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## LDEQ's Remediation Division oversees cleanup of soil and groundwater

LDEQ's Remediation Division is tasked with conducting inspections of both active sites where illegal dumping/contamination of soil and groundwater has, or is currently taking place, as well as inactive or abandoned sites, where contamination has been detected, but is typically no longer occurring.

Most of these contaminated locations are discovered through historical records, law enforcement actions or citizen calls and reports made to LDEQ. Sites that are, or may have been the location of an oil or chemical production or recycling business, are continually being identified by the department. These typically include tank farms, chemical facilities, machine shops or places where chemicals likely entered the soil or groundwater either through purposeful dumping or through negligence.

As those sites are identified, the department will initiate a site review in an attempt to locate the responsible party and assess the extent of the potential or actual damage to the environment. Whether a responsible party is located or not, sites will undergo a cleanup or remediation plan, which will be jointly drafted by the department, the remediation contractor and the responsible party (if applicable).



*LDEQ Environmental Scientist Destin Hooks identifies an abandoned chemical storage tank that is slated for removal as part of a site remediation in Vermilion Parish.*

Remediation involves removing contaminated materials and testing to ensure removal is complete. The ultimate goal is to return the site to its designated use where final sampling results will show that the soil and/or groundwater meets human health and environmentally safe conditions.

While the scope of remediation and the approach will vary from site to site, it's often a time consuming process that can take several months or several years, depending on the extent of the environmental impact. It is a concerted effort involving many parties.

Working with a licensed contractor who will perform the physical sampling and cleanup, the division will review the site's sampling reports and conduct inspections to ensure that the work is progressing in accordance with the remediation plan and applicable regulations.

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# DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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*Destin Hooks and remediation contractors stand near a boring machine that is being readied for startup. The machine is used to extract soil samples in four-foot increments. With the boring completed, screen and tubing can be inserted to depth and groundwater sampled.*



*Contractors extract the soil sample from a boring device for bottling and submission to the lab.*

All too often, LDEQ discovers sites that are encumbered with decades of contamination that took place simply a result of the times when environmental laws weren't as stringent or enforced to the extent that they are today. As state and federal environmental laws were codified and became increasingly rigorous during the late 1940s and into the 1950s, and education and technology improved, sites suspected of containing contamination were getting more attention as they were identified.

One of several examples across Louisiana is a site in Vermilion Parish which housed a chemical recycling and antifreeze processing business that was eventually revealed to be running afoul of environmental laws.

Investigations by the EPA and LDEQ discovered that the business owner illegally disposed of hazardous chemicals through clandestine measures. This included dumping materials onsite and emptying chemical waste directly into an adjacent tributary at night to avoid detection. Drums may have also been buried on the site, so a digging plan will be undertaken to locate and remove those. While the owner was ultimately convicted and sentenced to prison, the investigation found that the illegal dumping measures took their toll and negatively impacted the site's soil and groundwater.

The site continues to undergo extensive investigation in order to determine the areas and remediation method(s) required to remove any contamination that exists on the property.

Since the owner is insolvent, funding for the cleanup will be derived from the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 30:2205, LDEQ administers the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund, from which site cleanup fees are funded in the event a responsible party is unable to pay. The fund is subsidized in part through a variety of sources including grants, donations and legal judgments and settlements favoring the state as a result of environmental litigation.

Consisting of five above-ground storage tanks and several acres of land, historical inspections at the site indicated at least one tank was actively leaking into a drainage ditch. EPA subsequently completed a removal action of the tanks, with LDEQ currently overseeing further investigation and subsequent removal actions. Since soil contamination typically involves a much more extensive cleanup timeframe, the soil and groundwater there are under active investigation for remediation and testing.

Sampling is a very methodical, delicate operation – done carefully to avoid disturbing the sample so that an accurate picture of the contamination can be discerned.

Sampling uses several techniques, one of which involves extraction of sections of soil in four-foot increments through a boring process. It's similar to a large

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## Clean Air Corner

### Louisiana's interstate system is designated as an Alternative Fuel Corridor

Louisiana's application for the Alternative Fuel Corridor program has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The designation of alternative fuel corridor allows a growing segment of commerce into the state that will have a direct impact on vehicle emissions, especially from diesel.

The state will realize emission reductions of both NOx and PM10/2.5. The program is voluntary.

LDEQ, Louisiana Clean Fuels and the Department of Transportation and Development worked together with various stakeholders to make this designation possible. DOTD will be responsible for the signage for the project.

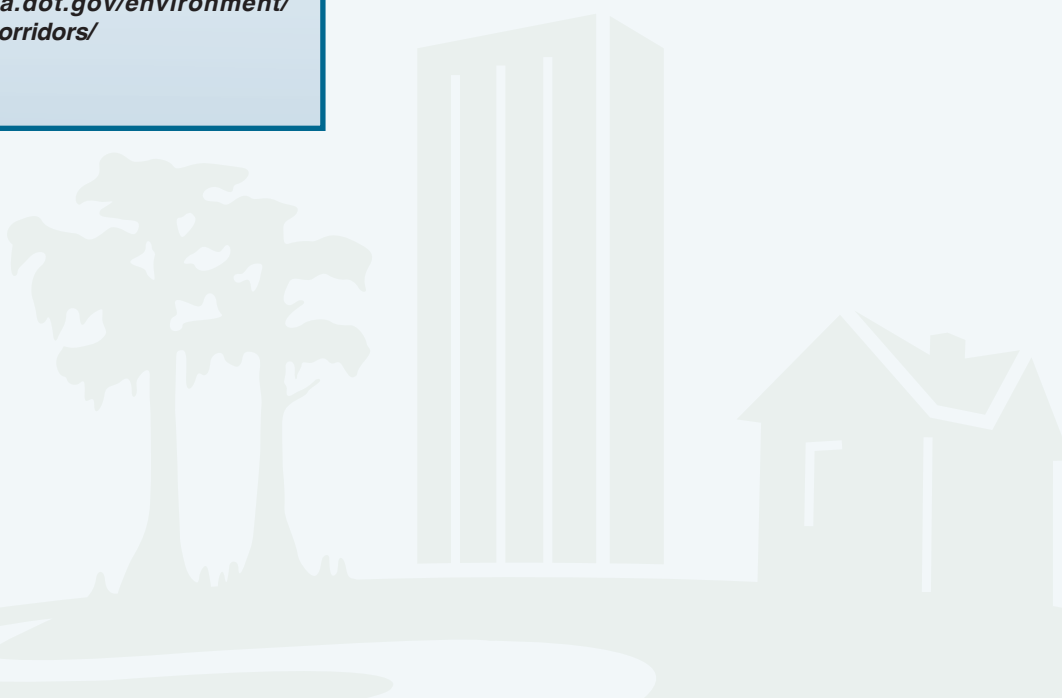
[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/alternative\\_fuel\\_corridors/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/alternative_fuel_corridors/)

straw being pushed into the soil layers in order to retrieve a clay-silt-sand/water cross section. Boring helps to measure past sampling as well. "This boring project is providing additional delineation of soil and groundwater contamination discovered in past sampling events," Destin Hooks, LDEQ environmental scientist based in the Acadiana Regional Office, said.

As sampling results are evaluated, LDEQ and the contractor will begin to see a clearer picture of the remediation (cleanup) required at the site. Additional sampling may be needed in a specific location, or if the results are negative for a particular sample, that area will be marked as such and sampling will move to other points on the property.

Once a site has contamination, based on the sampling results, less than acceptable site specific standards, it will be noted with a "No Further Action" document, known as an NFA, for industrial (businesses) and non-industrial (residential or school) use.

"The main thing we want is progress. Every time we come out to a site, we want to see progress," Hooks explained. "We are narrowing the path and will ultimately come to an end point of completion."





## Message from the Secretary

*Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.*

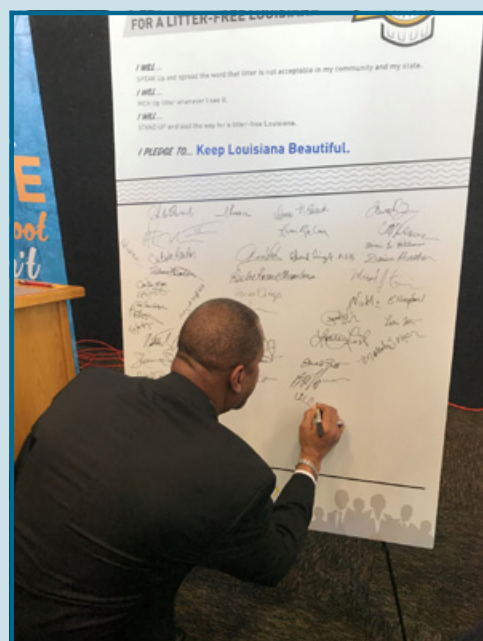
During the third week of March, I visited St. Paul, Minn., for a meeting of the Environmental Council of the States, ECOS. Walking around the streets of St. Paul, two things struck me: there was still snow on the ground and there wasn't much, if any, litter on the ground.

St. Paul doesn't have the advantage of a southern latitude like the cities in Louisiana, but the citizens have an advantage in attitude when it comes to litter. I talked to several people about the lack of paper and cigarette butts on the street and got the same answer. Whenever someone drops something on the sidewalk or ground, two or three people around them point it out immediately. These folks are serious about keeping their city clean.

All of our cities in Louisiana are leafy and park-like. We have impressive and historic architecture. Our highways span forests and streams. Some of our bridges are works of art. Why can't we value those things more? Why must we disrespect the environment and each other by tossing out bottles, cans, cigarette butts, waste paper, plastic foam food boxes, cardboard and anything that we lay our hands on? There is always a trash receptacle nearby. You just have to look for it.

At Keep Louisiana Beautiful's Leaders Against Litter observance March 23, I told the gathered crowd that I've had enough. I want it to stop now. It's learned behavior. I always cite the example of seat belts. My daughter came home from the hospital in a car seat. She has never ridden in a car without buckling up her seatbelt. She has learned that behavior through repetition and reinforcement. We need to learn to get to that trash receptacle. We need to reinforce that behavior and let everyone know that is not okay to throw trash on the ground. We need to step up our enforcement activities in this area. The fine is already in place. You can help. If you see someone littering, call the litter hotline: 1-888-LIT-R-BUG (1-888-548-7284).

The last Friday in March is a state holiday, Good Friday. Beautiful weather is predicted through the beginning of April. I hope you all enjoy the long Easter weekend, be careful and stay safe. Good luck finding all the eggs!



*LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown signs the pledge board in support of Keep Louisiana Beautiful's anti-litter campaign.*



## Secretary Brown talks environmental progress at LOGA



*LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown and EPA Region 6 Administrator Anne Idsal*

There's was some hopeful progress in 2017 that both industry and regulators can point to, LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown told members of the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association (LOGA) at their March 8 meeting in Lake Charles. And some of the fruit from that work may come this year, he added.

"The St. Bernard SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment area modeled attainment Dec. 31, 2017," he said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to publish the State Implementation Plan (SIP) in the Federal Register "Once this SIP has been approved, the LDEQ will begin measures to have the area redesignated as attainment."

The state has also made progress on the Regional Haze SIP, Brown said. The final amended version was submitted to EPA in October of 2017. The Regional Haze program is a long-term project that will return pristine air quality to 156 Class I areas (national park areas more than 6000 acres and wilderness areas more than 5000 acres that must be protected) nationwide, he said, including the Breton Wilderness Area in Louisiana.

