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DEQ announces improvement in Water Quality Certification approval rate

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality’s Water Permits Division has seen an improvement in the issuance of water quality certifications from 2009 to the present. Since 2009, the Water Permits Division has been responsible for issuing more than 370 Water Quality Certifications each year.

In 2009, the division issued 373 Water Quality Certifications. In 2010, that number increased to 451 certifications. The percentage of certifications administratively completed within the 30 day standard time frame has been at a rate of 100 percent since 2009. In addition, the average number of days for making the initial completeness determination has decreased from 27 days in 2009 to 14 days in 2011.

“The Water Permits Division increased the number of certifications processed by nearly 25 percent from 2009 to 2010,” said Mitch Mitchell, Administrator of DEQ’s Water Permits Division. “The percentage of certification requests researched, resolved and answered within the standard 90 day time period has remained at 100 percent over the past few years and the division is on track to excel in the area of water certification again in 2011.”

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