



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO

GOVERNOR

MIKE D. McDANIEL, Ph.D.

SECRETARY

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Contact: Darin Mann

Telephone: 225.219.0860

Chef Menteur landfill OK'd to accept C&D waste

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has granted permission for Chef Menteur C&D Disposal to accept hurricane-related, construction-and-demolition debris. Waste Management of Louisiana turned in a request and operational plan to accept emergency C&D waste at the site in early March. DEQ reviewed the operational plan and worked to ensure all steps were taken to protect the environment and human health, while also adequately addressing the need for debris removal and disposal.

This facility will be known as an “Enhanced C&D landfill,” which means it will have additional operational requirements that most C&D landfills throughout the state do not have, according to DEQ Assistant Secretary Chuck Brown. Chef Menteur and all enhanced landfills will have perimeter air monitoring and a rigid protocol for handling asbestos-containing waste material that exceeds the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants and the Louisiana Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants. Also, all areas where asbestos containing material is disposed of will be adequately identified.

“It’s important to remember how large the area of destruction is in the parishes that were hit by Hurricane Katrina,” Brown said. “Based upon Chef Menteur’s operational plan, the present state of emergency and DEQ’s research, this facility is needed to respond to the emergency by disposing of several million of tons C&D debris in an environmentally sound manner.”

The site is authorized to accept 6.5 million cubic yards, or about 2.6 million tons, with the majority of the C&D waste coming from Orleans, St. Bernard and St. Tammany parishes. The department will issue a decisional document and then there will be a public comment period.

There are about 18 million cubic yards, or 7.2 million tons, of vegetative and demolition debris remaining in the impacted area. Using one landfill in the impacted area, it will take more than 2.5 years to clean up. Using two landfills in the impacted area would cut that time back to 1.3 years and using three landfills in the impacted area would reduce the timeframe to 10.5 months to complete.

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