



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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Dr. Brown speaks at Leaders Against Litter event

Leaders Against Litter is Keep Louisiana Beautiful's annual signature event. KLB calls on elected officials, state leaders, business leaders and public servants to stand in unity for a litter-free Louisiana.

"It's a pleasure to have LDEQ sign on as Leaders Against Litter," LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said.

Brown pledged LDEQ's support against litter, singling out trash blowing out of the back of trucks and commercial vehicles as a major concern. He has asked other state agencies to step up watchdog efforts against litter. "I want the haulers, as they make their way to (and from) the landfills, to know they are actually being watched, and they should secure their loads. By law, there shouldn't be anything blowing out of the back of a truck."

Brown said landfill owners working with haulers to secure loads will help curtail litter along the highways. Brown sent a letter to landfill owners and met with many of them about litter control measures.

"Litter abatement, I firmly believe, is a learned behavior. When we start looking at our children, the majority of our children have never been in a car without a seat belt. And my child – who is 22 now, my baby – will never get in a car without (putting on) a seat belt. Of course she's never been in a car (that doesn't have) seat belts. It's the same approach we have to take in litter abatement and raising the awareness. We have to start with our young folks and continue to reinforce that concept," Brown said.

The video of Brown's speech can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1c06gmYHVQ>.



Dr. Brown provides remarks on litter abatement at the Leaders Against Litter event.



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Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

Most of you are aware that I travel around the state and speak to groups on a regular basis. I want to take my message to all parties interested in the environment: citizens, industry, environmental groups, government and more. This column is a forum to speak to one other group: you.

I want to remind everyone at LDEQ of our vision, mission and values. First of all, I expect continuous improvement from each of you. We have done great work in the past, but we can't rest on our laurels. Our real bosses – the people of Louisiana – deserve the best we can give, each time, every time.

My vision for LDEQ is for the agency to be “deemed an organization that provides environmental stewardship that exceeds expectations.” Our mission is “protecting human health and the environment.” And our core values are to:

- Make technically sound decisions rooted in science
- Conduct ourselves honestly and ethically
- Strive for continuous improvement
- Be accountable for our work
- Manage our resources effectively and efficiently to deliver value to the public
- Sustain our commitment to diversity

I challenge each of you to continue thinking outside the box. Devise ways to conduct your work more efficiently and effectively. We won't have to do more work to reach our goals, but we will have to do the best work we can.

Our goal is the same: to be an organization that goes above and beyond what is required. I want us to take pride in our work, embrace our vision and mission and adhere to our core values.

At the end of this month, I will lead my executive staff on a mini-retreat. We'll be discussing our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (a classic SWOT analysis). We will talk about our vision, mission and core values and how we can encourage new ideas that will keep us thinking “innovatively.” We will use the discussion to help plan a path forward, but your input is also a big part of that process. It will be an ongoing effort, and I invite all LDEQ personnel to share ideas that can improve our agency with their supervisor, manager, administrator or assistant secretary. We'll consider and incorporate some of the suggestions into our approach to our work. Remember, no one knows more about what you do than you do.

Thank you for all you do. Let's keep up the good work and strive to reach the next level. And let's stay safe as we go through each day.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown speaking at the Environmental Leadership Awards on March 22, 2017.



LDEQ presents 2017 Environmental Leadership Awards

LDEQ's Environmental Leadership Program began as a cooperative effort between LDEQ and companies and has been in existence since 1995. It promotes voluntary stewardship of the environment and encourages going beyond regulation to do so.

"The Environmental Leadership Program encourages voluntary actions to help improve the environment and the quality of life in Louisiana," LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said. "With local schools, governments and industries promoting innovative ways to reduce pollution, recycle and reuse resources beyond regulations, we get the best results and help educate the public about voluntary environmental protection."

LDEQ hosted the Environmental Leadership Awards at the LDEQ headquarters in the Galvez building in downtown Baton Rouge on March 22. LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Brown opened the event and recognized the ELP winners' environmental achievements. Members of ELP were commended for their voluntary pollution prevention efforts, community environmental outreach initiatives, and environmental ordinances that went above and beyond regulatory compliance to improve the environment.

ELP Awards were presented to large, medium and small businesses, municipalities and academia. Twenty-one new ELP members who joined in 2016-2017 were recognized. This year, LDEQ presented 17 awards in recognition of the following:

Pollutants reduced by the projects:

- 1,227,882 pounds (lbs) of pollutants including VOCs, NO_x, CO₂, CO, SO₂, PM, H₂S, spent catalyst, spent caustic, hazardous catalyst
- 21,000 gallons (gals) of wastewater

Pollutants reused:

- 8,760,000 gals Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) purified from landfill gas

Pollutants recycled:

- 18,853,832 lbs e-waste
- 2,558,179 gals oily water

Today, any company, federal entity, municipality, non-governmental organization, school or university committed to improving the quality of the state's environment is eligible to join the program. For more information about the ELP, please contact Linda Hardy at 225-219-3954 or visit the LDEQ website at www.deq.louisiana.gov/elp.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown presents an ELP School Achievement Award in Community Environmental Outreach to St. Margaret Catholic School from Lake Charles for its Pro Terra Nova For a Good Earth Project.



ELP AWARD WINNERS

Rubicon, LLC: Geismar, LA

Equipment Reliability Advances & Energy Savings Through Insulation Improvements Project

Rubicon was awarded the **Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) Large Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention** for the Insulations Improvements Project. Rubicon's Risk-based Mechanical Integrity (RBMi) Team focused on insulation installed on numerous process systems in a production facility to reduce heat transfer between the process and the environment, thus conserving energy. Water or moisture trapped under insulation and in direct contact with equipment results in corrosion under insulation (CUI). CUI can severely damage equipment and increase the risk of an environmental release from that damaged equipment. The RBMI and Maintenance teams utilized aerogel insulation to eliminate the risk of CUI and increases equipment reliability. With the installation of aerogel insulation, the number of equipment failures decreased by 35% and increased the reliability of process equipment requiring insulation.

Rubicon, LLC: Geismar, LA

Hydrochloric Acid Handling Improvements Project

Rubicon was awarded the **ELP Large Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention** for the hydrochloric acid project. Hydrochloric acid, generated as a by-product of the MDI process, is generally stored prior to use elsewhere onsite or for outside sales. Traditionally, the HCl for outside sales was transported via railcar or tank truck to customers. In an effort to reduce environmental risks and promote continuous improvement and sustainability, a project team developed a project to include a new transfer pipeline routed directly to the customer. Additional management practices have been implemented by production personnel to ensure safe operation of the pipeline that minimizes the potential for adverse impacts to the environment. In 2015, Rubicon exported approximately 3,000 tank trucks and 2,000 railcars of HCl compared to 640 tank trucks and 94 railcars of HCl in 2016 through November.

Alliance Compressors: Natchitoches, LA

Cardboard and Plastics Recycling Project

Alliance Compressors was awarded the **ELP Large Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention** for initiating a comprehensive plant-wide cardboard and plastic bag recycling program. During the busy season, approximately 7,000 compressors per day are made at this plant. The required parts, main bearings and scrolls, are shipped in large cardboard boxes or plastic crates. These boxes and crates are always lined with a large heavy plastic bag. Both the boxes and the plastic bags were recycled. Last year, the facility recycled 217,000 pounds of cardboard and 46,400 pounds of plastic bags.

Stuller, Inc.: Lafayette, LA

Lithium Ion Recycling Program

Stuller was awarded the **ELP Large Business Recognition Award in Pollution Prevention** for its lithium ion recycling program. Stuller is one of the largest jewelry manufacturing and distribution facilities in the United States, and an industry leader in the domestic and international wholesale jewelry sectors. Committed to promoting sustainability through recycling, the facility recycled 100% of out-of-date lithium ion batteries. Battery Recyclers of America manages the spent battery stream with EPA approved facilities all across the US. Stuller and Battery Recyclers of America teamed together to recycle 1.2 tons of lithium ion spent batteries and promote environmental sustainability.

Alon Refining Krotz Springs, Inc.: Krotz Springs, LA

Flare Gas Minimization Project

Alon Refining was awarded the **ELP Medium Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention** for the Flare gas minimization project. This project involved removing or minimizing streams flowing to the flares and installing H₂S removal systems on each flare. Alon operates two flares, one for the Crude Complex and one for the Fluid Catalytic Cracking Units Complex. All streams routed to the flares were identified for either removal or minimization. Flow and parameter monitoring systems existing on each flare were used to confirm reductions in emissions in VOC, PM, NO_x, and CO to the atmosphere. Installing the removal systems on each flare resulted in reductions in SO₂ and H₂S.

Alon Refining Krotz Springs, Inc.: Krotz Springs, LA

Propane (C3) Treater Catalyst Upgrade Project

Alon Refining was awarded the **ELP Medium Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention** for the catalyst upgrade project. Alon implemented the Propane (C₃) Treater Catalyst Upgrade Project in which a new layered absorbent-type catalyst was used in the place of historically used potassium hydroxide. The catalyst removes sulfur compounds from propane products. When spent, the catalyst becomes a hazardous spent caustic and must be removed and transported off-site for recycle or disposal. The new catalyst lasts much longer and is non-hazardous, resulting in a 90% reduction in spent catalyst and as a non-hazardous material, eliminates the need for transporting off-site for recycle or disposal. Management of the fresh and spent catalyst is much safer and environmentally friendly.

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Alon Refining Krotz Springs, Inc.: Krotz Springs, LA ***Mercox Spent Caustic Recycling Project***

Alon Refining was awarded the **ELP Medium Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention** for its recycling project. Mercox Caustic is used in the refinery for reducing sulfur compounds from gasoline blend stock. When spent, the caustic normally becomes a hazardous waste and must meet treatment and disposal standards. The recycling project identified a fresh caustic manufacturer capable of taking the spent caustic as feedstock to produce fresh caustic, in lieu of generating, transporting, and disposing of 290,000 pounds of hazardous waste. Resource recovery of the spent caustic ensures continued use of the material as opposed to destruction and/or disposal.

River Birch, LLC.: Avondale, LA ***Landfill Gas Collection & Purification***

River Birch was awarded the **ELP Small Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention** for its landfill gas collection and purification project. A significant component of River Birch's Pollution Prevention and Waste Reduction Program is the efficient collection of landfill gas. Most Subtitle D landfills collect landfill gases and destroy the methane, non-methane organic compounds and hydrogen sulfide using thermal destruction. River Birch initiated construction of a landfill gas purification plant and began processing landfill gas, separating the methane from the other gaseous constituents. A pure "renewable natural gas" (RNG) that meets or exceeds quality standards for commercial, industrial and residential use was produced. Currently, River Birch produces approximately 3,000 decatherms (MMBTU) per day of RNG, sending this gas to a commercial natural gas pipeline for use. This equates to approximately 24,000 gallons of gasoline per day or 8.76 million gallons of fuel per year. The processing of landfill gas to natural gas results in greenhouse emission reductions greater than 60%.

Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC): Baton Rouge, LA ***E-Recycling***

CACRC was awarded the **ELP Small Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention** for its recycling project. Working with 19 municipalities and businesses, CACRC was involved in community recycling events that diverted 81,994 pounds of electronic material from landfills. Computers, laptops, monitors, and other material that could be refurbished were given a new life in the community to help bridge the digital divide for many families. Additionally, CACRC recycled another 2,280,000 pounds by drop-offs and collections from around the state.

Advanced Specialized Carriers, LLC.: Pineville, LA ***Pollution Prevention & Beneficial Reuse Program***

Advanced Specialized Carriers (ASC) was awarded the **ELP Small Business Recognition Award in Pollution Prevention** for its pollution prevention & beneficial reuse program. ASC recycled oily water, soapy water, ink-wash water and used oil. ASC promoted fuel blending and waste-to-energy for all hazardous wastes. With the addition of six ecofriendly units to its fleet, ASC endeavors to be an efficient Emergency Response team, conscious of the environmental concerns when responding to events. ASC recycled 2,558,179 gallons of oily water, soapy water and ink-wash water. Approximately 23,100 gallons of used oil was recycled during the year.

St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District: Washington, LA ***Hazardous & Special Waste Program***

St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District was awarded the **ELP Municipality Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention** for their hazardous and special waste management program. St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District implemented an integrated approach to special waste (not covered in normal activities) and hazardous waste handling. Parish-wide locations are available for daily, continuous and convenient disposal of special wastes. A one-day event is held annually for disposal of these special wastes as well as hazardous material and paint. The event is a community-wide outreach event provided at no cost to residents with numerous entities participating each year. Over 226,000 pounds of special and hazardous waste was diverted to recycling outlets. Additionally, over 16,000,000 pounds of scrap metal, compost and wood waste were also recycled. The Parish-wide collection event resulted in 26,000 pounds of assorted special and hazardous waste materials being dropped off for disposal. These totals represent 1.6 pounds of special and hazardous waste from every resident in the parish at a cost of \$0.77 per household.

Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans: New Orleans, LA ***Growing Water Literacy***

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) was awarded the **ELP Municipality Achievement Award in Community Environmental Outreach** for their literacy program. SWBNO made a commitment to grow water literacy by developing a robust education and engagement program. The education program was to: 1) inform, educate and empower residents of New Orleans to be watershed stewards and 2) create opportunities and programs that encourage Board employees and City counterparts to share their knowledge, skills and abilities in water management with the community to grow water literacy and empower citizens while fostering trust. Education and outreach initiatives were designed for citizens of all ages and link purposefully with workforce development programs that support retention of a fully staffed, highly skilled workforce.

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Jefferson Parish Stormwater Task Force Coalition: Jefferson, LA **Stormwater Task Force Coalition**

The Jefferson Parish Stormwater Task Force Coalition was awarded the **ELP Municipality Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention** for its stormwater coalition project. Storm water pollution, from point sources and nonpoint sources is a challenging water quality problem for us all. Recognizing that education and outreach are key components to any successful storm water program, the Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs undertook a series of activities as part of their community outreach campaign to educate the school children, the general public, homeowners, construction site operators and lawn maintenance companies about water quality. Educational workshops targeted General Contractors, both commercial and residential, to increase awareness as to how their activities contribute to pollution entering Lake Pontchartrain and surrounding water bodies. The workshops also focus on opportunities to reduce pollution and lower the impacts of these activities.

City of Monroe: Monroe, LA **Fight the Blight Campaign**

The City of Monroe was awarded the **ELP Municipality Achievement Award in Environmental Ordinance Enhancement** for its “Fight the Blight” Campaign. The purpose of the “Fight the Blight” Campaign was to remove vacant and abandoned properties from the neighborhoods through a more effective, transparent process, embedded in community values and measurable. Existing ordinances were updated and modified for additional authority to help enforce and regulate the laws applicable to blighted properties and simplify the abatement process. Final adoption of the “Fight the Blight” laws revised the City of Monroe’s Environmental Court procedure by allowing the implementation of legislation for a code lien. These new laws held the property owners more accountable for their blighted, vacant and abandoned properties. Compliance increased while environmental court dockets decreased, property owner demolitions increased, revitalization of condemned structures increased, and more remodeling permits were issued as opposed to demolition permits.

Baton Rouge Community College: Baton Rouge, LA **Water Resources Awareness**

Baton Rouge Community College was awarded the **ELP University Achievement Award in Community Environmental Outreach** for its awareness campaign. The Water Resources Awareness Campaign was a multi-activity approach taken by faculty of the STEM Division, Green Bears Club, and Human Rights Initiative. The goal of the three activities was to engage BRCC students, faculty, staff and the local community in environmental issues. Two Karen Stephens Science Lectures were held along with the biannual Geaux Green Day the week before Earth Day. An e-waste recycling event was held in conjunction with the Geaux Green Day activity. These events provided a variety of educational opportunities where the community had access to information on the importance of water as a resource, and green and sustainable practices that allow for the protection of water. These outreach efforts were designed to stimulate a change in attitudes and behaviors of the BRCC community.

Louisiana State University: Baton Rouge, LA **Refills Not Landfills**

Louisiana State University (LSU) was awarded the **ELP University Recognition Award in Pollution Prevention** for its Refills Not Landfills Project. This project was initiated to educate students about the waste management hierarchy. The goal was to reduce bottled water and coffee cups waste at LSU by giving away stainless steel reusable bottles to students, which could be used instead of plastic bottles and paper coffee cups (usually made of paper fiber and low-density polyethylene plastic). Three new bottle refill stations (for a total of 14 stations) were installed to provide access to clean, filtered water and to further promote the use of reusable bottles on campus. The refill stations are “smart” stations that automatically calculate how many refills have occurred at each station, which is tracked. Campus Sustainability partnered with LSU Design, Planning & Construction to create a design guideline that requires at least one bottle refill station be added during new construction or major renovations in campus buildings, further reducing the amount of paper and plastic that would be sent to landfills.

