



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

PEGGY M. HATCH
SECRETARY

DEQ workshops generate positive feedback

Throughout the spring of 2011, DEQ conducted a series of open burning and storm sewer system workshops across the state. The workshops were presented to inform the public and assist municipalities with understanding regulations while doing their part to enhance the quality of the environment. They were free and open to the public.

The Open Burning workshops provided background information on the regulations concerning items that are acceptable or unacceptable for public burning. Presenters included members of DEQ's Air Permits and Surveillance divisions, along with DEQ regional office managers. More than 226 participants, including fire chiefs, firefighters and staff from the state fire marshals' office, were on hand at eight workshops held across the state. The Open Burning workshops were highly rated and the presentation was emailed to all fire departments around the state. The presentation and more information can be found at www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroschool.

Nine workshops on Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) were designed to inform and assist parish governments and municipalities with water permitting regulations and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) guidelines, as they apply to their local waterways. TMDLs are guidelines on how much of a pollutant a water body may take while remaining within healthy standards. Personnel from DEQ's Small Business/Community Assistance Program, Water Permits Division and Non-Point Source department hosted the sessions, with assistance from local parish governments. The sessions were conducted statewide, with more than 215 participants.

Evaluation forms were provided to the attendees at the end of each session which resulted in mostly upbeat reviews.

“All around, feedback was positive. Most of the attendees commented on how they came away with a better understanding of the regulations along with information on how they can help promote regulatory awareness and environmental stewardship in their communities,” said Alex Appeaning, DEQ Deputy Secretary. “Additionally, we received several requests for additional information and additional classes, so the sessions were deemed a success.”

These workshops are part of DEQ's overall efforts to educate the public about environmental regulations and to protect human health and the environment.