



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

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DEQ continues monitoring around Bayou Corne

The Department of Environmental Quality continues to conduct monitoring and sampling efforts in Assumption Parish in relation to a sinkhole that formed in August and bubbles that appeared in Bayou Corne in July. DEQ is working in support of the Department on Natural Resources and Assumption Parish by providing information on air and water monitoring data.

Scientists have even conducted air sampling in people's homes that live near the sinkhole in an effort to determine if natural gas was present and presenting a danger to the public. In conjunction with the Assumption Parish Sheriff's Department, DEQ scientists entered homes of people who had filled out the necessary consent form and tested for a variety of possible contaminants.

The air monitoring at Bayou Corne involved the use of real-time air monitoring equipment. After residents completed a right-of-entry form, a DEQ air monitoring expert and a parish sheriff's deputy went to the resident's home and with the resident present where the air monitoring team sampled. Indoor air sampling teams



Sinkhole at Bayou Corne in Assumption Parish

monitored for Lower Explosive Limit (LEL), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), and hydrogen sulfide (H₂S). The LEL is lowest concentration of a gas or vapor that is capable of producing a flash of fire in the presence of an ignition source such as flame or heat.

VOCs are naturally occurring and emitted by a variety of products. VOCs include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short or long-term adverse health effects. Concentrations of many VOCs are up to 10 times higher indoors than outdoors because of materials used in home construction and furnishing. Some VOCs are flammable, while some are not.

H₂S occurs naturally in crude petroleum, natural gas, volcanic gases and hot springs. It can also result from bacterial breakdown of organic matter, and it is produced by human and animal wastes. Hydrogen sulfide can also result from industrial activities, such as food processing, coke ovens, kraft paper mills, tanneries, and petroleum refineries. Hydrogen sulfide is a flammable, colorless gas with a characteristic odor of rotten eggs. It is commonly known as hydrosulfuric acid, sewer gas and stink damp. People can smell it at levels far lower than those that can cause adverse health effects.

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Natural gas is primarily composed of methane, which is a flammable VOC. Therefore, the devices used for indoor air monitoring are measuring methane indirectly through the LEL and VOC criteria. To date, all indoor measurements have been within normal ranges, indicating no accumulation of methane within the indoor areas that have been monitored.

Earlier in the investigation, DEQ sampled people's property outside of the home to ensure public safety. More than 90 homes were sampled, and there were no areas of concern noted.

On Aug. 8, DEQ scientists went to the slurry hole in an airboat supplied by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to take readings using equipment designed

to measure levels of radiation. A scientist surveyed the entire slurry hole via airboat while monitoring with the equipment. At no point were there any detectable levels. NORM readings were taken on 15 water samples that were previously collected and there were no NORM levels above background.

DEQ staff continues to conduct air monitoring throughout the community, conduct water sampling at the bubble sites in the bayou, take water samples of wells and to utilize the Mobile Air Monitoring Lab in an effort to provide information on environmental issues in the area. All the data is available under the Bayou Corne button on the DEQ web site, www.deq.louisiana.gov.

DEQ's Air Quality and Inspections Division members attend annual Smoke School

With smoke and dust as the more common forms of visible emissions from plants and facilities in the state, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality continues to conduct a bi-annual program with the goal of training air quality technicians on emissions testing, along with the federal and state air quality regulations.

Smoke School, as it is known, is a DEQ program which centers on both classroom and field instruction on smoke testing methods as they relate to facility and plant emissions. The program is offered regularly and is a federally audited EPA method 9 certification program. The school is part of the DEQ air quality technician training cycle, and is designed to be a thorough and efficient visible emissions certification program. Customized, computer-controlled smoke generators help to bring a sense of realism to the various tests. The half-day field certification program meets or exceeds all EPA Method 9 operator requirements.

In order to remain up to date in their training, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Air Quality and Inspections Division personnel must complete Smoke

School training on a periodic basis. Earlier this year, DEQ conducted a refresher course on air quality testing at their DEQ warehouse in Port Allen. Nineteen DEQ environmental scientists and staffers were on hand as students.

"When plants or facilities have an unusual emission, the emitted smoke needs to be tested to ensure that its composition is in compliance with environmental and health regulations," said Keith Jordan, DEQ Environmental Scientist. "Smoke school is a unique program in that it offers DEQ environmental scientists and air technicians a hands-on, practical approach to measuring emissions data in support of our continuing mission to protect human health and the environment."

Under the regulations, field personnel have to recertify every six months, with classes every April and October. Other states utilize contractors to provide the training, but as a cost-saving measure, DEQ runs and maintains their own equipment and provides the training entirely in-house. The test consists of 25 black smoke tests followed by 25 white smoke tests, with students marking the appropriate percentage of opacity for each, with a zero



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to 100 percentage mark in increments of 5 percent. For example, no smoke emitted from the smokestack test model would be a mark of zero; moderate would be at 50 percent and a maximum emission would be 100. Students are graded and must achieve a 70 percent score or better in order to pass the session.

Measuring visible emissions in the U.S. began in 1897, with the advent of the Ringelmann Chart, which was one of the first emissions measuring tools created. The model later became the basis for many city, state and federal regulations on smoke density limitations. The training and certification of air quality inspectors was implemented in the 1950s, and the visible emissions observation method underwent revisions. Today, individual state environmental quality agencies work in conjunction with the EPA to set their own air quality standards and regulations.

For more information on air regulations, please visit the DEQ Web site at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/PROGRAMS/Air.aspx>.



DEQ Environmental Scientists Keith Jordan (left) and Patrick Augustine (far right) conduct the smoke emissions test as DEQ employees observe

DEQ participates in offshore oil port drill

Earlier this year, representatives from several state, local and federal agencies gathered at the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port's Small Boat Harbor in Port Fourchon, Louisiana, for participation in an oil spill drill conducted by the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP).

LOOP's responsibility is to ensure the safe offloading of foreign crude oil from tankers, proper storage of the oil and the subsequent transportation of the oil via connecting pipelines to refineries throughout the U.S. Gulf Coast and Midwest. As a component of their mission, LOOP holds a major annual drill as a practice tool designed to bring many agencies and resources together in order to test the responsiveness to a crude oil spill scenario.

This year's scenario took place at the LOOP Small Boat Harbor facility in Port Fourchon, and involved the identification of a significant discharge of crude oil along the dock that was a result of an overflowing sump at the facility. LOOP took the opportunity to deploy boom and

a variety of oil skimmers as both a component of the drill response and as a demonstration for the attendees.

Participants included representatives from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality as well as the U.S. Coast Guard, the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, the Louisiana Offshore Terminal Authority, the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, the Lafourche Parish Harbor Patrol as well as officials from other agencies and contracting firms.

After introductions and a safety briefing, the scenario was initiated with deployment of the containment boom followed by a demonstration of at least three types of oil skimmer models on hand at the LOOP facility.

The multi-party effort enabled the participants to interact in a face-to-face format while observing LOOP's oil containment resources as the exercise unfolded. All



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of the participating parties worked as a team to review and assess the status reports in preparation for a unified response, with the ultimate goal of minimizing the environmental threat by containing the oil spill and addressing any associated health and safety concerns.

Attendees were given the opportunity to go out on a recovery ship in order to get a closer inspection of the 700 feet of 18" containment boom as it was deployed by LOOP small boat operators at the mouth of Evans Canal, an inlet located directly across from the facility.

In the wake of the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon platform oil spill that occurred in the Gulf of Mexico, drills such as these are vital as a precautionary and pre-planning measure to marshal Louisiana's environmental protection resources and initiate a comprehensive response plan in anticipation of a real event.

"This exercise serves as an important training tool that tests the effectiveness of the various responding agencies and contractors as they work together to address a major oil spill within Louisiana waters," said Jeff Dauzat, DEQ Environmental Scientist. "Minimizing the potential health and environmental impact is DEQ's priority, and our role in this scenario is to provide support and technical assistance to the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office in the response."

DEQ took part in media briefings throughout the exercise, where participating parties exchanged status reports concerning their efforts regarding containment and recovery. The media event culminated in an on-camera mock press conference between agency public information officers and a gallery of reporters.

The exercise concluded with general comments and an opportunity for spectators and participants to voice any strengths and weaknesses, along with suggestions that could be utilized for future drills.



DEQ Environmental Scientists Pat Breaux (left) and Jeff Dauzat (right) observe placement of containment boom during the drill



LOOP deploys a Walosep W-4 model oil skimmer during the drill



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DEQ on the Move



DEQ Volunteers prepare a craft project for Camp Challenge in Leesville



Kids making a nature bracelet at Camp Challenge, the Lions Camp in Leesville



Father Tony Richard, (camp name "Snoop Dog") from New Orleans brings kids to Camp Challenge every year



Mary Gentry and Jesse Means, members of the DEQ Drinking Water Protection Team, staff DEQ's booth at the Louisiana Rural Water Conference in Alexandria



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DEQ on the Move



Jake Causey, Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission, Baker Mayor Harold Rideau accepting the Leo Bankston Award with DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch



Louis McArthur of DNR speaks at the Greater Baton Rouge Clean Cities Coalition Stakeholder meeting held at DEQ



DEQ volunteer coordinator, Judy Schuerman (right) and other volunteers open collected paint cans.



DEQ volunteer, India Anderson, pours useable paint into 5 gallon buckets for DEQ volunteers Mintia Canelas and Marissa Jimenez to stir.



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DEQ Air Quality staff meet with business and civic leaders on EPA's Ozone Advance Program

Over the past several months, DEQ Air Quality staff has been on the road statewide offering presentations to regional business and civic leaders on EPA's Ozone Advance Program along with information on what constitutes ozone and actions everyone can take to reduce ozone formation in their region.



DEQ Senior Environmental Scientist Michael Vince gives a presentation to Lake Charles area industry and community leaders on EPA's Ozone Advance Program

Although the air quality in Louisiana continues to improve and is the best it has been since the implementation of the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to periodically review air quality standards in a given area. Upon review, EPA has strengthened the standard for ozone. The new, stricter standard has lowered the minimum requirements to be designated as an attainment area from 85 parts per billion to 75 parts per billion. The 2008 revisions to the ozone standard, along with potential changes from EPA's 2013 standard review, may place certain metropolitan areas out of attainment for ozone.

Through meetings across those possible non-attainment or "at risk" regions within the state, DEQ has provided information to assist various industry, city/parish, business and educational leaders in order to outline the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone along with a synopsis of the current ozone conditions in the respective region. The goal is to bring industry and the community together to continue working toward a proactive approach to avoid non-attainment status for ozone.

EPA's Ozone Advance program is one important step available to assist areas that are currently at risk of being designated as nonattainment for ozone. Local governments can enroll in the free, voluntary program, through which they will identify a series of measures that may be implemented to reduce pollution levels in a given region. These factors can then be taken into account by EPA when future attainment designations are made. Participation in the program could provide those areas with additional time to reach compliance before reaching a status of nonattainment.

DEQ Air Quality staff has held meetings for the Houma-Terrebonne region, Lafayette, Shreveport-Bossier, the Greater Baton Rouge area, and at the South Central Planning Commission, which encompasses the parishes of St. James, St. Charles, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche and Jefferson.

A recent meeting was held in Lake Charles, which is close to being in non-attainment, to discuss ozone reduction measures and methods which the region can implement to maintain attainment status. Attendees included representatives from IMCAL, Georgia Gulf, Providence Engineering, Lake Area Industry Alliance, PPG Industries, Westlake Chemical, McNeese University's Environmental Science Department, Trinity Consultants, and other industry and business leaders. City representatives in attendance included



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the Lake Charles City Transit Department, the City Planning Commission and the Office of Emergency Preparedness.

“These meetings are designed to bring everyone to the table and inform area business and civic leaders of ways in which they can improve their air quality while initiating plans to reduce ozone formation in their communities,” said DEQ Senior Environmental Scientist Michael Vince. “This includes personal responsibility as well as industrial responsibility. Forming air quality coalitions and enrolling in the Enviroflash program are great starting points.”

Participation in the Ozone Advance Program is not only a wise environmental investment for an area, but a sound economic move as infrastructure expands and business and industry looks to set up shop in a new location. Nonattainment areas would have higher air permitting fees and stringent controls imposed on facilities that could force industry to look elsewhere.

Citizens are just as responsible for ozone formation as is industry and the natural environment, so everyone can make a difference through daily, ozone reducing activities such as driving less, brown-bagging meals, conserving energy in the home and using gas-powered motors after 6 p.m.

Everyone can stay informed about air quality by signing up for EnviroFlash, a free automatic notification system. Participants can choose to receive daily or periodic emails or texts on daily air quality for their area. To sign up for EnviroFlash, go to the DEQ Web site: www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash.

For more information on EPA’s Ozone Advance program, go to the EPA Web site: www.epa.gov/ozoneadvance.

Limitless Vistas

Limitless Vistas, Inc., in New Orleans, recently received a \$200,000, 3-year Workforce Development and Job Training grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for the second time.

Limitless Vistas, which was founded in 2006, will use its grant to train 40 students, place at least 32 graduates in environmental jobs and track graduates’ success for one year. It is located in the Central City neighborhood of New Orleans and targets youth from both the Gert Town and Central City neighborhoods. Key partners include the New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaboration, Greater King Solomon Baptist Church, and the Gert Town Community Development Center.

LVI received two grants for 2013. One was through the EPA Workforce Development and Job Training grant and the other one through AmeriCorps and The Corps Network- Clean Energy.

The participants in the LVI program will be trained in the following areas:

- Home Weatherization
- Environmental Site Assessments I and II
- 40 Hour HAZWOPER
- FEMA – Emergency Preparedness
- DOT-Department of Transportation Hazmat Procedures
- Water and Wastewater Operations
- Coastal Restoration Project Support

The program consists of three 15-week training cycles on the topics of hazardous waste, water and wastewater, general environmental management, construction safety, asbestos abatement, in addition to lead and mold abatement awareness.

LVI also has an internship program designed to provide participants with the opportunity to gain supervised



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experience in a professional work setting while working on a variety of environmental projects.

Young people are educated and trained through the use of Community Service Learning Projects. After students complete the training, they are available for hire by local companies. Students can also be hired through LVI as temporary workers to help companies fill labor needs.

“Winning the EPA Job Training Grant for a second term is a very strong vote of confidence by the EPA in our approach to environmental outreach, citizenship and at-risk youth job training. We believe our organization is different from others in that we are more directly connected to meeting the ever evolving needs of the environmental industry for individuals that have been forgotten,” said Patrick Barnes, Founder of Limitless Vistas, “Whether the need is water and wastewater or coastal restoration, we try to let the market dictate our training curriculum and approach. I am personally involved either through LVI or as president of BFA (an

environmental engineering and consulting business) with a special interest in connecting local job training and hiring, to environment contracts.”

Participants work with the Sewerage and Water Board, Veolia Water and BFA on water and wastewater job training. In February, 2011, LVI was chosen by The Corps Network to work with Planters, Kraft Food’s owned peanut company, on the Planters Grove Project. The Project is an initiative to revitalize neglected urban land to functioning natural spaces and community gardens. The Central City Planters Grove, which was built by local youth, features recycled materials, native plants, and custom landscaping.

“We believe what we’re doing means a lot to at-risk communities, particularly in the Gulf, because we are a proven advocate that understands how to connect unique job training needs to the big picture employment opportunities in the environmental industry,” said Barnes.



Limitless Vistas press conference on new projects



Limitless Vistas trainees check water at wastewater treatment plant



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Water General Permits

The Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System, which is the program that controls water discharges through permitting, has a series of general permits that are written to cover one or more categories or subcategories of discharges within a geographic area, which can range from a specific watershed to a broad area such as the entire state.

These permits cover facilities that have the same type of activities. As of July 19, 2012, DEQ has more than 12,800 LPDES permits within the state. Many of these permits are classified as general permits. Applications and a description of the scope of the permits can be downloaded from the DEQ Web site, www.deq.louisiana.gov.

