DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

October 2014 Issue Number: 33

What's Inside?

Preliminary agreement reached to dispose of explosives

Crescent Park in New Orleans is ready for the public to enjoy

DEQ works with Louisiana Public Broadcasting to educate students about air quality

DEQ's Customer Service Center answers the call

DEQ activates Emergency Debris Management hotline

Ninth annual Water Sweep collects 2.7 tons of trash

Odyssey Day Celebration hosted by Louisiana Clean Fuels

Cupcakes for United Way

DEQ participates in Household Hazardous Materials Day in Baton Rouge

Michael Vince, Senior Environmental Scientist, retires from DEQ after 32 years

Who's Who At DEQ?

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Know about your air quality! Sign up for EnviroFlash and receive air quality notifications by email or phone. Go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash.

Preliminary agreement reached to dispose of explosives

CAMP MINDEN -- DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch joined Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, at an afternoon press conference Oct. 23 to address developments in the effort to dispose of a stockpile of millions of pounds of surplus M6 explosives at the former Explo Camp Minden site.

DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch speaks during a press conference at Camp Minden on Oct. 23. Hatch and Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, immediately behind Hatch, hosted the event to explain the latest developments in the Camp Minden Explo explosives situation. Members of the area's legislative delegation, local officials and representatives from Louisiana's congressional delegation stand with Hatch.

After thanking both federal and local leaders for their help with the project, Curtis explained that an agreement to remove the M6, a propellant used in tank shells, has been signed by representatives of DEQ, the Louisiana Military Department and the U.S. Army. "The basis of this agreement is that the Army will pay for 100 percent of the disposal of the M6," he said. The bulk of the explosives – nearly 16 million pounds – comprises M6 that was handled by former contractor Explo Inc. Other explosives at the site were the responsibility of other contractors, Curtis said, and about 3 million pounds have already been cleaned up under the control of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Hatch noted that the proposed agreement now goes through a 30-day comment period. As members of the local legislative delegation, the parish sheriff's office, local mayors and representatives from U.S. congressional members from Louisiana stood beside her and listened, Hatch said, "That will allow local residents to make comments about the agreement." She urged everyone who had a comment about the agreement to submit their comment to EPA during the 30-day period. She said the agreement will be published in the Federal Register at the beginning of the comment period and that notice will contain instructions on how to submit a comment.

Continued on page 2

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
October 2014 Issue Number: 33

Hatch acknowledged the unanimous opposition local leaders have expressed to the "open burning" method of disposal currently recommended by EPA for use at Camp Minden. Hatch promised to bring those concerns to EPA Region 6 Administrator Ron Curry.

While a few wrinkles remain to be ironed out, Curtis said the Louisiana Military Department will begin the search for a contractor "as quickly as we can." Once the EPA approves the agreement, bids can be solicited for the work, he said. Curtis added that he anticipates the burning process to begin "early next year."

"Now we are on a definite timeline."

Those words were well-received by the press conference attendees.

State Rep. Jeff Thompson was among the speakers at the Oct. 23 press conference at Camp Minden.

"It's a good day for Louisiana. It's a good day for Webster Parish and northwest Louisiana," State Rep. Jeff Thompson said.

Crescent Park in New Orleans is ready for the public to enjoy

A 1.4-mile strip of the New Orleans riverfront in the Bywater District has been transformed into a great open space, with water access, an outdoor theater and native vegetation. It can be accessed by climbing over the railroad tracks on the huge, arched Piety Street Bridge crafted from raw, rusty steel. The area has kept the industrial, working class feel of the wharves and created a beautiful space suited for outdoor recreation such as running, dog walking and even yoga. Large ships and river traffic complete the scene with the New Orleans skyline framing the park. This area is Crescent Park and it is the result of a Ready for Reuse project undertaken by the city of New Orleans.

Piety Street Crescent Park Bridge – Doug MacCash, Times Picayune

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 have determined that the Crescent Park in New Orleans is Ready for Reuse. A Ready for Reuse Determination is an acknowledgment that environmental conditions on the property are protective of human health and the environment based on its current and anticipated future use.

