DEQ LOUISIANA

DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

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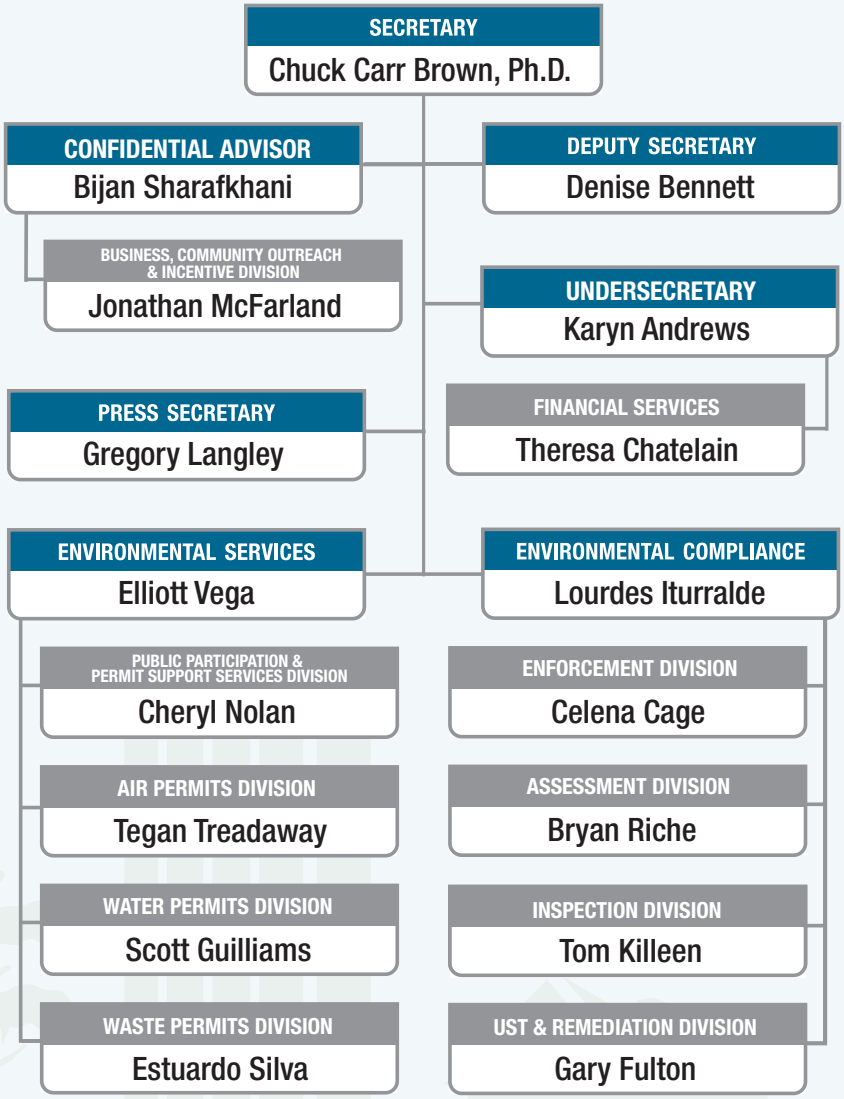
Know about your air quality! Sign up for EnviroFlash and receive air quality notifications by email or phone. Go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash.

Meet DEQ's new executive staff



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Confidential Advisor to the Secretary
Bijan Sharafkhani, P.E.

Sharafkhani received both his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of New Orleans. He is licensed professional engineer in civil and environmental engineering in Louisiana.

He has more than 30 years of experience in the environmental field. Sharafkhani has served in various managerial and technical capacities in solid, hazardous and remediation, Small Business Assistance, Clean Water State Revolving Loan and Nonpoint Source Pollution programs with DEQ for more than 25 years.

Deputy Secretary
Denise Bennett

Bennett holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Howard University in Washington, and an MBA from LSU.

Bennett previously worked at DEQ as an air permit writer from October 2003 to August 2006. She returns to the agency after 10 years as an industry consultant working with agricultural and petrochemical companies. Bennett has extensive experience in environmental regulatory affairs, compliance and permitting.

Undersecretary
Karyn Andrews

Andrews has a bachelor's degree in accounting from Louisiana State University.

