DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ position unchanged on Chef Menteur Landfill

BATON ROUGE – On July 13, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's office issued a press release regarding the Chef Menteur Landfill. The Department of Environmental Quality's position on the Chef Menteur Landfill has not changed. The site is needed to cleanup New Orleans in an environmentally sound and timely manner. The site poses no threat to public health.

The department was not involved in the city's decision and is meeting to decide its "path forward," said Assistant Secretary Chuck Brown.

"I think everyone has the same goal, which is to cleanup of the city in order to move forward with rebuilding," Brown said. "Closing this landfill would slow down the cleanup process significantly."

DEQ has worked with local governments throughout the area impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Without approval of New Orleans' local government, there is a possibility that the landfill could be closed. This would more than double the estimated time for cleaning up New Orleans from five months to one year.

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