Continued on page 3

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
October 2014 Issue Number: 33

Movie theater venue and paths at Crescent Park in New Orleans

John Halk, DEQ Team Leader, presents the Ready for Reuse Plaque and Determination Letter to Shirley Smith, New Orleans Director of Compliance, and Anthony Faciane, Neighborhood Stabilization Director.

The Crescent Park is located on the Mississippi River levee between Saint Phillip Street and Mazant Street in New Orleans. The site is located in a historical commercial/light industrial/residential district in New Orleans along the riverfront and essentially comprises old wharf and/or warehouse structures with associated railroad tracks, asphalt access road and spurs that once serviced the area.

Recently, New Orleans was presented a letter of determination and a plaque for their effort to beautify the riverfront. Anthony Faciane, Neighborhood Stabilization Director, and Shirley Smith, Director of Environmental Compliance for the city of New Orleans Office of Community Development, received the letter and plaque on behalf of the city.

"Restoring property for enjoyment and use is one of the most satisfying aspects of environmental protection," said Peggy Hatch, DEQ Secretary. "I commend the city of New Orleans for its successful efforts to restore Crescent Park."

With this Ready for Reuse Determination, DEQ and EPA Region 6 agree that the City of New Orleans and the New Orleans Redevelopment Corporation have successfully conducted investigation, remediation and risk management activities, and the environmental conditions at the property are protective of human health and the environment based on its current and anticipated future use as a community green space and commercial property.

DEQ works with Louisiana Public Broadcasting to educate students about air quality

DEQ and the Louisiana Public Broadcasting Company have joined forces to produce an educational video, website and activities on How We Can Protect Our Air for students in grades 8 through 12.

The video and activities address air pollution and its causes; regulation and actions to govern the amount of pollution allowed into the air; how to tell what the air quality is and what effect it may have; solutions for pollution, both individual and industrial; and careers in environmental protection.

Continued on page 4

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
October 2014 Issue Number: 33

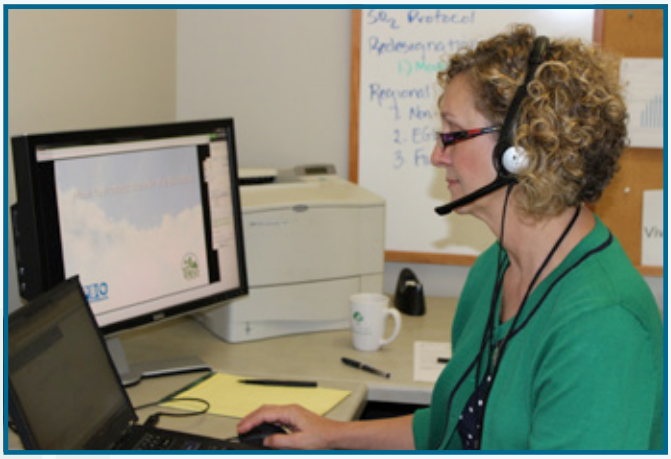
LPB recorded video in various locations throughout the city of Baton Rouge. One early morning, the production crew came to DEQ headquarters to film Michael Vince, DEQ senior scientist, and Jay Grymes, chief meteorologist from WAFB TV. The video filming was done on the roof with views of the Capital behind it.

The video and the lesson plans and activities can be accessed at **www.lpb.org/protectourair**.

DEQ and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency have multiple functions to improve air quality and reduce pollution. They include regulating, permitting, inspecting, monitoring, enforcing and educating. DEQ continuously monitors air quality and makes the information available, in real time, to the public on their website at **http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/PROGRAMS/Air.aspx** or the My Air Quality button on the website. There you can find daily air quality data, how to sign up for EnviroFlash (the automatic air quality notification system), the current Air Quality Index, frequently asked air questions, information on the Advance Program in Louisiana, and much more.

While DEQ regulates the producers of products and services and industry, they do not regulate individual activities that cause pollution. Therefore, it is important that each person knows how their daily activities contribute to pollution.

Dorothy Kendrick (left) from LPB works with WAFB Chief Meteorologist Jay Grymes on the air quality video.



Senior Scientist Vivian Aucoin answered students' questions for the DEQ/LPB hosted webinair.