After graduating from LSU, Andrews came to work for the state and has worked in governmental accounting at the state level for 23 years.

She has lived in Louisiana since her family relocated here and has lived in Baton Rouge since 1988 when she began at LSU.

Press Secretary
Greg Langley

Langley graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Science in communications. He has worked for newspapers in Picayune, Miss., Alexandria and Baton Rouge for the past 30 years. He has been a managing editor, crime reporter, page designer, copy editor, features writer, books editor and features editor.

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Assistant Secretary – Office of Environmental Compliance
Lourdes Iturralde

Iturralde received a Bachelor of Science in microbiology from Louisiana State University and received a Master of Science in microbiology from Texas A&M University.

Iturralde has been employed with DEQ since 1990 and she has more than 20 years in the Enforcement Division of DEQ in various positions, including supervisor, manager, and administrator. She was promoted to Enforcement Administrator in March 2008 and in September 2010 was moved to administrator in the Public Participation and Permit Support Services Division until she was appointed assistant secretary.

Assistant Secretary – Office of Environmental Services
Elliott Vega

Vega has a Bachelor of Science in biology and a J.D. in law from Tulane University.

Vega has worked at DEQ about 15 years, most recently as attorney supervisor. He has been deputy general counsel, staff attorney and a permit writer for the agency.

Air Quality – Your Way

How do you want to get your air quality information? Do you want to know when an air quality index standard is exceeded in real time? Do you want to know what a certain air quality monitor is reading now? Or do you want to know when an air quality action day is predicted? Now you can get air quality information one way or all three ways.

If you are interested in knowing when the ozone, SO2 and PM2.5 standards (on some monitors) is exceeded in real time, you can subscribe to that service and you will receive an email to that effect. Subscribe by going to **https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/Subscriptions/Manage** and marking the notifications you would like to receive. The link is under Notifications on the My Air Quality button on the DEQ homepage.

If you are interested in what a particular air quality monitor is reading now, you can go to the DEQ home page, **www.deq.louisiana.gov** and click on the My Air Quality button on the right hand side. There you will find options such as "What is the current air quality in my area?" Current readings for individual montiors are available there. There is also much more information you will find valuable.

If you want to know when the air quality is predicted to be poor for the next day, sign up for EnviroFlash. EnviroFlash is an electronic information system designed to communicate air quality information to the public. It is a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. It provides instant air quality information that citizens can customize for their own needs, allowing them to take steps that can protect the health of their family. It provides this information via e-mail. To register for EnviroFlash go to **www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash.**

It is important to know what's in your air and what steps you can take to improve your air quality and protect your health.

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Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

Louisiana First Lady Donna Edwards and DEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown were among the readers who visited Cedarcrest-Southmoor Elementary School in Baton Rouge for Read Across America Day. The March 2 event is a yearly celebration of the works of Dr. Seuss and features celebrity guests visiting schools and reading from classic Seuss books like "The Cat in the Hat" and "Horton Hears A Who!"

A lot can happen in a month. Since my last Secretary's Message, I have dealt with two disaster declarations, filled empty positions on my executive staff, made numerous speeches at public events and established a new presence on social media.

First the disasters: we had a tornado outbreak on Feb. 23 that resulted in two Louisiana residents being killed along with extensive property damage, power outages, school and business closures and a partial shutdown of state agencies. DEQ's emergency response section was activated and assisted in responses to everything from a leaking electric transformer to debris management.

In the second week of March, three days of heavy rains hit Louisiana and adjacent states and forced rivers and bayous out of their banks. Areas across the state experienced catastrophic flooding with water entering homes and businesses in parts of northeast, northwest, central, southwest and southeast Louisiana. Four lives were lost. Again, DEQ's emergency responders rose to the challenge, answering 77 calls regarding hydrocarbon releases and flooded sewage plants.

The impact of the floods was illustrated in a very personal way when one of DEQ's employees in the Northeast Regional Office, John Possey, suffered three feet of water in his home. Everyone at DEQ is generous and caring and many jumped in to help John out. I think the best thing to do is to go the extra mile and establish a disaster relief fund to benefit any DEQ employee who experiences a personal emergency. John would be the first beneficiary of the fund if he so choses. We are working out the details now for the establishment and use of this fund.

The executive staff is now in place. While installing a new staff is a complicated undertaking, I am proud of the team of professionals I assembled. They include: Assistant Secretary for Environmental Compliance Lourdes Iturralde, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Services Elliott Vega, Undersecretary Karyn Andrews, Deputy Secretary Denise Bennett, Press Secretary Greg Langley and Confidential Assistant Bijan Sharafkhani. Even though they are all pretty busy with the Legislature in session (especially Denise who is the agency's legislative liaison), they will take time to talk with you. So say hello if you see one of them – or me – in the elevator or on your floor.

I have enjoyed getting out to speak at places such as the Louisiana Solid Waste Conference in Lafayette. I spoke to a gathering of the Louisiana Midcontinent Oil and Gas Association in Baton Rouge, I gave a presentation to the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Senate Environmental Committee at the Capitol. I was also interviewed by two Texas videographers for a documentary about waste disposal and debris management at headquarters. For Read Across America Day, Louisiana First Lady Donna Edwards and I visited schools to read to elementary school students. I capped off the busy month with the recording of a 5-minute video about DEQ's goals and philosophy. The Communications Section posted it to our new YouTube channel, which I encourage everyone to check out. The channel is at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP0mXFCk7gdZRpyAJYxDIRw.

Finally, I am very proud of the work DEQ staff has been doing. Thank you all for your great effort and valuable contributions. Keep up the good work!

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DEQ emergency response staff and regional offices respond to March flooding

A DEQ flyover shows flooding in the Head of Island community from the Amite River near Maurepas in Livingston Parish.

Flooding alongside a stretch of Interstate 55 in Tangipahoa Parish north of Lake Maurepas.

Excessive rainfall and thunderstorms across southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi resulted in flash flooding across the region the second week in March.

The National Weather Service announced a flash flood watch March 10, which extended into the weekend as the rain came in. Severe storms swept west to east across all of Louisiana and southern Mississippi. Coastal flooding impacted many areas.

DEQ emergency responders and regional office personnel prepared for severe thunderstorms and flooding by monitoring conditions and responding to oil leaks, oil discharges and sewage overflows.

DEQ Emergency Response teams responded to several crude oil releases and oil tank leaks in Caddo, Bossier and Lincoln parishes. An oil condensate release in Lincoln Parish led DEQ teams to assist with the deployment of boom and pads to contain and aid in the recovery of the condensate.

DEQ personnel use the DEQ plane to conduct an air assessment of flooding.

“The primary purpose of this flight was to try to locate wrack lines (lines of debris stranded by high water), orphan containers or releases from facilities that may be of concern to the department,” said Daniel Lambert, DEQ emergency response manager. “During this overflight, extremely high water levels were still observed from French Settlement eastward to Lake Maurepas, and the Northshore areas of Lake Maurepas and Lake Pontchartrain toward Madisonville.”

During the time of the overflight, Lambert, along with Emergency Response Supervisor Jerry Lang, did not observe any oil or gas discharges that would cause immediate concern to DEQ. DEQ continues to monitor the situation, in addition to participating in daily conference calls between other agencies to be apprised of current conditions.

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Solid Waste Conference held in Lafayette

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, DEQ secretary, opened the 2016 Louisiana Solid Waste Association (LSWA) Annual Environmental Conference with remarks about his vision for the future of the agency and what industry and individuals need to do to be proactive.

Brown promised attendees that DEQ would approach the regulated community with a conciliatory spirit, but he pointed out that some landfills have issues with posting an adequate financial assurance for closure. That issue is being addressed in regulations revisions, he said.

“We’re not going to pay to close another solid waste facility,” Brown said.

Tom Harris, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, followed Secretary Brown. The conference, held March 16-18 at the Cajun Dome in Lafayette, represents an environmental partnership of business, industry and government.

During lunch, EPA Region 6 Administrator Ron Curry spoke to the gathering about a partnership between the state and EPA. Scholarship and awards were presented.

Evita Lagard, Assessment Administrator for DEQ’s Office of Compliance, received the 2016 Bentley Makay, Jr. Award for the Most Outstanding Solid Waste Professional of the Year, posthumously. Lagard, who passed away on Oct. 13, 2015, was a 25-year-plus employee of DEQ and was on the Louisiana Solid Waste Association steering committee. Her mother accepted the award on her behalf.

Many DEQ staff members presented sessions during the conference and DEQ staff set up a satellite office in the Cajun Dome lobby. This allowed easier access for attendees to talk to DEQ personnel about geology, engineering, permitting and more.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown presents DEQ’s plans, path forward and concerns during the opening session of the LWSA Conference.

Marissa Jimenez, Small Business Assistance staff and Dr. Chuck Carr Brown greet participants at the DEQ booth.

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Evita Lagards's mother accepts the 2016 Bentley Mackay Jr. Award, which was presented to Evita posthumously.

EPA Region 6 Administrator Ron Curry addresses attendees over lunch.

Tara Nixon, DEQ Environmental Scientist, presented information on the 2014 Integrated Report.

Jean Kelly, DEQ Public Information Officer, presented a talk about the litter problem in Louisiana and the Litter Ordinance Handbook.

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2016 DEQ Environmental Leadership Awards presented

DEQ hosted the 2016 DEQ Environmental Leadership Award ceremony at the Galvez building in downtown Baton Rouge. DEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown was joined by Sen. Mike Walsworth, chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee, and Rep. Stuart Bishop, chair, House Natural Resources and Environment Committee, to recognize environmental achievements. Members of Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) were commended for their voluntary pollution prevention efforts, community environmental outreach initiatives and environmental management systems that went above and beyond regulatory compliance to improve the environment.

ELP Awards were presented to large, medium and small businesses, municipalities, and academia. Fifteen new ELP members who joined in 2015-2016 were recognized. This year, DEQ presented 11 awards in recognition of the following:

Pollutants reduced by the projects:

- 11,191,587 pounds (lbs) of pollutants including nitrates, NOx, CO2, greenhouse gases, solid waste, E-waste, polyethyl polyol residual
- 553,416 gallons (gals) of diesel fuel
- 135 cubic yards of aquatic debris

Pollutants reused:

- 52,560,000 gals cooling tower blowdown water

Pollutants recycled:

- 1,960,684 gals used oil, hydrocarbon-contaminated water
- 1,500,000 lbs electronic waste

"The Environmental Leadership Awards highlight the proactive efforts of schools, industry and communities to take ownership in their environment," Brown said. "The award projects go a long way to improve our environment and set a good example."

The ELP began in 1995 as a cooperative effort between DEQ and participating companies in the state. Today, any company, federal entity, municipality, non-governmental organization, school or university committed to improving the quality of the state's environment is eligible to join the program. For more information about the ELP, please contact Linda Hardy at 225-219-3954 or visit the DEQ website at www.deq.louisiana.gov/elp.

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Dr. Chuck Carr brown welcomes winners and attendees to the 2016 ELP Awards ceremony.

ExxonMobil employees accept the Large Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention Protection from Sen. Mike Walsworth (L), Rep. Stuart Bishop (R) and Dr. Brown.

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ELP AWARD WINNERS

Republic Services of Baton Rouge: Baton Rouge
CNG Solid Waste Collection Fleet and Fueling Stations
Republic Services is being awarded the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) ***Special Recognition Award in Pollution Prevention*** for systematically replacing its current fleet of diesel powered trucks with new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered vehicles. The three-year program is now in its second year with 75 collection vehicles currently running on CNG. Depending on the specifications, the CNG vehicles range from $270,000 to $310,000 each. Republic also constructed slow fill and fast fill fueling stations. This project represents a significant local investment in cleaner, safer and more efficient vehicles and facilities. Each new CNG solid waste collection and recycling truck not only reduces ozone emissions by 80 percent but also reduces noise when compared to diesel powered trucks. CNG vehicles produce 85 percent reduction in NOX emissions and 23 percent reduction in greenhouse gases. Completion of the three year project will produce the benefits of removing 500 vehicles from the road annually.

ExxonMobil Refinery: Baton Rouge
Biox Basins Wastewater Treatment Project
ExxonMobil Refinery is receiving the ***Environmental Leadership Program Large Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention*** for investing in a denitrification treatment step as part of a project to replace two Biox basins with new Biox tanks. The "tank-in-tank" design helps to reduce nitrate emissions in wastewater discharges to the Mississippi River well below levels required by the regulations thereby vastly improving the water quality in the Mississippi River. As a result of the installation of the Biox Basins Wastewater Treatment Project, the refinery was able to reduce nitrate emissions by 1.4 million pounds in 2015, greater than 80 percent nitrate removal compared to the previous year. The denitrification treatment step went well above and beyond regulatory requirements for wastewater treatment and remains consistent with Exxon's efforts to proactively reduce nitrate emissions in wastewater discharges.

Rubicon, LLC: Geismar
Reduction of Hazardous Waste (Polyethyl Polyols) Project
Rubicon is being awarded the ***Environmental Leadership Program Large Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention*** for implementing a waste minimization/pollution prevention strategy to recover usable product in waste streams and minimize waste generation and disposal. One polyethyl polyol produced in the unit routinely produced a "heel" or residual material that is classified as a hazardous waste requiring disposal via incineration. A multi-departmental team developed a better alternative for management of the residual material with waste minimization and pollution prevention as the primary goal. A new process for the residual material was established and ultimately decreased the inventory of 280,000 pounds of residual material that normally would have been disposed off-site as a hazardous waste via incineration.

Alliance Compressors: Natchitoches
Energy Conservation Project
Alliance Compressors is receiving the ***Environmental Leadership Program Recognition Award in Pollution Prevention*** for installing six new Corporate Standard Airboards. The airboards are used to test all of the compressors that are manufactured at the plant. The new Corporate Standard Airboards use dry air to charge the compressors and are more efficient. During the test, the old Air Boards consumed dry air which required an extensive amount of electricity whereas the new equipment effectively reduced the amount of dry air required to perform the test. The change to the new airboards reduced electrical energy by approximately 188 tons of CO2 annually.

Marathon Petroleum: Garyville
Cooling Water Tower Beneficial Reuse Project
Marathon Petroleum is receiving the ***Environmental Leadership Program Recognition Award in Pollution Prevention*** for developing a project to reduce water consumption/discharge. Marathon has nine cooling water towers, most of which repurpose their cooling water blowdown (water that is drained from cooling equipment to remove mineral build up). Cooling Water Tower #9 sends 144,000 gallons per day (gpd) in blowdown directly to the wastewater treatment plant. Marathon seized this as an opportunity to repurpose the 144,000 gpd for Coker quench water, which is used to cool petroleum coke at the end of the coking cycle. The Coker requires nearly 600,000 gpd, usually supplied by clarifiers. Every gallon of blowdown water that can be beneficially reused displaces a gallon of water withdrawn from the Mississippi River. Additionally, because less water is withdrawn from the river, fewer chemicals are required in the water clarifiers and in treating the water at the wastewater treatment plant. Decreasing water intake/discharge has led to an overall reduction in electric consumption that is required to pump this water to/from the Mississippi River.

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Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council: Baton Rouge
Protecting the Environment One BYTE at a Time Project
Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC) is receiving the ***Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention*** for working with 22 municipalities and businesses involved in community recycling events that diverted 173,810 pounds of electronic material from landfills. CACRC was also able to recycle another 1.5 million pounds from drop-offs and collections. Computers, laptops, monitors, and other material that could be refurbished were given a new life in the community to help bridge the digital divide for many families. CACRC is the only non-profit Responsible Recycling Practices and Recycling Industry Operating Standard (R2 RIOS) certified recycler in the state and follows its recycled material to end of life, ensuring environmental protection while helping offer low cost refurbished material to low income families, schools, non-profits, veterans, seniors and when possible, the general public.

PSC Industrial Outsourcing - Norco: Norco
PSC ISO-14001 Certification Project
PSC Industrial Outsourcing-Norco is receiving the ***Environmental Leadership Program Achievement Award in Environmental Management Systems*** for the ISO-14001 Certification Project. PSC Norco is the first ISO-14001 accredited Environmental Management System (EMS) for industrial service, to properly manage risks and improve efficiencies supporting the main attribute of reducing hazardous wastes for client(s). Internally recognized as Fresh Start, the EMS has propelled upgrades which have led to increased eco-efficiencies by reducing natural gas consumption by 20 percent and operating at a 20 percent lower fuel rate. The secondary effect involves the reduction of hazardous waste through recovering oil for reuse and eliminating remaining hazardous constituents in the process. PSC hopes to duplicate the entire EMS and operation at the Norco Site in future contract work in order to gain ISO-14001 accreditation by 2018.

