



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### **Temple-Inland requests to restart, should begin on Monday**

BATON ROUGE –The Department of Environmental Quality approved Temple-Inland’s request for authorization to restart operations at the Bogalusa Mill and to implement its start-up plan. When the mill begins operations it will have to follow a thorough plan that includes additional monitoring and added safeguards to avoid a repeat of an unauthorized discharge that led to a fish kill on the Pearl River earlier this month.

The start-up process will take at least three days to reach full operation and production. The first treated wastewater discharge will be a little more than four days from the initial start up.

“The effort behind this start-up plan has been to ensure the protection of human health and the environment,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. “The safeguards put into this start-up plan and that are in the compliance order for this facility are examples of how industry and the environment can co-exist. DEQ staff worked with federal agencies, various state agencies from Louisiana and Mississippi and local agencies in both states to complete this comprehensive plan. We appreciate everyone’s efforts. ”

Temple-Inland is required to conduct rigorous internal sampling of its water treatment facility, of its discharge point, and at various locations both upstream and downstream within the Pearl River. The approval also requires Temple-Inland to continue the escalated monitoring for some parameters at its outfall and in the Pearl River until the Department determines this monitoring is no longer needed.

The approved plan requires Temple-Inland to meet additional requirements which include providing verbal and electronic notifications to various regulatory agencies and local officials, submit a schedule to conduct third-party audits of the facility and to submit a schedule for long-term construction activities that will occur at the facility. The company must also submit weekly progress reports on the status of the events associated with their operations.

Temple-Inland had a limited discharge on Friday to remove treated wastewater from a retention pond. DEQ scientists took more than 70 readings over the course of the discharge and none showed any detriment to the environment.

The compliance order and start-up plan are available at [www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov)