



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO

GOVERNOR

MIKE D. McDANIEL, Ph.D.

SECRETARY

For Immediate Release

Sept. 25, 2006

Contact: Rodney Mallett

Telephone: 225.219.3964

Lake Charles completes debris cleanup one year after Hurricane Rita strikes

BATON ROUGE – One year after Hurricane Rita devastated several south western Louisiana parishes, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality announced that more than 99 percent of all of the hurricane generated debris has been cleaned up.

DEQ, with the approval from local officials, established 186 debris management sites selected to handle staging, chipping, grinding, burning, and disposal of debris generated as a result of Hurricanes Rita. Through this collaboration, DEQ, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers have hauled and disposed of 8.4 million cubic yards of construction and demolition debris.

Hurricane Rita one year report:

- 1008 of 1009 structures have been demolished.
- 2,233,384 pounds of hazardous and non-hazardous debris has been properly disposed of
- 152,868 orphan containers (drums, cylinders, propane tanks, fuel tanks, etc.) have been properly disposed of
- 39,713 white goods (refrigerators/freezers, washers/dryers, stoves, AC units, etc.) have been recycled
- 3,164 electronic goods have been recycled
- 1,373 water samples were taken and 22,330 analyses performed
- 69 school assessments were completed

“It is very significant accomplishment that nearly 100 percent of the debris generated by Hurricane Rita has been cleaned up,” said DEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel. “State, local and federal agencies all shared a common purpose to clean up southwestern Louisiana in a safe, environmentally sound manner. This could not have been accomplished without the collaborative spirit of all parties involved.”