Port of New Orleans: New Orleans
Your Port: Keep It Clean Campaign
The Port of New Orleans (Port NOLA) is receiving the ***Environmental Leadership Program Achievement Award in Community Environmental Outreach*** for implementing the Your Port: Keep It Clean Campaign project. This project was a commitment to an inclusive and transparent stakeholder outreach and education process to address a common issue with innovative solutions: litter and debris in our waterways. Port NOLA developed a multi-media communications and awareness building campaign targeting Port employees, customers, and businesses; identified the need for a resource directory for cleanups and recycling needs across the community; and formed a new program to bring awareness to the community about water quality through public art with a purpose. “The campaign was a first ever effort by the Port to include and engage stakeholders from all sectors in environmental stewardship.” (Coastal Cargo, stakeholder)

Lafayette Consolidated Government & Bayou Vermilion District: Lafayette
Trash Trap Project
Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) & Bayou Vermilion District (BVD) are receiving the ***Environmental Leadership Program Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention*** for installing a litter trap in the channel referred to as “Coulee Mine Branch.” The Bandalong Trash Trap Project was a collaborative effort between LCG and BVD to remove debris from a tributary of the Vermilion River, to promote litter reduction, and to protect our waterways. The targeted channel travels through downtown Lafayette and University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s campus, as well as other commercial and residential areas. Before the trap was installed, a large amount of litter and vegetative debris would enter the Vermilion River, flow southward through Vermilion Parish, Vermilion Bay and eventually enter the Gulf of Mexico. Working together, LCG and BVD were able to collect 135 cubic yards of debris while expanding Public Education and Outreach strategies by encouraging citizens to keep our waterways clean.

Louisiana State University: Baton Rouge
Get Caught Green-Handed Project
Louisiana State University (LSU) is receiving the ***Environmental Leadership Program Recognition Award in Pollution Prevention*** for implementing an extensive marketing and educational campaign targeting game-goers at the LSU vs. Arkansas game. LSU Campus Sustainability Team participated in the GameDay Recycling Competition for the 2015 football season in an attempt to recycle as much game day waste as possible while educating the LSU community about recycling and furthering LSU’s commitment to sustainability and pollution prevention. LSU won first place in the nation and in the SEC in the GameDay challenge by recycling over 86,000 pounds of waste. Additionally, thousands of tailgaters received educational information on the benefits of recycling. The “Get Caught Green-Handed” campaign encouraged game attendees to upload a photo of themselves recycling on social media.

Advanced Specialized Carriers: Pineville
Pollution Prevention & Beneficial Reuse Project
Advanced Specialized Carriers (ASC) is being awarded the ***Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) Honorable Mention Award in Pollution Prevention*** for promoting the reduction of hazardous waste. Through its many cleanup activities, ASC recycled approximately 2 million gallons of hydrocarbon contaminated water and recycled 72,192 gallons of used oil. ASC has added 8 new ecofriendly trucks to its fleet, thereby promoting a cleaner, safer environment through the use of the cleaner burning engines. ASC also promotes fuel blending and waste to energy for all hazardous waste.

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Radiation and Emergency Response training conducted at DEQ headquarters

DEQ's Radiological Emergency Planning and Response section conducted a training session for the department's radiation, emergency response, and other interested employees at DEQ headquarters on Feb. 18.

DEQ Environmental Scientist Michael McMahon hosted the session

The session provided an overview of the positions, duties and responsibilities of the main participants in radiological emergency drills for the three nuclear stations that fall under DEQ's response purview: River Bend Station in St. Francisville, Waterford 3 near New Orleans and Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Port Gibson, Miss.

DEQ Environmental Scientist Michael McMahon hosted the session, a PowerPoint presentation that covered a list of the roles and how they interact with each other during radiation drills.

"There have been some new developments in the Radiological Emergency Planning (REP) procedures, along with changes in notification formats, new survey meter probes for field monitoring teams, and the introduction of new dosimetry devices for the next drill," McMahon said.

McMahon also provided a breakdown on the various roles associated with the drills and evaluated exercises. An updated list of the scheduled drills for 2016 and early 2017 for the three nuclear stations was presented to attendees, with a call out for volunteers. Many opt to rotate positions from drill to drill in order to understand the complete picture and get experience with working in the various capacities, such as field team technician, dose assessment coordinator, headquarters operations officer, accident assessment coordinator or public information officer.

DEQ participates in practice drills, dress rehearsals for evaluated (graded) drills and evaluated drills at each of the three facilities every quarter on a year-round basis. Evaluated drills are conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

DEQ employees interested in participating in these drills are encouraged to contact Brad Schexnayder, REP section supervisor, at Brad.Schexnayder@LA.gov.

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Nonpoint source staff present Best Management Practices workshop for Enviroschool

Greg Waldron discusses the definition of secondary contact recreation during the presentation.

DEQ's nonpoint source group undertakes a variety of outreach programs to inform the public on how human actions can directly impair our state's water bodies.

A component of their outreach is done through their participation in Enviroschool, DEQ's platform for educational outreach. Through Enviroschool, various topics are presented at seminars and workshops in a classroom format. Sessions are free and open to the public.

At a well-attended Enviroschool in March, attendees discussed nonpoint source pollution and best management practices..

Greg Waldron, Environmental Scientist in the nonpoint source group, began the presentation with an overview of the nonpoint source program, followed by definitions of terms and how best management practices can be implemented to control pollution.

Nonpoint source pollution is a form of water pollution that is generated during rainfall events. Section 319 of the Clean Water Act requires that states develop a nonpoint source management plan in order to control nonpoint source pollution from land uses that contribute to water quality problems.

In Louisiana, agriculture, forestry, urban runoff, home sewage systems, sand and gravel mining, construction and other things contribute to nonpoint source pollution. Restoring Louisiana's waterbodies for designated uses such as recreation and fishing is dependent on addressing nonpoint source pollution.

DEQ's Nonpoint Source Pollution Group oversees these efforts but they partner with others. The goal is to inform the public about nonpoint source pollution and the implementation of best management practices which reduce erosion and pollution.

Waldron touched on practices that reduce erosion and agricultural runoff. "A streamside management zone, or riparian buffer zone, is a strip of vegetation along a bank that slows down runoff before it enters the stream," Waldron said. "This farming practice reduces erosion while serving to absorb water and nutrients along the buffer zone."

After a short break, Karen Vidrine, environmental scientist senior, took over the second half of the presentation. She discussed the

Here's a list of some Best Management Practices you can undertake:

- Clean up pet and livestock waste
- Ensure septic tanks work properly
- Don't spray herbicide in open ditches
- Plant native vegetation that doesn't need mowing
- Install a rain barrel or prepare a rain garden – it saves rain for use on a sunny day
- Hydroseeding – the mix of seed, mulch and bonding agents will prevent erosion
- Build water bars – a mound of dirt build across a road protects it from erosion, sending water back to the forest
- Controlled burns reduce unwanted vegetation while improving natural seeding

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more technical aspects of the nonpoint source program. Vidrine covered the Clean Water Act of 1987, a rundown on the organization of the nonpoint source program, and an overview on the process of restoring impaired water bodies in the state. She also discussed assessment plans and gave a list of success stories where best management practices have made positive impacts. “A goal of the nonpoint source program is to achieve at least 3 success stories per year,” Vidrine noted.

For more information on nonpoint source program and pollution control practices, please visit: **http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/PROGRAMS/NonpointSourcePollutionControl.aspx.**

Boy Scouts fight litter and nonpoint source pollution in New Iberia

In keeping with the Boy Scout Oath to be helpful, Scout Troop 133 took to the streets of downtown New Iberia on a Saturday in February to take on litter and nonpoint source pollution with a storm drain protection project.

Cy Duhon places a warning marker near a storm drain in downtown New Iberia

With the assistance of adults and adult scout leaders, troop members installed 255 drain markers, which were furnished by Environmental Scientist Greg Waldron of DEQ’s nonpoint source pollution unit. “The Duhons contacted DEQ to request storm drain markers, which are discs that can be fastened to storm drains with a strong adhesive,” Waldron said. DEQ provided the markers to Wayne Duhon Sr. and his grandson Cy in support of Cy’s Eagle Scout community service project.