St. Margaret Catholic School: Lake Charles, LA **Pro Terra Nova For a Good Earth**

St. Margaret Catholic School was awarded the **ELP School Achievement Award in Community Environmental Outreach** for its Pro Terra Nova For a Good Earth Project. The mission of this community environmental outreach effort was to help educate the school, community and families on the effects and affects we have on our Earth. The projects consisted of working the Citgo eCycle day, beach grass planting, St. Margaret Catholic Church CalcaChew food festival and PTC meetings to promote recycling, Caraway’s Pharmacy tree decoration, TerraCycle, Funding Factory, and a summer Energy Camp. Specifically, recycling flyers were distributed in the newsletter, at community events, open house, and PTC. Data regarding the weekly recycling collections and eCycle collections were recorded. Additionally, TerraCycle and Funding Factory sites were monitored for items for packaging and shipping. As a result of these activities, students learned about solid waste and its relationship to natural resources and energy, including recycling, landfilling, and environmental impact.



Transparency important component in speeches



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown fields a question at the Louisiana Conference on Water Supply, Sewerage and Industrial Wastes.

There's no special password required to access LDEQ, no privilege needed to get help there. LDEQ is an agency that works for the people of Louisiana, agency Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown told members of the Louisiana Solid Waste Association. The group was gathered in Lafayette March 16 for its annual conference, and Brown was the opening speaker.

"Our door is always going to be open," Brown said. "We are going to be transparent. We will seek first to understand, and we will engage the public."

"We want to be seen as responsible stewards of the environment who go above and beyond," the secretary said. Brown has honored his commitment to openness and transparency by appearing at numerous public events, speaking at conferences and forums and taking questions from the public each time. He was a participant at a Lake Charles forum with DOTD Secretary Shawn Wilson the same day he spoke to the solid waste group in Lafayette. And on March 21, Brown spoke at the Louisiana Conference on Water Supply, Sewerage and Industrial Wastes in Baton Rouge.

Brown told the solid waste conference attendees that landfills often have odor issues, and that LDEQ is working on ways to avoid those issues. "We want you to use cover or alternative cover, increase the frequency of applying the cover and reuse collected gases," he said. "We all have a responsibility. That responsibility is to make sure their (nearby neighbors') quality of life is not impeded by what we do."

Despite some budget uncertainties in both Washington D.C. and Baton Rouge, LDEQ is committed to enforcing environmental regulations. Compliance is the agency's goal, Brown said. Compliance is the key to a cleaner environment, and a cleaner environment means a better life.

"No one in here wants to breathe less clean air, drink less clean water or catch fish contaminated with mercury," Brown said.

At the Lake Charles forum, Brown spoke about LDEQ's role in helping speed the proposed construction of the new Interstate 10 bridge. "From an environmental standpoint, LDEQ will not do anything to hold up construction of a new bridge," he said. A liquid plume of the chemical ethylene dichloride from a pipeline spill has led to discussions about how that plume might affect construction of a new bridge. The chemical is in the ground below the present bridge.

"We have a very good idea of where it is, what it is. We know how to keep it from moving. We are going to continue to recover product as long as it is there," Brown said.

Brown told attendees at the Louisiana Conference on Water Supply, Sewerage and Industrial Wastes that he will run a fair and impartial agency. When it comes to permits, "even if I have to tell you 'no,' I am going to give you an opportunity to make your case."

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But the secretary warned that he has no patience for unnecessary delays in enforcement actions. “If you are in a settlement negotiation with us, we are going to look to close that out in short order.”

In all his speeches, Brown stressed that the agency is working to improve through training, self-analysis and putting our knowledge to use. “All our decisions will be rooted in science,” he said. LDEQ faces big challenges, he said, but it has resources to draw on, the biggest of which is the professionalism of its employees who share common goals.

“To be an environmental steward that goes above and beyond and to always do what’s right for Louisiana.”

Watershed Improvement Projects underway in Grant and Vermilion Parishes

During mid-March, inspectors from LDEQ’s Acadiana Regional Office began a watershed improvement project in the Bayou Tigre Watershed in eastern Vermilion Parish.

Bayou Tigre, which drains to Bayou Carlin and includes the town of Erath, along with parts of Delcambre and Abbeville, has been listed as having a variety of impairments. Carbofuran, nitrate, nitrite, dissolved oxygen, total phosphorus, turbidity and fecal coliform are a few of the impairments that have been discovered over the course of previous inspections.

Suspected sources of those impairments include agricultural runoff, untreated or improperly treated point source discharges from several locations and poorly operating sewage treatment systems (such as septic systems). Wastewater discharge points that are not on a municipal system, yet feed into those watersheds, are inspected by LDEQ. This ensures that any business, facility or residential community discharging into the watershed does so in compliance with state regulations.



