



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ will be conducting a water quality survey on the Pearl River near Bogalusa

BATON ROUGE - - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will be installing electronic monitoring equipment in conjunction with a water sampling survey on the Pearl River in Washington and St. Tammany Parishes. The equipment will be installed for a one week period during the time frame of July 30 through Aug. 17 when weather and stream conditions are suitable. The survey is being conducted to gather water quality information that will be used to protect the water body. The data gathered from the survey will be used to identify suspected pollutants in the water body that may cause or contribute to low oxygen levels in the water.

Citizens are asked not to tamper with the equipment that will be mounted on rebar, fence posts, white PVC poles or buoys. During the survey, a bright red, non-toxic dye will be injected into the water. Citizens who notice the red coloration of the water should not be alarmed. The water body will return to its normal state and color by the end of the day. The dye is used to determine flow and distribution patterns of the river. These patterns are used to establish sampling points for the survey and to aid in the development of a model. The Bogalusa Waste Water Treatment Facility as well as the International Paper Mill outfall will be sampled by LDEQ Personnel during the survey.

For further information about the survey, please contact Chuck Berger with LDEQ at (225) 219-3366 or visit the website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/130/Default.aspx>