When the master general permit expires, it is reworked and sent to EPA for approval. When DEQ receives approval, the permit is then public noticed. The general permits go through the same procedures as any other LPDES permit. The difference is the general permit covers more than one facility.

The table below shows the general permits available, the activities and facilities that can be covered and their expiration date.

General Permit Number	Covers	Effective Date	Expiration Date	Link to NOI
LAG110000	Discharges from Cement, Concrete & Asphalt Facilities	3/15/2009	3/14/2014	CCAF-G
LAG260000	Discharges from oil and gas exploration, development and production facilities located within territorial seas of Louisiana. On June 10, 2011 the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeals remanded the LAG260000 General Permit to LDEQ. Please call 225-219-9371 prior to submitting a Notice of Intent to Discharge to the Department.	1/1/2010	12/31/2014	TSOGF-G
LAG300000	Discharges associated with Dewatering of Petroleum Storage Tanks, Tank Beds, New Tanks and Excavations	1/1/2010	12/31/2014	DPST-G
LAG330000	Discharges from oil and gas exploration, development and production facilities located within coastal waters. Facilities covered under the LAG330000 which expired 11/30/10 shall continue to operate under that permit until notified by this Department.	2/1/2011	1/31/2016	CWOGF-G
LAG380000	Discharges from Potable Water Treatment Plants	1/1/2010	12/31/2014	H2O-G
LAG420000	Short-Term and Emergency Discharges	4/1/2012	3/31/2017	STED-G



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LAG470000	Discharges from Automotive Dealerships, Paint and Body Shops, Motorcycle Dealerships, Recreational Vehicle Dealerships and Automotive Repair and Maintenance Shops	9/1/2009	8/31/2014	ARB-G
LAG480000	Discharges from Light Commercial Facilities	12/1/2010	11/30/2015	LCF-G
LAG490000	Discharges from Sand and Gravel Extraction Facilities	2/1/2010	1/31/2015	SCC3-G
LAG530000	Sanitary discharges totaling less than 5,000 gpd	12/1/2007	11/30/2012	WPS-G
LAG540000	Sanitary discharges totaling less than 25,000 gpd	7/1/2008	6/30/2013	WPS-G
LAG560000	Sanitary discharges totaling less than 50,000 gpd	6/1/2009	5/31/2014	WPS-G
LAG570000	Sanitary discharges totaling less than 100,000 gpd	5/1/2009	4/30/2014	WPS-G
LAG670000	Discharges of Hydrostatic Test Wastewater	2/1/2008	1/31/2013	HST-G
LAG750000	Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Washwater	3/15/2009	3/14/2014	CW-G
LAG780000	Discharges from Construction, Demolition Debris and Woodwaste Landfills	10/1/2007	9/30/2012	C&D-G
LAG830000	Discharges resulting from Implementing Corrective Action Plans for Cleanup of Petroleum UST Systems	12/15/2007	12/14/2012	PST-G
LAG870000	Applications/Discharge of Pesticides into or near Waters of the State	10/31/2011	10/30/2016	N/A
LAG940000	Discharges of Treated Groundwater, Potentially Contaminated Stormwater and/or associated waters	1/1/2011	12/31/2015	CGW-G
LAR040000	Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems	12/5/2007	12/4/2012	MS4-G
LAR050000	Multi-Sector General Stormwater Permit	5/4/2011	5/3/2016	MSGP-G
LAR100000	Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities 5 Acres or More	10/1/2009	9/30/2014	CSW-G
LAR200000	Storm Water Discharges from Small Construction Activities (equal to or greater than 1 acre but less than 5 acres)	3/1/2008	2/28/2013	N/A



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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY'S SECOND AND THIRD QUARTER SUMMARIES

2nd and 3rd Quarter 2012 Enforcement Actions:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/225/Default.aspx>

2nd and 3rd Quarter 2012 Settlement Agreements:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2838/Default.aspx>

2nd and 3rd Quarter 2012 Air Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx>

2nd and 3rd Quarter 2012 Water Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx>

2nd and 3rd Quarter 2012 Solid and Hazardous

Waste Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2586/Default.aspx>

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