Environmental Scientists Isaac Wiggins (l) and Shane Miller inspect a wastewater treatment site that services a residential trailer park in Vermilion Parish.

According to a recent impaired waters list issued by the EPA, the Bayou Tigre subsegment is listed as not supporting its designated uses (i.e., recreational activities such as fishing and swimming, as well as fish and wildlife propagation). While a number of natural and man-made factors can point to the causes for the impairment, LDEQ’s watershed monitoring strategy is designed to pinpointing those factors and take action to stop those impairments.

“We start by identifying all unpermitted sources or facilities that are contributing pollutants to the waters of the state with the goal of halting those impairments in order to bring it back to its designated use,” LDEQ Environmental Scientist Staff Shane Miller said. After verification that the sites have a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit, those that do not will be listed as priorities for a compliance visit. Permitted discharges will also be checked to ensure compliance, and any unpermitted discharging source in the watershed will need to apply for a permit within 30 days.

“Any site that discharges to the waters of the state must have a discharge permit which outlines the accepted constituents of their discharge, along with regulatory responsibilities of maintaining their wastewater treatment system,” LDEQ Environmental Scientist Isaac Wiggins said.

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LDEQ Environmental Scientist Isaac Wiggins photographs and documents a water discharge point at a business in Vermilion Parish.

Upon arrival at a site, the inspector will take a look at the site's wastewater treatment facility and any discharge points, noting any discoloration, odors, solids or other indicators of an improperly operating system. The inspector will then speak with a site representative on the status of the treatment system and the permit requirements.

Often a site representative may not be aware of permit requirements, and/or the site may employ a third party wastewater treatment contractor who oversees that function. Regardless, the site must hold an LPDES permit and keep accurate discharge monitoring records, so the LDEQ inspector will inform the site representative of those requirements and prepare a Field Interview Form which documents the findings of the visit. A copy will be provided to the site representative.

A Notice of Deficiency will also be issued if the site is operating without the required permit. In order to get into compliance, the site will have to submit a Notice of Intent to LDEQ within 30 days, which will outline the site's approach to get into compliance. Upon receipt and review by LDEQ, a follow up visit may occur, and a Deficiency Clear Letter will be submitted if the site is found to be in compliance.

By March 17, all areas of Bayou Tigre are expected to be inspected, with all locations of concern being identified on a master map. Similar watershed surveys are also scheduled for Fish Creek and Iatt Lake in Grant Parish, as each parish's watersheds in the state are frequently reviewed and inspected by that parish's respective LDEQ regional office.

Once the current Vermilion and Grant project is complete, a report will be prepared and any non-compliant locations will be sent to LDEQ's Enforcement Division for potential issuance of a compliance order or other enforcement action.



Isaac Wiggins (l) completes a Notice of Deficiency for a site operating without a wastewater discharge permit, while Shane Miller prepares a Field Interview Form documenting the inspection.



Open Burning of household hazardous material is against the law



LDEQ Environmental Scientist Staff Jeff Dauzat narrates the video on open burning.

In conjunction with a recent press release issued by LDEQ on open burning, the department's communications team filmed a video this month. The video focuses on environmental concerns regarding open burning of household trash and vegetative debris. Jeff Dauzat, an Environmental Scientist Staff based in LDEQ's Southeast Regional Office in New Orleans, narrates the video.

"It's important to know that household wastes contain many dangerous constituents that when burned, can be harmful to you, your children, your neighbors, your pets and livestock – not to mention your air, your soil and your water," Dauzat said.

The first consideration before lighting trash on fire should be the health of children, neighbors and yourself. Toxic substances are released into the air, water and soil when waste tires, household chemicals, oil, paint cans, plastics and other non-organic wastes are burned. In addition, the individual lighting the fire can be held liable in the event an open burn negatively impacts the enjoyment of their

neighbor's property and/or their health. It is important to always consider the potential legal consequences that may result in a decision to open burn.

Many incidents involving the open burning of household trash and waste occur when someone acts on habit, misinformation or a misunderstanding of the open burn regulations. Open burning has been done by generations. Many think it's an acceptable practice. Such actions show no concern for health and environmental consequences.

After LDEQ posted a press release outlining the environmental hazards and legal ramifications associated with open burning, some social media comments were skeptical.

