have this
12 little pond there. For years one side had a
13 problem holding water and the opposite side and
14 from Willow Street -- north of Willow Street,
15 there was a hole there. They never did
16 anything with it. Did you ever see water in
17 that hole? Not at all. Do you know why? They
18 went ahead and dug that before probing to see
19 if the soil would sustain and hold water. No,
20 it wouldn't.

21 So what they did, they had to seal the pond
22 on the south side with either hauling in clay
23 or I think they call it vermi -- vermiculite or
24 something. I'm not sure what it is, but they
25 have sealants. Very expensive. So that's why

1 they did not do the other pond, but I have
2 never seen water in there even after a big
3 rain. The water just goes down. So this is
4 why I say, look at this more on a conservation
5 effort that we don't want to leave a legacy to
6 our kids and grandkids and great great
7 grandkids that we were responsible for
8 contaminating. Salt is a pollutant. EPA says
9 it is. So -- and this -- this is the area that
10 we think is very serious. Thank you.

11 MR. BROYLES:

12 Thank you, sir. Is there anyone else?
13 Any other comments? I would like to remind you
14 that the comment period for this Draft Water
15 Discharge Permit for Magnolia Plantation Water
16 System/Magnolia Plantation Water Treatment
17 Plant ends at 12:30 p.m., Monday, April 3,
18 2006.

19 If there are no other comments, I would
20 like to thank you for your attention and
21 participation in this hearing. Let the record
22 reflect that the time is approximately 7:21
23 p.m. This hearing is closed. Thank you.

24 (WHEREUPON THE HEARING
25 CONCLUDED AT 7:21 P.M.)

1 R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

2 I, SANDRA L. SONNIER, Certified Shorthand
3 Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana,
4 before whom this sworn testimony was taken, do
5 hereby state on the Record:

6 That due to the interaction in the
7 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding,
8 dashes (--) have been used to indicate pauses,
9 changes in thought, and/or talkovers;

10 That same is the proper method for a Court
11 Reporter's transcription of proceedings, and
12 that the dashes (--) do not indicate that words
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15 That any words and/or names which could not
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17 been denoted with the phrase: "(Spelled
18 phonetically)."

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SANDRA L. SONNIER

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Certified Shorthand Reporter

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 I, SANDRA L. SONNIER, Certified Court
3 Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as
4 the officer before whom this testimony was
5 taken, do hereby certify that the foregoing 61
6 pages is a true and correct transcript of the
7 hearing held in this matter;

8 That the hearing was reported by me in
9 machine shorthand and transcribed by me or
10 under my personal direction and supervision,
11 and is a true and correct record of the
12 hearing, to the best of my ability and
13 understanding;

14 That I am not of counsel, not related to
15 counsel or the parties herein, nor am I
16 otherwise interested in the outcome of this
17 matter.

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SANDRA L. SONNIER
20 Certified Shorthand Reporter
Louisiana C.S.R. Number 75008

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