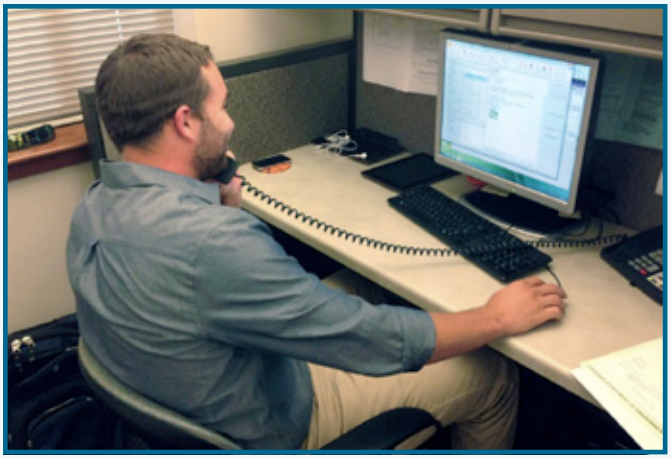
As part of the learning process for students, LPB and DEQ hosted a webinair that was interactive and allowed students to ask questions of DEQ Senior Scientist Vivian Aucoin and DEQ Environmental Chemical Specialist Vennetta Hayes. The classes signed into the webinair so all the participants had an opportunity to hear the answers. There were a variety of questions such as what can we do to help prevent pollution?; Do pollen, mosquito spray or cigarette smoke cause pollution?; Are the plumes we see from industry polluting?; and How does pollution affect climate change?

Aucoin and Hayes described their jobs and told the students about career opportunities and requirements to work at DEQ and in other environmental fields.

The webinair can be accessed at **www.lapb.org/etrips**.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

October 2014 Issue Number: 33



DEQ Customer Service student worker Cody Rabalais responds to a caller requesting contact information.

DEQ's Customer Service Center answers the call

Got a question for DEQ, but don't know where to start? Well, simply call the customer service line in Baton Rouge during working hours and a customer service representative will be ready to assist you.

Located on the first floor of the Galvez Building in downtown Baton Rouge, the Customer Service Center is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The staff consists of supervisor Sean Lynam and five undergraduate student workers who each work approximately 20 hours a week on a rotating schedule.

Commonly the first voice of the agency heard by citizens emailing or calling in to seek information, DEQ's customer service representatives are highly professional, patient and able to think quickly on their feet. Due to the diverse nature of the incoming inquiries, the team is also well-versed in DEQ's scope of responsibility as callers often need to be routed to a specific section or division -- or even another agency if a question falls outside of DEQ's purview.

"We typically respond to between 1,100 and 1,200 phone calls and approximately 50 emails each month," said Lynam. "We provide contact information and can answer general questions, depending on the nature of the inquiry. Some inquiries from the public are of a technical nature, so the staff follows through to ensure callers get in touch with the appropriate contact."

While a variety of questions come through the phone lines, one common request the staff assists callers with relates to the navigation of the DEQ website and Electronic Document Management System (EDMS). EDMS contains a chronological list of all official records received or issued by DEQ pertaining to a specific facility, site or incident. An Agency Interest number, or AI, identifies the specific facility, site or incident in question. Entering the number into EDMS will provide a list of documents that have been loaded into the system for viewing. Other documents not available through EDMS can be requested by submitting a public records request online or by visiting one of DEQ's regional offices for assistance.

Portable Wi-Fi devices, such as this Verizon jetpack, can be signed out to DEQ personnel.

The Customer Service staff also provides a variety of communications services to DEQ employees such as laptops and portable wi-fi devices (capable of providing

Continued on page 6

remote Internet access for up to four laptops). The staff can provide directions, directory assistance and place long distance calls for DEQ employees who are working out of the office. For assistance with audio/visual capabilities, the staff also sets up teleconference lines, webinar lines and projectors for DEQ personnel, by request.

The staff responds to all calls from the public, except inquiries made by the media, which are directed to DEQ's Public Information Section at **225-219-3964**.

For any non-emergency related question or concern, contact the Customer Service Center at **225-219-LDEQ (5337)** or Toll Free at **1-866-896-LDEQ (5337)** during work hours. You may also send an e-mail to: **DEQ-CustomerServiceCenter@la.gov** and a representative will respond as soon as possible.

DEQ activates Emergency Debris Management hotline

DEQ's Waste Permits Division recently announced the creation of an Emergency Debris Management hotline at **(225) 364-7901**.