A few cited a belief in freedom to light trash on private property as justification for open burning. Many people do not realize that, whether burning on private or public property, it affects neighbors and is illegal in Louisiana.

The reason behind the Open Burning Regulation is to protect the health and safety of our citizens and our environment.

If you see an open burn, please contact LDEQ's SPOC line, toll free at 1-888-763-5424, or complete an incident report form online at LDEQ's website: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/apps/forms/irf/forms/>. Please provide as much detailed information as possible in order to better assist inspectors when they conduct a site visit and investigate the matter.

Burning garbage and household waste is illegal and can result in fines, probation or even jail time, so it's important to tell your neighbors about the dangers of an open burn and to be an active watchdog for health and environment.

This video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yunEs3aYGY&t=96s>.



Facility inspections a key part of LDEQ's environmental protection oversight

A major part of LDEQ's mission is to ensure that all permitted facilities that handle the storage, transfer and/or processing of oil and gas are conducting their operations in accordance with environmental regulations including any specific guidelines required in their respective permits. That means keeping accurate records, reporting any service or maintenance changes or problems, and submitting reports to LDEQ on a timely basis.

In February, Environmental Scientists Aldo Guerrero and Bridget Rogers visited two crude oil tank storage facilities in St. James Parish.

Beginning with a document review in EDMS (the Electronic Data Management System – where public records on a site are housed) and a look at the previous inspection report and applicable permit requirements, the duo visited both locations unannounced. Such visits are conducted by LDEQ to ensure facilities are in regulatory compliance as well as fostering communication between the department and the regulated community.

A list from EPA is published each year delineating the facilities to be inspected, which means that every facility in Louisiana can expect to be inspected at least once every two years.



Environmental Scientists Aldo Guerrero (l) and Bridget Rogers review documentation and meet with representatives from a tank facility in St. James Parish.



Aldo Guerrero (l) and Bridget Rogers review a facility's 2015 and 2016 crude oil tank inspection reports to verify that the recordkeeping is accurate, complete and documented in accordance with the regulations.

Upon arrival at the facility, a security check-in and brief instructional video with a passing grade on a safety test may be required before an inspector or guest may enter the grounds. Upon successful completion, a hard-hat sticker and card is provided to the guest, and they may proceed.

The inspector then meets with site representatives in an office and begins the on-site file review. Often, ownership of a facility may change, so that facility's location along a busy industrial corridor may actually be of a parent or affiliated company and not the site location that's to be inspected. So, it's imperative that the documentation reflect current contact information. "During the file review process, we verify the facility name and physical street address before going out into the field. When on-site, we also make sure to update the facility's mailing address and accurately record the current representatives and phone numbers," said Rogers.

Next, the inspectors will look at self-reporting documentation from the facility, to ensure they're performing due diligence under the

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Rogers (r) and Guerrero (middle) meet with a facility representative to conduct a walking tour of the sump units, engines and product tanks to identify any safety or functional areas of concern.

Code of Federal Regulations' Part 70 (Title V) and Part 60 (New Source Performance Standards – NSPS). The regulations require inspections to ensure that the tank roofs – both the internal and external floating roofs – and their seals are structurally sound. Facilities are to note any missing parts, abrasions, rips or other functional defects in the primary and secondary seals that would allow vapors to escape into the atmosphere.

Seal gap measurement records, marine loading reports and emissions reports are also reviewed, as well as reports for any tanks that underwent an initial fill of product.

Tanks that have been placed out of service are also to be identified in the records, as well as deviation summary reports that show any changes in a tank's operational scope. The LDEQ inspector will also review reports that depict the duration of storage of product in each tank, plus any product changes that might apply to a specific tank, i.e., if crude oil was removed and replaced with a petroleum mixture. This is to ensure that accurate records are being maintained in compliance with the federal regulations.

In addition to tanks, it is also required that facilities visually inspect and keep detailed reports on any engines and any associated structures that are involved in their operational processes.

“We also look closely at any previous corrective actions to see if they were addressed and/or rectified by the facility,” Guerrero said. “I typically make a list and go through all of the tank inspections, from the last inspection to present, to ensure that there are no lapses in reporting by the facility.”

The inspector's visit typically ends with a tour of the facility to look at the tanks and operational components in order to ask questions and observe any issues that may be of concern.

A summary of the inspection, along with any areas of concern, will be written in the inspector's Field Interview Form, which is read and signed by the facility representative before the inspection concludes. If a certain area of concern is deemed to be an ongoing problem that has not been adequately addressed over a reasonable amount of time, a written warning or notification may be issued to the facility representative in order to rectify the issue.

“Identifying any potential or realized safety or environmental hazard is an important part of our mission to protect public health and the environment,” Guerrero said. “The goal is to ensure every facility is on the same level playing field and operating in keeping with the regulations.”



Drinking Water Protection Team reaches milestone in protection efforts

DEQ's Drinking Water Protection Team reached a milestone recently. As part of their protection efforts, the team introduces a model ordinance to local governing bodies that have public water wells within their jurisdiction.

This past fall they reached 100 ordinances passed by both parish and municipal governments.

Once the ordinance is passed, the listed businesses cannot be located within 1,000 feet of a public water supply.

"The ordinance is designed to keep any new potential sources of contamination from locating near one of these wells. This will drastically curtail the introduction of chemicals near those public water wells," LDEQ Geologist Jesse Means said. The ordinance also contains a grandfather clause which allows existing facilities to continue operating, including guidance on enforcement of the ordinance and penalties for noncompliance.

In Louisiana, the only regulation that specifies setbacks from public water wells is the State Sanitary Code, which addresses sewage treatment systems and landfills. "By passage of this ordinance, local governments are taking a big step toward protection of their water supply and giving themselves a say as to what can and cannot be put next to their water wells," Means said.



LDEQ Geologist Jesse Means verifies GPS coordinates and location information for a drinking water well in St. Tammany Parish.



Jesse Means presents the groundwater protection ordinance to the Caldwell Parish Police Jury.



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LDEQ On The Move



India Ambeau, LDEQ environmental Scientist, demonstrates Enviroscape and kitchen chemistry to Girl Scouts at the STEM event held at River Parishes Community College. She and Marissa Jimenez also gave the scouts information on job opportunities and degree requirements.



(L to R) LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, Environmental Scientists Indian Ambeau, Jeff Jackson and Marissa Jimenez help participants at the LDEQ booth at the Louisiana Solid Waste Conference at the Cajun Dome in Lafayette.



LDEQ fundraisers for the American Heart Association are ongoing. On Tuesdays, LDEQ sells healthy snacks and sells raffle tickets on office baskets and Thursday is Popcorn Thursdays and employees can get popcorn, drinks and raffle tickets.



Mary Gentry and Shanna Mason, LDEQ geologists represent LDEQ at the Louisiana Conference on Water Supply, Sewerage and Industrial Waste held at the Crown Plaza in Baton Rouge.



Who's Who At LDEQ?



Kimberly Corts – Manager, General and Municipal Water permits section, Office of Environmental Assessment

Corts received a Bachelor of Science in zoology from LSU and while working at LDEQ, completed graduate courses in environmental toxicology. She has many years of experience in water quality regulations and water permitting, previously serving as supervisor over the water quality standards and assessment group, then as the supervisor over the general water permits, storm water and biomonitoring group. She was recently promoted to Manager of the General and Municipal Water permits section.

Prior to starting work at LDEQ in 1999, she also worked as a sanitarian in St. Tammany Parish. In her spare time, Kim enjoys exercising, traveling with her husband, reading, practicing photography and playing with her three rescue dogs.

Kelli Hamilton – Supervisor, Industrial Water Permits group, Office of Environmental Assessment

Hamilton, a native of Baton Rouge, has a Bachelor of Science in microbiology from LSU. She has been with the Water Permits Division at LDEQ since 1994, and was recently promoted to Supervisor of the Industrial Water Permits group.



Melissa Reboul – Supervisor, Water Permits Division, Office of Environmental Assessment

Reboul, a native of Baton Rouge, has a bachelor's degree in zoology, with a concentration in marine zoology and a master's degree in environmental planning and management from LSU. Reboul started working for LDEQ in 2001 in the Water Permits Division and was recently promoted to Supervisor of the General Water Permits Section.



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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Fourth Quarter Summaries

Fourth Quarter 2016 Enforcement Actions:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/EnforcementActions.aspx>

Fourth Quarter 2016 Settlement Agreements:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/SettlementAgreements.aspx>

Fourth Quarter 2016 Air Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx>

Fourth Quarter 2016 Water Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx>

Fourth Quarter 2016 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/divisions/wastepermits.aspx>

