DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

June 2017 Issue Number: 65

What's Inside?

RELINKING DEQ WEBSITE

We recently updated the DEQ website. If you have a link to our website on your website, please make sure that it is an updated link to our new website, www.deq.louisiana.gov.

CONNECT WITH DEQ

If you would like to subscribe to Discover DEQ, send an email to sectcommunications@mail.la.gov

LDEQ Parish Resource Book available online

Every year the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality updates the Parish Resource Book for use around the state. This book contains resource documents to assist the Parish Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) Coordinators/Directors, city and/or state government officials and the public before, during and after an event such as a hurricane, flooding a or any other natural or catastrophic disaster.

Each year prior to June 1 our department tries to ensure that all Parish OHSEPs have access to all updated documents that are related to the Parish Resource Book. (Hurricane season generally runs from June through November, but the information in this book can be used for weather-related events outside of hurricane season).

Please see a list of documents below that are available to view and print.

Emergency Contact Information

- LDEQ Parish Liaisons
- LDEQ Parish Liaison Call Sheet
- Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Contacts
- LDEQ Meeting Sign-In Sheet (Visitors Log)

Debris Site List

- Currently Approved Emergency Debris Site List

Emergency Debris Site Request Form

- Emergency Debris Site Request Form (pdf) Emergency Debris Request Form (docx - Word ©)

Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management

- Comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management

Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order

- Blank Example (General) / Example (Tropical Storm Isaac)

Short -Term and Emergency Discharge General Permits Application, Contacts, etc.

- Short Term/Emergency Discharge General Permit Instructions and Application (pdf) / (docx - Word ©)
- Short Term/Emergency General LPDES Permit (LAG420000)
- Short Term/Emergency Discharge Contacts, FAQs and Applicability

Effective Sanitary Permits and Authorizations (pdf)

- Effective Sanitary Permits and Authorizations (pdf) (For the most updated list - unformatted Excel ©

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
June 2017 Issue Number: 65

Other Resources

- Re-Entry Fact Sheet (Returning Home after a Storm or a Natural Disaster)
- LDEQ Regional Office Information (Including Office Location Map)
- Solid Waste Permits/Debris Contact Information
- Water Permits Contacts
- Air Permitting Contacts, variance application information and instructions

The Parish Resource Book can be accessed on the LDEQ website at **http://deq.louisiana.gov/PAGE/PARISH-RESOURCE-BOOK**.

Debris caused by storm damage needs to be sorted

Hurricane season is beginning in Louisiana, and in the last few years Louisiana has had its share of other disasters. When one occurs that leaves damage and requires cleanup, it is important to know what to do.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality encourages residents in areas affected by storms to collect trash and debris, sort it and place it curbside for proper disposal. Household chemicals can become hazardous in storm-damaged homes.

Examples of materials that may need special disposal or recycling include electronics, batteries, computer hardware, paint, cleaning products, solvents and lawn and garden products. Materials should be sorted curbside to help expedite cleanup efforts.

Segregate all wastes generated into five categories:

- Vegetative yard waste (tree limbs, leaves, etc.)
- Household chemicals, paint, herbicides, pesticides, caustic and flammable liquids (keep these items separated and in their original containers)
- White goods (refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves and similar appliances)
- Electronic appliances (computers, laptops, televisions, stereos, etc.)
- All other solid, nonhazardous wastes/debris (building materials, furniture, etc.)

When placing these wastes at curbside for pickup, keep each group separated from the other. Where possible, residents should mark containers clearly before placing them out for disposal. Ensure that food is removed from freezers and refrigerators before placing them curbside.

Sorting your waste before it is picked up makes the process smoother and more efficient.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
June 2017 Issue Number: 65

Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

It's only June, but we have already had our first tropical weather event of the season. Tropical Storm Cindy was a reminder that not all weather events begin with a system that forms in the Atlantic and makes its way slowly toward the Gulf of Mexico. Sometimes a system can literally pop up suddenly, and we have to be ready to respond quickly if that happens.

LDEQ staff, including me, visited with citizens at a private home in St. Rose to hear their concerns about odors from a nearby facility.

I hope everyone got through the storm with little or no impact. You need to Get a Game Plan to be ready for storms as Gov. John Bel Edwards advised. That means a detailed plan of action for your home and family. Have a plan to protect your valuable documents. Have an evacuation plan. Have an emergency kit. Make sure everyone knows what to do if the electricity goes off. Have backups, battery powered radio and food supplies that will keep without refrigeration. Stay informed. Have an agreed upon evacuation trigger and share evacuation routes and destinations.

If you have a generator, know how to use it. Train your family to use the generator safely. If you don't have a generator, be prepared to survive several days without electricity. Have a list of contact numbers available. Make sure you have extra batteries for flashlights and electronic equipment. Before the storm hits, fill the gas tank on your vehicle. Charge your cell phones and laptop computer batteries. Make sure you have all prescription medications you need for several days. If you have a health need that requires electricity, consider evacuating to a more secure site further inland. This is just common sense stuff, but it can save your life. Don't wait until the next weather event to get this done. Visit the website **www.getagameplan.org** for some good tips on how and what you should be doing to prepare for hazardous weather events.

I recently conducted two outreach visits; one in St. Gabriel and one in St. Rose. Citizens in both of these communities have had issues and concerns with nearby facilities. I want citizens who have environmental concerns to always know that LDEQ will listen to them and act on their issues. I want to hear directly from the people in the community. I want the first-hand information.

In the same vein, our emergency responder's first responsibility is to assess and neutralize a specific situation. They normally can't respond to onsite questions. They can, however, forward citizen questions up the chain of command to me. The best way for citizens to get answers is to talk to local officials and have them contact me. I will make every effort to meet with interested groups, and I will answer questions.

Speaking of responders, I want to commend the work our personnel did during Tropical Storm Cindy. As I said, it's early in the season, but our staff was up to the job with their storm response efforts. That's a testament to good training and good people. Thanks to you all. Keep up the good work and stay safe out there.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
June 2017 Issue Number: 65

National Lakes Assessment being conducted in Louisiana

Every five years, EPA conducts its National Lakes Assessment. The effort looks at more than 900 lakes, ponds and reservoirs in the lower 48 states, sampling to assess ecological, water quality and recreational indicators. By doing a hands-on assessment, EPA can assess how widespread key stressors (such as nitrogen, phosphorus, acidification and others) are across the country.

Local agencies provide the manpower to go out and collect the samples and measurements. That's how Karen Latuso wound up thigh-deep in the water at City Park Lake in Baton Rouge on June 8. The urban reservoir is one of fourteen Louisiana lakes chosen at random to be sampled for the EPA assessment.

"I think one of the most interesting things about it (the survey work) is the fish eDNA collection method," Latuso said. "It is less destructive than other methods. You're not taking fish out of the water. You're just taking water," Latuso said. Fish chromosomes are extracted from the water in a laboratory, she said. "It's interesting to be part of a study that is using new methods."

LDEQ Environmental Scientist Karen Latuso collects samples of benthic macroinvertebrates (small animals such as insects and snails that are a source of food for fish and birds) at City Park Lake in Baton Rouge.

Latuso's dip net will get a workout as the survey effort moves on to other lakes. Samples go to designated labs and resulting data are be analyzed by EPA. The survey results will be reported in 2020. In addition to benthic macroinvertibrates, the field teams collect information and samples on:

- Temperature, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, chlorophyll a, water clarity, turbidity and color
- Condition of habitat along the shoreline, including any invasive species of plants
- Zooplankton and phytoplankton – microscopic animals and plants in the water that are an important part of the food chain
- Microcystin – a common type of algal toxin, often associated with algal blooms in lakes
- Bacteria – indicators of fecal contamination from animals or humans
- Pesticide Screen – occurrence and concentration of atrazine in water samples
- Sediment chemistry – collected by taking sediment cores from the bottom of the lake

LDEQ Water Permits Manager Dr. Amanda Vincent, said field work in Louisiana will be completed this October. EPA is paying for the project. "They have 'x' amount of dollars per site," Vincent said. "Our work is funded by EPA for this."