LDEQ is working to have the Reid Vapor Press (RVP) requirements relaxed for the five-parish ozone non-attainment area in and around Baton Rouge. RVP is a common measure of and generic term for gasoline volatility. EPA regulates the vapor pressure of gasoline sold at retail stations during the summer ozone season (June 1 to September 15) to reduce evaporative emissions from gasoline that contribute to ground-level ozone and diminish the effects of ozone-related health problems. There were 16 Louisiana parishes required to use the RVP summer blend gasoline, but only the five-parish area is still covered by the requirement because it remains out of attainment for ozone. In 2017, the entire state was in attainment for the 2008 ozone standard, but the five-parish area fell out of attainment when the lower (70 ppb, or parts per billion) 2015 standard took effect.

Brown said LDEQ has worked hard with industry and citizens to reduce Nitrogen Oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions, and that the state has a limited number of days

it can exceed the ozone standard before being classified nonattainment. Louisiana exceeded that number of days by one, however, Brown said, that one day's ozone readings were influenced by smoke from western fires that was carried to Louisiana by the Jet Stream. Under EPA rules, the state can apply for an "exceptional event," and the results from that day will be disregarded. That could result in the area not being classified nonattainment, he said.

The five parish area will have the RVP relaxed if the area is not designated nonattainment for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), Brown said. The state has applied for the "exceptional event" exemption and is hopeful it will be granted, he said.



*Dr. Brown provides remarks at the LOGA meeting.*



## Idsal to LMOGA members: “Come to the table”

New EPA Region 6 Administrator Anne Idsal invited members of the oil and gas industry to “come to the table” during her speech at the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (LMOGA).

“Please come to the table. You have a seat there. I would encourage you to come to the table. It’s a friendly table,” Idsal said.

Idsal told the group at that her office has three goals moving forward.

“Our core mission,” Idsal said, pointing to the agency’s enforcement of the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act.

She listed “Cooperative Federalism,” next. “It’s a big deal.” The policy espoused by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is not a one-way street she said. EPA will work with the states. “Moving forward, we will allow them to take the lead” she said. “We are not starting with the philosophy that EPA knows best.”

And third, simplify regulations. “Administrator Pruitt believes we must follow the law that is on the books,” she said.

Speaking at the Windsor Court Hotel where LMOGA was holding its annual meeting March 1, Idsal used the opportunity to give members of the oil and gas industry a glimpse of what to expect from EPA under Pruitt and, locally, under Idsal.

“We will work closely with our state partners,” Idsal said. Success comes when decisions are based in science, she said. Much progress has already been made on air quality issues, she said, citing progress at reducing ozone levels nationally. “The national monitored levels of ozone have dropped 22 percent even as population and industry has grown.”

EPA is also pushing to get lead out of drinking water, Idsal said. One area where EPA having some success in that push is through state revolving loan funds like the one LDEQ operates, she added. “Those are making tangible benefits to the community.”

Idsal also spoke briefly about revitalization and land reclamation, in particular superfund sites. “More sites need to show meaningful change and remediation,” she said.

Natural disasters are devastating, Idsal said, but in the aftermath, agencies can come in and help with regrowth and renewal. “We have garnered an incredible number of lessons learned. There has got to be a refocus on how do we respond and how do we recover long-term. The oil and gas industry has an opportunity to be a leader here,” she said.

Responses have to be tailored to the particular state, she said. “I don’t believe in a ‘one size fits all’ approach.”



*EPA Region 6 Administrator Anne Idsal speaks at the LMOGA conference.*



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## LDEQ volunteers participate in Leaders Against Litter day

More than 30 volunteers from LDEQ took to the streets of downtown Baton Rouge March 23 to remove trash from surrounding neighborhoods. Through the assistance of Keep Louisiana Beautiful, volunteers used grabber sticks and trash bags to conduct the litter sweep, which ran from 9 to 11 a.m.

More than two dozen bags of trash were collected from LDEQ's litter sweep.





## Seventh annual Bayou Lafourche cleanup held March 10

Now in its seventh year, the cleanup along Bayou Lafourche drew hundreds of volunteers, all coming together for the same mission: to beautify Bayou Lafourche by finding and removing litter from the waterway and surrounding area.

Since the cleanup began in 2013, more than 150 tons of trash has been removed from the bayou.

The bayou, a distributary of the Mississippi, begins in Donaldsonville and runs through the parishes of Ascension, Assumption and Lafourche, terminating at the Gulf of Mexico at Port Fourchon.

Hosted by BTNEP, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, the goal is not only litter abatement, but to encourage the concepts of recycling, reuse and reduction of items that would otherwise be illegally dumped, discarded or sent to a landfill. Most of the items that are thrown out (such as glass bottles, plastics, paper products and aluminum) can be recycled. There is also a market for used clothing, toys and household items that can be donated to thrift stores and charities for reuse.

Additional recycling options are available at many household hazardous materials collection days for items such as used tires, household chemicals and used motor oil, compact fluorescent lightbulbs, electronics and appliances such as refrigerators, oven ranges, washers, dryers and dishwashers. Practically everything can be kept from entering into the environment.



*LDEQ Geologist Jesse Means (rear) and his children participate in the cleanup with a member of the Donaldsonville Fire Department. Among a variety of debris, his crew collected 3 waste tires, an old ice chest, a trash can, metal buckets and a huge pipe. Debris collected by his crew filled up an 18-foot canoe three times.*

One of BTNEP's missions is to remove debris from Bayou Lafourche – which happens to be the area's drinking water supply source for more than 300,000 citizens.

The event was held 8 a.m. until noon; volunteers were provided with a T-shirt, gloves and trash bags, along with their choice of section along the bayou upon which they would focus. Volunteers then took to the shoreline or manned boats in search of some of the harder-to-get debris. Volunteers were assigned to one of 12 sections (in order to evenly distribute the cleanup workload along the bayou's 106-mile stretch); each section was led by a site captain tasked with staging the supply distribution point and organizing the cleanup for their respective stretch of the bayou.

The event makes a huge impact and serves as an invaluable example of the community coming together to remove dangerous eyesores of litter and debris from Louisiana waters.



*Volunteers return to the shoreline in a boat loaded with trash including a 55-gallon drum, ice chests, plastic buckets, waste tires and metal debris.*

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Some of the items pulled from the bayou and shoreline include glass beer bottles, food wrappers, a plastic inflatable pool, furniture, Styrofoam, pipes and metal parts, television sets, plastic grocery bags, toys, plastic buckets, coolers, household goods and various chemicals. Discarded automotive tires are always a common find during cleanups, with more than 100 waste tires collected during Saturday's event.

A source of life to the people of the area, the bayou has played a big part of regional growth with uses in farming, industry, transportation, recreation and drinking water. But litter is an ongoing culprit that continues to create health hazards, waterway obstructions and environmental dilemmas, not to mention blight to the area's natural beauty.

A recent project by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority helped to increase the Mississippi's water flow in the area through dredging and a new pumping station. That project prompted additional attention to the bayou's litter problem, which BTNEP took on through trash cleanup events, educational outreach and word-of-mouth about the bayou. While those endeavors have made inroads in engaging the community to serve as litter watchdogs and take action to keep trash out of the environment, the fight to maintain the bayou's beauty is an ongoing effort.

For more information on BTNEP, or to participate in next year's cleanup, please contact Alma Robichaux, event coordinator at [Alma@BTNEP.org](mailto:Alma@BTNEP.org) or (985) 447-0868.

To report illegal dumping activity, contact LDEQ's Single Point of Contact line at 1-888-763-5424, or visit the incident report page at: <http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/file-a-complaint-report-an-incident>.

## LDEQ installs fish consumption advisory signage at Capitol Lake in Baton Rouge

Five health advisory signs were installed at various locations around Capitol Lake in Baton Rouge March 22. LDEQ retested the fish in the lake last year, resulting in a joint decision to continue the advisory, which was first issued in August 1983.

The decision was made by LDEQ, the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The signs caution the public not to consume any fish species in the waterbody until the advisory is lifted.



Health advisory signs such as this one advise against fish consumption.



