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DEQ launches online permit application submission program

BATON ROUGE – Today, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality launched an internet application which allows oil and gas operators to submit their permit applications for specific water discharge permits online. The application is for the Oil and Gas Exploration, Development and Production Facilities inside the state, also known as an LAG330000. LAG330000 gives oil and gas facilities that are operating inland of the territorial seas on any waters of the state strict parameters for discharge of certain types of water. The web-based application process is for any oil and gas operators who require general permit authorization and allows them to bypass the initial paper submittal process.

This water discharge permit covers deck drainage, treated sanitary wastewater and other common discharges from oil and gas facilities into the waters of the state. The online application has undergone several months of testing to ensure all environmental regulations are met and that the environment and stakeholders will benefit.

By allowing operators to submit their data online, the process is expected to reduce DEQ's time and resources used during the paper submittal process by making it more efficient, while still being protective of human health and the environment. Upon submission of the necessary information, the applicant's data is automatically inserted into the permit database for review, thereby reducing some steps in the permit writer's initial permit setup procedures.

“This function will enable the public to initiate general permit applications in a more expeditious and comprehensive manner,” said Cheryl Nolan, DEQ Assistant Secretary. “As this program gets underway, we will evaluate its practical capabilities and hopefully explore an expansion of the online service across other types of permits, such as wastewater treatment, solid waste and air. By moving to an online application process, DEQ is becoming more efficient. Businesses that need the general permit can begin the application process electronically and the department can allocate its resources to better address the state's permitting needs.”

Prior to initiating the online application process, the applicant must apply for and receive an Agency Interest number if one has not been assigned to the facility. Instructions for obtaining an AI number and for registering and applying on line are provided at the URL shown at the end of this press release. Once an AI number has been assigned to the facility, the applicant may begin entering the required data online and bypass the paper submission process.

Currently, the online application submission program only applies to the LAG330000 General Permits.

Applicants may register online and obtain an AI Number at www.deq.louisiana.gov/onlinepermitapplications.