Each lake that is sampled must be at least 2.5 acres in area and be at least one meter deep. Lakes to be sampled are chosen from among those that meet this target criteria. Vincent said the 13 other lakes that will be sampled are Lake Concordia in Concordia Parish, Cotile Lake in Rapides Parish, Grand Lake in Cameron Parish, Crooked Creek Reservoir in Evangeline Parish, Horseshoe Lake in Morehouse Parish, Shadow Lake in Caddo Parish, Laura Lake in Tangipahoa Parish, Bogue Chitto Canoe Lake in Washington Parish, Welch Lake in Rapides Parish, Big Lake in Catahoula Parish, Stafford Lake in East Feliciana Parish, Long Lake in Caddo Parish and Black Bayou Lake in Ouachita Parish.

For Latuso, it's a chance to get out into nature, add to the store of scientific knowledge and benefit personally too. "We are getting to learn a lot of new methods – new to me anyway."

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
June 2017 Issue Number: 65

Inspecting Wastewater Treatment Plants a key part of LDEQ's mission

One of the primary roles within LDEQ's Surveillance Division is to ensure that the state's wastewater treatment plants are in proper working order. These plants are the backbone of the immediate solid waste treatment process in regard to residential and commercial sewage treatment.

Prior to visiting the treatment plant, the inspector does some homework by reviewing the discharge monitoring reports and the site history in LDEQ's Electronic Data Management System (EDMS). EDMS includes all documentation pertaining to a site – and it's part of the public record. The review provides a picture of the site's operational history, with any excursions or problems. That review makes the inspector aware of any concerns before conducting the visit.

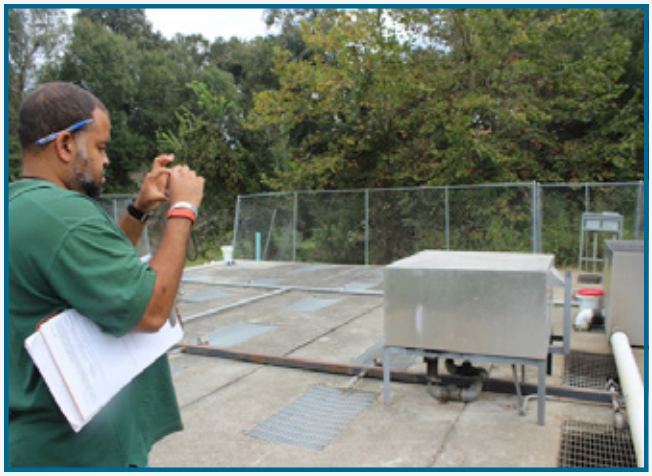
During the inspection, the plant conditions are examined for proper operation, as well as overall safety and cleanliness around the site (ie., tall grass, debris, broken fencing, etc.). The receiving stream will also be checked to ensure it's free of sludge, oil, solids or any obstruction or issue that may cause a problem.

The inspector walks around the site and looks at the equipment to ensure that the system is operating with proper aeration, is using a chlorination source – such as chlorination tablets – and that those tablets are new. Odor is always a red flag, and a properly functioning wastewater treatment plant is devoid of odors or has very little odors emanating. The first sign of an improperly chlorinated system is the smell of raw sewage.

"One area of importance is to take a look at the lift station to see that the electrical components are in good working order and that there is no grease or sludge in the intake chamber," said Sean Darensbourg, LDEQ environmental scientist. "Often, a problem in a wastewater treatment plant has to do with outdated or improperly functioning operations."

Adequate fencing around the treatment plant is necessary and is a requirement set and enforced by the Louisiana Department of Health, so any breach or lack of fencing will be noted on the LDEQ inspector's Field Interview Form.