The hotline is currently active for use during the tropical storm and hurricane season as a convenient way for citizens to receive information regarding emergency debris management. The hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week during and after emergencies that have been declared by the DEQ Secretary. The hotline pertains to questions and information regarding emergency debris only.

"The hotline has been established in order to assist callers with information regarding debris that has accumulated as a result of emergency conditions in the aftermath of a tropical storm or hurricane affecting the state," said Dutch Donlon, DEQ Waste Permits Division Administrator. "The hotline will facilitate Waste Permits Division staff to quickly respond to questions regarding the regulatory guidelines for the transportation and disposal of emergency debris, approved emergency debris drop off locations, safety issues and general management."

The hotline will be active until Nov. 1, but it will be manned for any other future declared emergencies.

Information regarding non-emergency debris can be found on the DEQ website at: **www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WastePermits/DisasterDebrisManagement.aspx**.

Additional information can be found by contacting DEQ's Waste Permits Division at **225-219-3181**.

For a list of debris sites throughout Louisiana by parish, please visit:
www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WastePermits/DisasterDebrisManagement/DebrisSitesfor20132014.aspx.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

October 2014 Issue Number: 33

Ninth annual Water Sweep collects 2.7 tons of trash

The Ouachita River and its surrounding waterways and scenic areas underwent its ninth annual "Water Sweep" cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 20, thanks to Ouachita Green and its many volunteers and corporate sponsors.

Ouachita Green, an environmental partnership consisting of Keep Ouachita Parish Beautiful, Keep Monroe Beautiful, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Vicksburg District and Keep West Monroe Beautiful, has been very active in keeping the river and its many tributaries and bayous debris-free for several years.

The four-hour event began at 9 am and brought in more than 400 volunteers from the local community including students and faculty from the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

In addition to several high-trash accumulation spots along the river, a contingent of volunteers also focuses on Bayou DeSiard, a waterway that connects with the Ouachita River and runs through the ULM campus. The Bayou DeSiard cleanup is a unique one in that it involves a waterway that is part of a university campus where many students recreate. In fact, the University's waterskiing team and fishing team use the bayou on a frequent basis, so it's a vibrant part of the campus and therefore a significant target during the cleanup.

Volunteers remove a used 55-gallon drum that was discarded near Lazarre Park along the bank of the Ouachita River

"The ULM waterskiing and fishing teams played an important role in helping us promote the Water Sweep and recruit volunteers," said Courtney Hornsby, President of the West Monroe-West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce. "Outreach efforts paid off, as we had approximately 200 volunteers pre-registered, with an additional 200 volunteers showing up the morning of the event."

"We are proud to support the sweep and get the word out, as we realize how imperative it is that we preserve the Ouachita for safety and health reasons in addition to maintaining the overall aesthetic," said Treina Landrum, ULM Recreational Services Director.

In addition to Bayou DeSiard, the volunteers split up into several groups that clean up various points along the river, such as Black Bayou National Wildlife Refuge, the Deloutre Basin, Lazarre Park, Forsythe Park, Moon Lake Recreation Area, Bawcomville Recreation Area and Sterlington Recreation Area.

Each year, Water Sweep volunteers pick up thousands of pounds of hazardous material and litter, all of which is illegally dumped debris that poses a danger to boaters, causes obstructions along the waterway and creates a threat to the environment and human health. The trash gathered ranges from dangerous to just plain odd, with volunteers this year removing a reclining chair, a box of syringes, a bicycle, a bowling ball and several 55-gallon drums. All of the trash is handled carefully during the collection and is subsequently discarded in large trash bins.

Continued on page 8

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

October 2014 Issue Number: 33

With the assistance of a personal boat, volunteers pick up metal debris along the river in West Monroe.

Since 2006, students, corporate sponsors and members of the local community have participated in the sweep, gathering at various insertion points along the river to give their time to make a difference in their community and preserve the beauty of the Ouachita. Always a necessity, approximately 12 boats participated this year to add mobility and flexibility in the removal of hard-to-reach debris near the shoreline or in the waterway itself.

The strong spirit of community service is evident in these Water Sweeps, and to a large degree, the results can be measured in the debris.