## LDEQ employees attend 16 hours of training with CenSARA 101 – Clearing the Air course

Learning about LDEQ, what it regulates and how each different type of job fits into the big picture, is always a valuable tool in quality public service. For LDEQ, air is one of the primary media addressed. The more employees know about the why and how of air regulations and pollution prevention, the better the agency can do the job.

For air quality, CenSARA (Central States Air Resource Agencies) offered a 16-hour course called Clearing the Air. In addition to LDEQ employees, attendees included employees from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

The course, taught by CenSARA Executive Director and former LDEQ employee Mike Vince, was sweeping in its scope. It began with a historical and legislative perspective addressing why air is regulated and the laws and rules that ensure that protection. Knowing the why and the progression of air pollution protection is valuable to understanding where we are now and why progress has been made. After that overview, the course became more specific.

Discussions included the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), air monitoring, new source performance standards, emission standards, regional haze, acid rain modeling and permitting.

An exercise in the class entailed breaking attendees into teams who looked at the regulations for pollutants (such as ozone, Sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and Nitrogen Oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>)). Each group was then asked to monitor those pollutants by following the regulations and site monitors.

The course integrated the different jobs and how they are dependent on one another to complete the mission of the agency.



*Mike Vince, Executive Director of CenSARA, leads LDEQ employees and others through the ins and outs of Air Quality and what it takes to clear the air.*



## LDEQ On The Move

Volunteers participate in used paint swap during East Baton Rouge Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day



*LDEQ volunteers participated in another Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day in East Baton Rouge Parish March 10. The staff collected used paint from donors and mixed them into 126 five-gallon buckets for submission to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. A total of 755 cars came through the LDEQ paint swap booth, and the team worked overtime to serve everyone. The team also received a visit from Baton Rouge Mayor Sharon Weston-Broome.*



*Don Caffery, LDEQ recycling representative, with Baton Rouge Mayor Weston-Broome at HHMD.*

### LDEQ displays information at the Louisiana Environmental Education State Symposium



*Marissa Jimenez, LDEQ environmental scientist, is ready to demonstrate the Enviroscope and discuss other LDEQ services and programs at the symposium.*



*Tomeka Prioleau, LDEQ business analytics specialist, and four members of the Harry Hurst Middle School Wetland Watchers, demonstrate various types of snakes for the participants at the Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium.*



## Who's Who At LDEQ?



**Mark Juneau – Regional Manager – Northwest Regional Office**

A native of Avoyelles Parish, Juneau has lived in West Monroe for most of the last two decades. He was very involved at NLU, now known as the University of Louisiana at Monroe, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in toxicology in 1997.

He served in the Louisiana Army National Guard from 1987 to 1997, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. Juneau began his career at LDEQ in 1998 working in Solid Waste. In 2007, he became supervisor for the Underground Storage Tank Division, and is now very happy to continue to serve his state as the manager of the Northwest Regional Office.

**Casey Head – Regional Manager – Northeast Regional Office**

Head holds a B.S. in toxicology from Northeast Louisiana University and an M.S. in biology from Louisiana Tech. He started at LDEQ in 1997 as a water surveillance inspector; later serving as a toxicologist and surveillance supervisor in the Surveillance Division.

He is currently the Regional Manager for the Northeast Regional Office.



**Kevin Borne – Supervisor - Emergency Response and Radiological Services Division**

A lifelong resident of Lafayette, Borne graduated from LSU in 2009 with a Bachelor's of Science in forestry. He began working for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as a marine biologist in 2010 in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Borne then came aboard at LDEQ as an emergency responder in 2012, and was promoted to staff scientist in November 2015. He was promoted to supervisor in December 2017.

His hobbies include hunting, fishing and spending time with family and friends.



# **DISCOVER** DEQ

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## Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Fourth Quarter Summaries

**Fourth Quarter 2018 Enforcement Actions:**  
<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions>

**Fourth Quarter 2018 Settlement Agreements:**  
<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division>

**Fourth Quarter 2018 Air Permits:**  
<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter>

**Fourth Quarter 2018 Water Permits:**  
<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes>

**Fourth Quarter 2018 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:**  
<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits>