In order to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, scouts must meet certain merit badge, leadership, tenure and service project participation requirements, in addition to preparing, planning and executing their own service project that benefits their community in some way.

Cy Duhon, with Troop 133, planned his community service project around the promotion of New Iberia’s effort to support the Clean Water Act. This was done by alerting citizens to the hazards of chemicals and litter and their effect on our waterways and drinking water.

For his project, Duhon recruited a team that would canvass the downtown area in order to mark storm drains with warning discs informing citizens that debris entering the drains eventually flows out to waterways. The project got underway after approval was granted by the Troop 133 Committee, the mayor of New Iberia and DEQ.

To effectively canvass the area, the troop formed eight teams consisting of two to three scouts accompanied by an adult. The area of coverage extended from Bouligny Plaza, encompassing more than 200 storm drains along Center Street, Lewis Street, Main Street and Admiral Doyle Drive. The drains feed into Bayou Teche.

Once the troop was ready with the markers, storm drain locations were identified and teams were assigned to mark their respective drains across the downtown area. After using a steel brush to clear dirt and rocks from the drain, the teams applied commercial silicone to drain markers which were affixed onto cement near the drain openings.

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The markers serve to remind people not to throw anything down the drains, like oil, soap, crawfish water, pet waste or other pollutants. Water flows untreated through the storm drains, right into the bayous, rivers and lakes. They serve as visual warnings to the public about the consequences.

Projects like these actively engage the public and give citizens a better understanding of how our actions can affect our water. DEQ supports outreach endeavors that spread the word.

“DEQ is proud to support grassroots community endeavors such as these that ultimately benefit the environment,” Waldron said. “No project is too small, and everyone can make a difference in ensuring we all have cleaner air, soil and water.”

Adult Leader Justin Baudoin, left, and Boy Scout Logan Baudoin clear an area near a storm drain to apply applying a marker in New Iberia. The Baudoins were one of eight teams from the troop that applied markers in the city.

Examples of the types of markers placed on storm drains in the Bayou Teche area

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Who's Who At DEQ?

Tanya Byers – Environmental Scientist II – Public Participation and Permit Support Division

Tanya received a bachelor's degree in coastal environmental science from LSU in 2014. She was hired at DEQ in Dec. 2015 and is currently assisting in the submission of Hazardous Waste Annual Reports, Asbestos Management Plans and Solid Waste Notifications. Prior to working at DEQ, she gained experience as an undergraduate researcher observing the effects of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on local flora and fauna in southern Louisiana. After graduation, she worked for GCAL as a lab analyst in the GC/MS section. Tanya is originally from Walker, Louisiana, and enjoys working on mixed media art projects.

Ereene Barry – Environmental Project Specialist – Public Participation Group

Ereene began working at DEQ in Dec. 2015. She holds a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from LSU, where she also worked as an undergraduate research assistant at the LSU Aquaculture Research Station. She also worked at C-K Associates, where she was first a laboratory technician conducting Whole Effluent Toxicity testing for industrial clients, and later became an Environmental Specialist in the firm's Water Quality Team. Ereene currently lives in Baton Rouge mid-city with her husband, dog and two cats.

Tiffany Rushing - Environmental Scientist I - Assessment Division

Tiffany received her bachelor's degree in environmental health in 2015 from Texas Southern University. Previously working with the Environmental Health and Safety Division in Higher Education, she has recently found her home here at DEQ as an Environmental Scientist I in the Radiation section at the Southwest Regional office (SWRO). She would like to thank each and everyone for the warm welcome.

Tiffany dedicates her spare time to non-profit organizations and is a native of Houston, Texas.

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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Fourth Quarter Summaries

Fourth Quarter 2015 Enforcement Actions:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/EnforcementActions.aspx

Fourth Quarter 2015 Settlement Agreements:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/SettlementAgreements.aspx

Fourth Quarter 2015 Air Permits:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx

Fourth Quarter 2015 Water Permits:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx

Fourth Quarter 2015 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/divisions/wastepermits.aspx