"We collected 2.7 tons of trash during the 2013 Water Sweep," said Hornsby. "This year, we nearly doubled that figure by collecting 4.8 tons of trash. While site locations and volunteer turnout varies from year to year, our increase in the amount of garbage collected continues to demonstrate the importance of the Water Sweeps and the positive impact our volunteers and sponsors have on the environment."

Corporate sponsors supporting the effort this year include Dow Chemical Company, Angus Chemical Company, The Radio People and the Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana. Individuals and companies can help future Water Sweeps by providing monetary or product donations, or by participating before, during and/or after the event.

For more information on the sweep, contact **www.watersweep.org**.

Events like this illustrate how severe the litter problem is, and the growing litter issue is one of the reasons DEQ is partnering with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promote the Trash Free Waters Program.

For more information on the Trash Free Waters program, go to: **http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/marinedebris/**.

Odyssey Day Celebration hosted by Louisiana Clean Fuels

Promoting the use of alternative fuels is the mission of Louisiana Clean Fuels through education, assistance and other strategies. Holding an Odyssey Day Celebration with workshops and a chance to view alternative fuel vehicles is one way to reach this goal.

On Oct. 17, Louisiana Clean Fuels celebrated the National Alternative Clean Fuels Day Odyssey at the new Main Library on Goodwood Boulevard. in Baton Rouge. A special stakeholder breakfast and Odyssey Day Cookout bookended the event. The event lasted from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and featured workshops on

Continued on page 9

alternative fuel options, propane, electric and natural gas, heavy duty fleet options, training options for fleets, mechanics and first responders and a legislative update. After the workshops, participants continued the Odyssey Day celebration with a cookout at the Botanical Gardens with a vehicle expo and time for networking. Participants had a chance to see and drive a CNG Civic, a Nissan Leaf, an electric car and a propane Ford F-250 truck. Also on display were a CNG refuse truck and a solar generator.

The Louisiana Clean Fuels Odyssey is one of many alternative fuels events held across the United States and internationally. National AFV Day Odyssey is a biennial event created and coordinated by the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC) at West Virginia University. This year marks the twelfth anniversary of the event and is themed "Driving toward a clean, secure energy future."

"We were pleased to join Odyssey 2014 as we continue to drive toward a clean, secure energy future," said Ann Shaneyfelt, Executive Director of Louisiana Clean Fuels. "This biennial event is a great way to share the message of embracing alternative fuel and advanced vehicle technology as we continue down the road toward energy independence."

LCF is a member of the Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program. The Coalition strives to achieve its goals by employing a variety of strategies including alternative fuel vehicles, fuel blends, increased fuel economy, hybrid vehicles and idle reduction technologies. Odyssey Day is just one way to promote and inform clean fuel initiatives.

Cupcakes for United Way

Entries in the Best Decorated Category

The smells of freshly baked cupcakes wafted through the DEQ conference center cafeteria as cupcakes were displayed for the DEQ sponsored Cupcake Contest. All proceeds went to the United Way.

There were four judges: two from the Louisiana Culinary Institute, one from DEQ and one from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Cupcakes were judged in two categories: Best Tasting and Best Decorated.

In the Best Tasting category, the winner was Steve Forrester who baked a white cupcake with whipped cream in the middle and green frosting, topped with a witches hat for Halloween. Second place went to Annette Sharp for her Chocolate Cupcakes with cream in the middle. Rachel Davis placed third. The winners all received gift certificates.

In the Best Decorated Category there were seven entries. There was a tie for first, and Keilley Well was awarded both first place prizes for her Eye of the Tiger and Snowman cupcakes. Steven Forrester and Rachel Davis tied for second place and Vennetta Hayes took home third place. The winners received gift certificates, and the cupcakes were sold to benefit the United Way.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

October 2014 Issue Number: 33

DEQ participates in Household Hazardous Materials Day in Baton Rouge

Have you been squirreling away those household chemical, fertilizers, garden poisons, oil, cleaning solvents and paint, just hoping for a place to safely dispose of them? Then you are in luck. The city of Baton Rouge, the East Baton Rouge Parish Recycling Office, DEQ and other partners will hold a Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day, Saturday, Nov. 22 at Memorial Stadium. The time for drop off is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The collection day is for East Baton Rouge residents only, and no commercial waste will be accepted. Residents should enter the collection site from Scenic Highway at Foss Street. Liquids should be labeled and in closed containers.

DEQ employees will man the paint swap area taking reusable latex paint and mixing it in five-gallon containers. The objective of the swap is to recycle unused paint. After the material is collected, screened and blended by DEQ volunteers, it is given to Habitat for Humanity ReStore and then sold to the public at a reduced price. DEQ initiated the paint swap in 1990 and has participated every year since. This recycled paint would otherwise end up in a landfill or disposed of in an environmentally unsound manner.

"DEQ has been involved with Household Hazardous Material Collection Day since 1985 and helped initiate the program," said Don Caffery, DEQ coordinator for the event. "DEQ employees have worked with the paint swap for many years and thousands of gallons of paint have been disposed of properly because of environmentally aware citizens and the volunteers that assist each year."

The collection day is a collaborative effort between the Baton Rouge City-Parish and other partners.

Materials that will be accepted are household solvents, acids, arsenic, aerosol cans, batteries, latex paint, pool chemicals propane tanks and lawn products.

Oil-based paint will not be accepted. Other materials that will NOT be accepted include ammunition and fireworks, non-residential waste, styrofoam, liquids in containers over 5 gallons, electronic equipment, appliances and furniture. For more information visit **www.brgov.com/recycling**.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

October 2014 Issue Number: 33

Mary Vince, grandson Alex and Michael Vince at his retirement party.

Official recognition from Governor Jindal's office

Michael Vince, Senior Environmental Scientist, retires from DEQ after 32 years

A retirement party with all of his friends, family and former and current coworkers was how Michael Vince left DEQ for, hopefully, a lifestyle filled with happiness and leisure.

Vince was an original DEQ employee, initially working with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources in 1982, then migrating to DEQ after its formation in 1984 during the Governor Treen administration. He worked in many capacities during his tenure, including Administrator of the Air Permits Division. Most recently, Vince had been a staple in air permits and an advocate for cleaner air and improved environment. His work throughout the state with the Advance Program has helped prepare it for the possibility of nonattainment with the new ozone standard soon to be announced.

He has served with many organizations outside of DEQ, and most recently was named the inaugural president of the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA). Vince has served the state of Louisiana with professionalism, dignity and diligence – all with a cheerful attitude. His presence and expertise will be missed, and the staff of DEQ wishes him success in his future endeavors.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
October 2014 Issue Number: 33

Who's Who At DEQ?

Michael McMahon, Office of Environmental Compliance, Radiation and Emergency Planning and Response Section

McMahon graduated from LSU in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in physics with minor in mathematics. He initially worked for DEQ for six years, as a radiation inspector through 2011. After a short absence, he rejoined the DEQ staff in December 2013, and currently serves as a radiation and emergency planner in the Radiation and Emergency Planning Response Section.

JiYoung Wiley, Office of Environmental Compliance, Radiation and Emergency Planning and Response Section

Wiley, a native of South Korea, earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Chung-Ang University in Seoul. Wiley earned a master's degree in nuclear science from Louisiana State University. Wiley started at the Department of Environmental Quality Radiation Lab in 2000, and in 2007, transferred to the Radiation Licensing Section. She was promoted to Environmental Scientist Supervisor for Radiation and Emergency Planning and Response (REPR) and Single Point of Contact (SPOC) in 2009. Since 2013, she has been promoted to Senior Environmental Scientist in Radiological Emergency Planning and Response. She has been serving the department as subject matter expert on REPR group and overseeing all operations of REPR.

Kendrick Williams, Office of Environmental Compliance, Radiation and Emergency Planning and Response Section

Williams joined DEQ in August 2013 as an environmental scientist. Williams initially worked in the Radiation Inspection Section before transferring to the Radiological Emergency Planning and Response Section. He received his Bachelor of Science in physics from Xavier University of Louisiana and a Master of Science in medical physics and health physics from Louisiana State University.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

October 2014 Issue Number: 33

Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

3rd Quarter 2014 Enforcement Actions:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/EnforcementActions.aspx

3rd Quarter 2014 Settlement Agreements:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/SettlementAgreements.aspx

3rd Quarter 2014 Air Permits:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx

3rd Quarter 2014 Water Permits:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx

3rd Quarter 2014 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/divisions/wastepermits.aspx