Typically at the end of the site visit, the inspector speaks with the site's owner or operator, and looks at the plant's service records and any work orders that need to be submitted. Any areas of concern are addressed on the Field Interview Form, which are inserted into the public record at the end of the inspection. Before leaving the site, the inspector provides a copy to the site owner or operator. Guidance from LDEQ is provided to the operator of the site in order to make the necessary corrections that are needed to keep the unit functioning properly. LDEQ's inspector then schedules a follow up review with the site operator to ensure that any corrections were addressed.



LDEQ Environmental Scientist Sean Darensbourg documents the current site conditions at a wastewater treatment plant in Ascension Parish.

Sean Darensbourg observes the outfall from a discharge pipe adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant. Obstructions in the pipe, proper flow, color and consistency of the receiving stream and the presence of any odors will be noted in the Field Interview Form.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
June 2017 Issue Number: 65

LDEQ participates in Superfund site community meeting hosted by EPA

Ursula Lennox with EPA addresses the public at a superfund site availability session in Washington Parish.

Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, their remediation contractor and LDEQ participated in a community outreach meeting, June 6, announcing the first phase of a creosote cleanup project in Washington Parish.

The site is the former location of a wood treating business that operated from 1911 to 1953. Creosote was used to treat weatherproof wood (predominantly railroad ties) to prevent rot and degradation.

Because, environmental laws and regulations before the 1970s were not as stringent as they are today, regulatory agencies have a mission to continue to identify and evaluate historic industrial sites that may have left harmful or potentially harmful substances in the soil, surface water, sediments and groundwater. Since operations at the site pre-dated the creation of the EPA, LDEQ and most of the environmental regulations that are in place today, these inactive and/or abandoned sites are assessed in order to ensure that human health and the environment is protected.

Once the EPA's Expanded Site Inspection Report documented the presence of a contaminant source at the creosote site, EPA and LDEQ set forth a plan to address the environmental concerns. A preliminary assessment and site inspection determined that the site met the criteria to be placed on the National Priorities List, which prompted a remedial investigation of the site's environmental conditions.

"Currently, a major sampling effort is underway to evaluate the environmental impacts to soil, sediment and water at the site and the surrounding community," said Regina Philson, LDEQ environmental scientist and the State Remedial Project Manager for the site. "From there, a risk assessment evaluation and risk characterization will be implemented to determine the potential impact of exposure to fish, wildlife, and human health. Lastly, the final remedy process will be initiated to mitigate the constituents present at the site, as well as recover cleanup cost from the responsible party or parties."

LDEQ's role is to support EPA's effort and assist with facilitating communication of the project's status to the public. The entire project will take a few years, with various sampling and evaluation phases to occur along the way in order to ultimately return the site to a condition of safe public use. The goal is to clean up the 32-acre site, removing all contaminants and thereby ultimately removing the site from the National Priorities List.

"The good thing about working in Remediation is that you can actually see the progress of your efforts at every phase of the project, and in some cases, see full redevelopment of a contaminated property to productive reuse. In my opinion, that's a win-win for the community," Philson said.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
June 2017 Issue Number: 65

LDEQ Criminal Investigation Section hosts Environmental Law Enforcement Training Workshops

As part of their outreach function, the Criminal Investigations Section hosted a workshop May 17 at the Rosa Parks Transportation Center in Lafayette. This workshop continues a series of environmental law enforcement classes throughout the state.

Jeffrey Nolan (r), manager of LDEQ's Criminal Investigation Section, gives a presentation about an illegal waste tire fire to the attendees at the workshop.

The workshops provide attendees a unique opportunity to hear from federal, state and local law enforcement regarding environmental crimes, environmental laws and any current changes or updates to those laws.

"We cover regulations regarding illegal dumping, open burning, water pollution, air pollution, littering and filing false documents, and provide information on how citizens may report such activities to LDEQ," said Mike Daniels, attorney for LDEQ's Criminal Investigation Section.

Free and open to the public, the workshops are geared toward law enforcement officials, justices of the peace, constables, state and city prosecutors, elected and appointed officials, environmental managers, code enforcement officers, public works directors and sanitarians who typically deal with environmental crimes and issues on a daily basis.

The workshops are hosted by Keep Louisiana Beautiful, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Enforcement Division and LDEQ's Criminal Investigation Section.

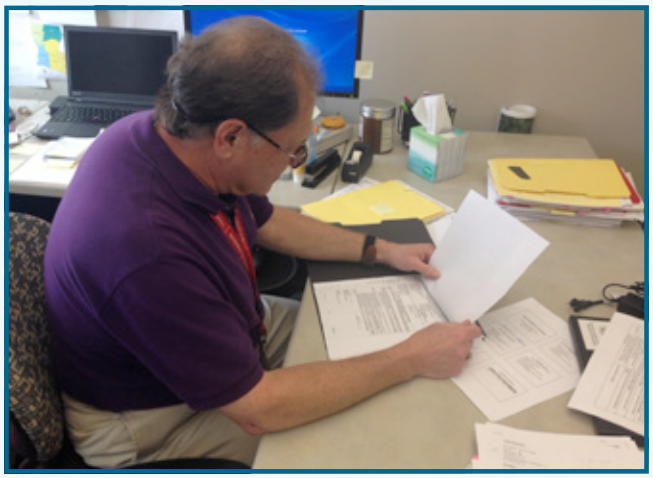
Workshops are held throughout the year in various parishes, so check the LDEQ website at **www.deq.louisiana.gov** for a future class in your area.

For more information, contact Susan Russell at **srussell@keeplouisianabeautiful.org**.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
June 2017 Issue Number: 65

LDEQ's Enforcement Division ensures environmental regulatory compliance

What are the steps LDEQ takes when an environmental law is broken and the responsible party is known? Well, there are many different ways that the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Enforcement Division gets involved to resolve the matter depending on the particular situation. Each situation will be different from the next.



Wayne Slater, LDEQ environmental scientist senior in Enforcement, reviews the regulatory requirements for a facility in East Baton Rouge Parish.

For example, if an illegal burn or illegal discharge of oil is reported, LDEQ's field surveillance inspectors, emergency responders or other field staff will review the situation. Then they advise the responsible party about how to correct the issue through proper cleanup in a timely fashion. This allows the responsible party adequate space to remedy the issue on their own by following proper environmental guidelines. Should the responsible party fail to do so through an incomplete or improper cleanup or outright refusal, then the matter will be forwarded to LDEQ's Enforcement Division.

Enforcement's role typically begins when they receive a referral, which is a report on a facility, business, municipality or citizen that is engaged in one or more environmental infractions. The referral could be a result of a routine inspection, a complaint, a specific incident (such as a fire, facility upset or a chemical/oil spill) or from a permit review. A referral may also be generated internally, when required documentation for a facility or site is found to be lacking or inaccurate.

Referrals are usually submitted by the Surveillance Division, which then conducts inspections, responds to complaint calls and handles on-site facility permit reviews. Surveillance communicates with Enforcement on any matters that cannot be corrected during the initial contact with the responsible party.

On routine inspections, the inspector from Surveillance prepares a Field Interview Form (FIF) The FIF documents the visit and identifies any regulatory and/or permit violations and health/environmental issues that will need to be corrected. If the party fails to correct the violation within an appropriate amount of time or if the violation is sufficiently egregious or flagrant, the Enforcement Division will receive a referral.

Supporting evidence is included in the file, and all referrals prompt the issuance of a warning letter to the responsible party. The letter places them on notice that a violation or number of violations exist, noting areas of concern with remedies to get into compliance.

"Enforcement will review the file and then decide which compliance tool should be issued to the party depending on the severity of the violation, the party's communication to LDEQ and their willingness to make a good faith effort to mitigate the environmental impact," said Wayne Slater, LDEQ environmental scientist senior in the Enforcement Division. "These tools range from a Notice of Violation for less severe violations, or a Compliance Order for the more serious violations. In most cases, the enforcement writer will contact the party in an attempt to resolve the matter. The party will need to communicate with us to let us know what action they plan to take and how they plan to proceed in order to get into compliance."

Continued on page 9

If the party fails to successfully address the issue, a Consolidated Compliance Order and Notice of Potential Penalty (CONOPP) will be issued, providing the party notice that the department is considering the issuance of a monetary penalty. If a resolution still cannot be met, a Penalty Assessment may be issued, detailing the associated fines inherent in the violation(s) in question. From there, legal action may be the next step.

Under the environmental regulations in Title 33, Part I, a penalty matrix is used to determine the monetary penalty to be enforced with respect to the severity of the violation. The human health and environmental impact of the violation is weighed against the nature and gravity of the violation and is broken down into categories such as major or minor. Was the violation an accident, was it a blatant disregard for the regulations, or was it due to negligence or the lack of training? These factors, along with the party's compliance history and level of communication to LDEQ will be key components in the decisions that are made throughout the enforcement process.

In order to keep up with the ever-changing caseload, the Enforcement Division conducts regional compliance meetings at least once or twice a month at all regional offices. During those meetings, referrals are reviewed to make a determination on severity and scope and whether or not the issues can be addressed in the field, within a reasonable amount of time.

Ultimately, compliance notices are issued to the party depending on the severity of the violation and the party's communication to LDEQ and their willingness to make a good faith effort to mitigate the environmental impact.

Conversely, if the party corrects the violation to the satisfaction of LDEQ, a "Deficiency Clear Letter," will be issued. A file review will follow, and, if no further issues exist, Enforcement will draft a "No Further Action" memo, which effectively closes out the matter.

A significant portion of the enforcement process is undertaken through field work and with active communication with the field inspectors, who are the front line components of LDEQ's mission to protect Louisiana's environment and the health of its citizens. The best approach for successful compliance is building a rapport between the department and citizens, facilities and municipalities by meeting face-to-face either at headquarters or in the field and discussing the regulations and compliance solutions.

"I always tell people that everyone lives downstream from someone else, so we're all connected and a part of the shared environment," Slater said. "This puts the matter in perspective for a lot of people."

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
June 2017 Issue Number: 65

Who's Who At LDEQ?

Daniel Phan – Environmental Scientist 2 in Emergency and Radiological Services Division

Phan is a recent graduate of Tulane University where he received a masters degree in Cell & Molecular Biology. He also holds Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry from the University of Texas at Austin. Phan started working for DEQ in March 2017 and specializes in Radiation. Prior to working at DEQ, Phan was a research assistant at Tulane researching palatogenesis and odontogenesis in mice. In his free time, Phan enjoys attending festivals, making dog toys and accessories, and exploring New Orleans neighborhoods.

Lisa Lamendola – Administrative Assistant 5 in the Enforcement Division

Lamendola is from Zachary and is currently working on a degree in Business Administration from LSU. With LDEQ, she has marked more than 30 years of state service, having worked at LSU, the Louisiana Department of Corrections and the Louisiana Department of Civil Service. She previously worked for LDEQ from 1989 to 1991 in the Environmental Regulatory and Compliance Division.

Lisa enjoys spending time with family and friends and anything outdoors such as camping, hiking, gardening, boating and swimming.

David Hotz – Environmental Scientist, Water Permits Division

David is originally from Michigan, and graduated from Louisiana State University in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Ecology and Management. Prior to working at LDEQ, he was a contractor for the railroad working with herbicides. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with friends and exploring the outdoors.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
June 2017 Issue Number: 65

Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's First Quarter Summaries

First Quarter 2017 Enforcement Actions:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions

First Quarter 2017 Settlement Agreements:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division

First Quarter 2017 Air Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter

First Quarter 2017 Water Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes

First Quarter 2017 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits