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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

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Secretary Brown outlines his vision for CO2 reduction at Clean Fuels Summit

Louisiana and the rest of the nation have taken the first steps on a very long journey, LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said during the Clean Fuels Summit on June 16. The online event featured a host of expert speakers talking about everything from alternative vehicles to climate change. As a member of Gov. John Bel Edward's Climate Change Task Force, Brown is particularly qualified to address the latter.

Before the governor created the task force, Brown said, there was a discussion of climate change at a cabinet retreat. Brown told the group that regardless of politics, "nobody in that room could deny we had sea-level rise, subsidence, more frequent storms, more intense storms and something has to be done to address those issues."

LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown participates in the Clean Fuels Summit from his office.

A year into the panel's work to find that the scope of the task has come into focus, Brown said, and it's immense. President Biden has set a goal of having Louisiana fully electric vehicle (EV) converted by 2030, he said. That would require 300,000 EVs in the state. "There are only 3,000 now."

The task force takes into consideration where the state is now and where it needs to be in the future, Brown said. The panel uses models to chart ways to reach goals. "As part of the intricate workings of the task force, there are lots of models being run," he said. "Some of them cause me a great deal of concern."

"One model has no fossil fuel generation of electricity," he said. "Oil and gas will never go away."

It will not be our primary source of electric generation or fuel, but consumers won't suddenly stop using fossil fuels, he said. "Natural gas will be a bridge fuel," he said, providing a cleaner energy source as our society transitions to renewable energy like solar and wind power.

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It won't just happen, though. "There are certain things we have to start doing right now," Brown said.

On his to-do list:

- More EVs
- More mass transit, especially hi-speed rail lines
- Reduction of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from all sources
- Expand the EV charging network
- Build in resiliency

Some people, even some of the task force members, are confused about CO2, Brown said. They believe CO2 is a toxic gas. "CO2 is actually not even regulated. We are working on a way to fit it into the enforcement structure," he said.

Through the 2015 VW Settlement, the state got around $20 million, Brown said. Some of those funds have been used to buy new, more efficient vehicles for the Louisiana Department of Transportation's (LDOT) truck fleet. Some of the funds have been committed in Louisiana to help replace school buses with more fuel-efficient models – more than 270 buses. The money has also helped fund 34 public charging stations for EVs in Louisiana. More charging stations will be needed, he said.

Resiliency is already built into permits LDEQ issues to industry, Brown said. It's necessary because storms and flooding in Louisiana will get worse as the climate continues to change. "LDEQ permits require (facilities) in the coastal zone to build with generators above ground – able to withstand 150 mph winds," he said.

The discussion is ongoing, Brown said. He welcomes a varied cross-section of individuals to participate in climate change discussions and how emissions reductions can be achieved to slow that change down. "We need to look at ways to cap Greenhouse Gases from industries," Brown said, and the latest data seem to indicate a larger share of Greenhouse Gases come from industry than previously believed. However, it's not enough to just reduce emissions, he said. Greenhouse Gases must be captured and sequestered in some environmentally friendly manner.

Millions of details have to be ironed out in the push to reduce CO2 emissions, but the only way to succeed is to start doing something, Brown said. He has steered LDEQ in the direction of using more EVs and has the only fully electric vehicle in a state fleet at LDEQ. Under his leadership, LDEQ joined with LDOTD and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to gain approval from the Federal Highway Commission to designate the state's interstate highways as Alternative Fuels Corridors. Signage has been erected along the routes to alert drivers that different alternative fuels like compressed natural gas (CNG) or liquefied natural gas (LNG) are available along the route.

"We have started," Brown said.

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Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

There is a lesson in everything, even something that is tragic and cruel. I'm talking about the building collapse in Surfside, Fla. Looking at that building brings other images to mind, unbidden: the horrible devastation in Oklahoma City after the federal building was bombed, the Twin Towers in New York after the 9-11 attacks, any number of buildings in the New Orleans area after Katrina, the Hard Rock Hotel on Canal Street. All that was left after these tragedies were piles of rubble. In that rubble were human remains.

The rubble had to be cleared, hauled away piece-by-piece. The dedicated first responders at these events had to hold back their own horror. They had to control their nausea. They had to work in heat and dust and the smell of death. They had to recover the lost.

They were able to do that because they were professionals, trained to do that work. The same is true in Surfside. In fact, some of the responders in south Florida are veterans of Twin Towers recovery work. They know what they are doing. They are trained.

What those responders are doing requires many of the same skills our own emergency responders at LDEQ use. Just like those other first responders, LDEQ emergency responders work hard at staying sharp and well-trained. They are always ready for the next storm, the next building collapse, the next flood. They know it will happen, and they are prepared. I am proud to have this team in the LDEQ family.

Heat wave

If you don't believe in climate change, you might find an argument from just about anyone in Salem, Ore. On Monday, June 28, it was 117 degrees in Salem. It had never been that hot in Salem in recorded history. A lot of people in Salem and the rest of Oregon and Washington don't even have air conditioning in their homes. It's really a dangerous situation, and it's only June. What about July and August?

You can bet the next few months will bring a tropical storm or two to Louisiana. No one wants to see as many storms as we had last year, but the odds are good that at least one or two named storms will come to visit. If we get a stretch of very hot weather like Oregon is getting, we might see more heat-fueled storms generated in the Gulf of Mexico than we usually do.

I know it sounds repetitious, but everyone needs to be ready for a quick-moving storm. Get a Gameplan. The website, ***www.getagameplan.org***, has lists of things you will need, tips on what to do to prepare and when to do it, and much more. You've got time to check it out. Do it.

Stay safe

Our next holiday is coming Monday, July 5. That's the official observance of Independence Day, July 4th. I look forward to cooking out and visiting with family and friends. I know most of you will be doing something similar as well. Some of you will go boating or swimming or even camping. I hope you will enjoy yourselves and stay safe! Be especially careful if you decide to set off fireworks. Above all, don't drink and drive!

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LDEQ awarded a $300,000 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant

"When I came into office in 2015, the Office of Assessments had been eliminated," LDEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown told attendees at press event in New Orleans. "I immediately sponsored a bill to restore it."

LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown shares a laugh with attendees at a press event June 10 marking the awarding of several Brownfields Assessment Grants in the New Orleans area.

The Brownfields Program is housed within the Office of Environmental Assessment. Brown is quick to tout the achievements of the Brownfields Program and to point out it has an appeal to a certain group of people. "I felt that Brownfields might be something that millennials might gravitate to," he said. That younger demographic, he said, works at a different pace, thinks from a different place and appreciates innovation. That's why the conversion of former industrial or environmentally impaired site into new and clever uses appeals especially to them.

Brown was speaking at an event where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) Brownfields Program $300,000 to facilitate the redevelopment of vacant and underutilized properties into community assets.

"That $300,000 we got – we're going to look at 300 properties," Brown said.

The funding comes from EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program. The federal grant will be used to assess potential brownfields sites in historic Algiers and provide environmental assessments and cleanup plans for sites identified in the brownfields inventory developed by the Regional Planning Commission. To date, over 150 potential brownfields sites have been identified in the target area, including 13 gas stations, 30 auto repair/maintenance facilities, 25 dry cleaners, 21 sites with industrial/manufacturing history, and 32 sites with multiple concerns.

The press event included comments from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO), LDEQ and partner organizations. Speakers included: Stacey Dwyer, Deputy Director, EPA Region 6, Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment; Jerry Bologna, CEO, Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission; Cynthia Lee Sheng, President, Jefferson Parish; and Kristin Gisleson Palmer, Councilwoman, City of New Orleans, as well as Brown. The Port of New Orleans hosted the event for local attendees while EPA representatives participated virtually.

Brownfields sites are vacant and underutilized properties where actual or suspected environmental issues are a barrier to redevelopment. These issues are often the result of unsafe levels of environmental contamination due to past or current industrial, commercial, residential, agricultural or recreational uses and practices. Contaminants may be found in soil, water or air.

Cleaning up contaminants on a brownfields site reduces or eliminates potential health risks to residents, workers, pets and the surrounding environment. Examples of brownfields sites include (but are not limited to) abandoned gas stations, vacant historic buildings (commercial structures, schools, government buildings, etc.), abandoned or underutilized industrial complexes, and/or vacant lots in previously developed areas.

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Under the Office of Environmental Assessment's Remediation Division, LDEQ's Brownfields Program partners with federal, state, and local resources to facilitate the reuse of Brownfields sites throughout Louisiana. Addressing potential environmental issues, especially financial and regulatory hurdles, is often intimidating and creates a barrier to the redevelopment or expanded use of these sites. LDEQ's Brownfields Program helps convert these properties from community liabilities into community assets by assisting local governments and communities in navigating the environmental process from investigation to cleanup and redevelopment. There are many resources and funding sources for a brownfields project, including LDEQ brownfields grants and assistance.

For instance, LDEQ's Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program supports community-based Brownfields projects sponsored by a local governmental entity or nonprofit that require assessment and/or cleanup to facilitate a site's redevelopment or reuse. LDEQ's Brownfields Program pays for activities conducted under the TBA. The funding is contingent on funding from EPA for LDEQ's Brownfields Program, and the amount available varies throughout the year.

Under the TBA program, LDEQ hires environmental contractors to perform environmental assessments or may choose to work directly with a local governmental or nonprofit entity. Applicants are responsible for securing access to the site and providing any requested information (such as property history and relevant environmental reports). LDEQ's TBA Program is focused on sites that have a good chance of being redeveloped in the near future, fit in with the community's vision for the area, and will spur further revitalization.

Another resource available under the LDEQ Brownfields Program is the Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund. In May of 2020, EPA awarded LDEQ a Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) grant. This grant allowed LDEQ to reinstate our Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Program to provide low-interest loans that facilitate the cleanup of brownfields sites throughout the state.

LDEQ's Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) also provides brownfields support through the redevelopment sites by providing a mechanism for property owners, potential owners or others to address contamination at properties and receive a release of liability for past contamination at the site. This release of liability flows to future owners, successors and assigns of the property as well. Entities that are not responsible for the contamination at a site may be able to employ institutional and engineering controls as part of the cleanup, which may reduce cleanup costs to facilitate the reuse of the site.

Finally, the 2018 BUILD Act that extended and enhanced EPA's Brownfields Program also created Small Technical Assistance Grants to help small communities, Indian tribes, rural areas and disadvantaged communities lay the groundwork to address brownfields sites. The funding is competitively awarded to State and Tribal Brownfields Programs on an annual basis. In order to reach eligible communities, LDEQ partners with a local Brownfields Program to apply for funding each year. The funding is then used to provide training, research and technical assistance to facilitate the reuse of brownfields sites.

With the most recent grant, LDEQ plans to partner with Algiers Economic Development Foundation, Old Algiers Main Street, Algiers Neighborhood Presidents' Council and the City of New Orleans. The collective goal is to restore vacant neighborhood commercial buildings to provide space for expanding home-based entrepreneur businesses and the local artistic community. Additionally, LDEQ would like to provide Phase I Environmental Site Assessments and lead and asbestos surveys for vacant homes to support local efforts for equitable restoration/affordable housing.

Nearby residents and other local community members benefit when a brownfields site is transformed from an eyesore and safety concern into a new job center, recreational facility, housing or another community amenity. Often, the process of assessing and cleaning up a single brownfields site sparks community interest to identify other sites for redevelopment.

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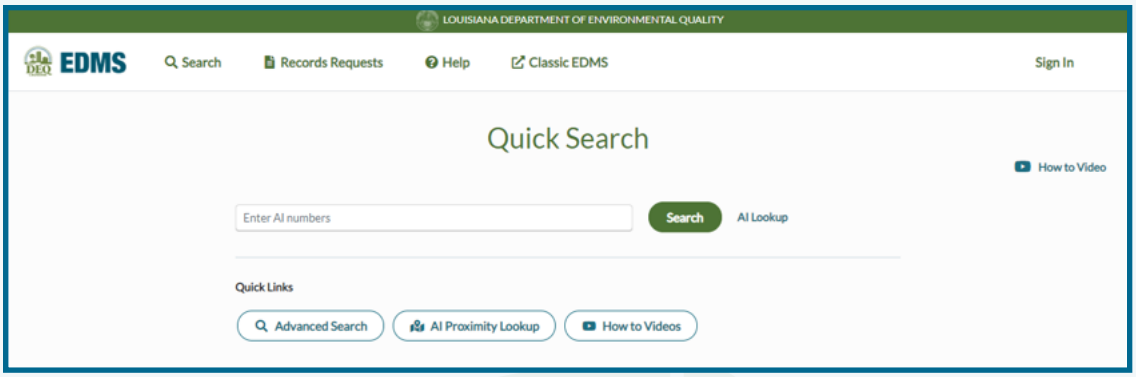
Louisiana has a long history of redeveloping brownfields sites, removing contamination from our communities while spurring economic development, creating jobs and increasing neighborhood resources. To date, Louisiana has received over $25 million in EPA brownfields funding, including grants to LDEQ and local brownfields grantees. This funding has been leveraged with other resources to address environmental concerns at over 400 sites statewide.

Learn more about LDEQ's Brownfields Program at ***https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfields***.

Updated EDMS will go live on July 1

The EDMS Rewrite Project is wrapping up. We have seen a steady increase in the use of the new system during last month's extended access period and are excited about making the switch to the updated EDMS.

Beginning July 1, users will automatically be taken to the updated EDMS when accessing the EDMS site. Classic EDMS will remain accessible via the Classic EDMS link at the top of the page. We anticipate that the classic system will be retired Aug. 1.



Steps to Prepare

We encourage all users to proactively update their shortcuts with the new EDMS link and switch to a compatible browser such as Chrome or Edge. Internet Explorer is no longer supported by the Office of Technology Services (OTS) and will not work for modern EDMS features. If you need help setting or updating your shortcut, review our ***Shortcuts and Bookmarks Fact Sheet***. Additional fact sheets are located on the Records Management Intranet site (Division > Records Management). Additional tips can also be found in the help videos located under the Help section. Stay tuned for additional training resources related to the modern EMDS features in the coming days.

A big thank you to our LDEQ user testing team

Modern EDMS would not have been possible without the support from a very dedicated team of LDEQ users. Their input and advice throughout all stages of this project have been invaluable. We appreciate the time and effort they dedicated to the project. While we can't list them all, we want to especially thank Mike Miller, Jeff Baker, Durwood Franklin, the LDEQ Public Communications Group, our Records Coordinators, Jason Hanchey and Karyn Andrews for their unwavering support of the project, and everyone who participated in our user acceptance testing. Thank you also to our volunteers from the public, who helped us test many of the exciting new public features.

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Kisatchie Central Office settles in to new location in Alexandria

December 1, 2020, marked the move from to the longtime location for LDEQ's Kisatchie Central Office in Pineville. During the last quarter of 2020, the nine-member staff moved to a more prominent, easily accessible location in Alexandria.

Facing North Boulevard in Alexandria off South MacArthur Drive, the new office allows easier access for the general public.

The former location, staffed by the department since 1987, occupied a two-story brick building near the entrance of the campus of the Central Louisiana State Hospital on Rainbow Drive in Pineville. Through the years, the staff and its ever-increasing mission outgrew the building. They needed an updated, more viable base of operations where they could conduct the department's environmental protection responsibilities. As the building showed signs of age and deterioration, the department began seeking an updated, more visible location.

Located approximately seven miles west of the old location, the approximate 4,000-square-foot office space is situated on the side of a building predominantly occupied by Unitech Training Academy off South MacArthur Drive and Baldwin Avenue in south Alexandria. Other tenants include a Probation and Parole office, Easter Seals and the Social Security Administration. An unoccupied warehouse is also part of the building.

The new conference room includes updated technology and better accommodations

Once the site of a Super K-Mart automotive center that closed in 2000, the new office changed hands over the years before being acquired by a local real estate property management firm. Seeking to move from the Pineville location, LDEQ staff worked closely with a local realtor to select the site. In late 2020, new walls, cabinets, workspaces, plumbing, electrical and telephone lines were installed in fairly short order. The department is leasing the space for a five-year contract, with an additional five-year renewal option.

With secured door access to the office's two entrances by keypunch, the site offers larger workspaces, a new water sampling laboratory, a large conference room, separate bathrooms, a warehouse for staging the office's three boats and ample public parking – all improvements not offered at the previous location.

"We now have enhanced Wi-Fi and internet connectivity, plus a command room which is ideal for standing up an incident command quickly in order to address hurricanes and emergency response events," said Rhonda McCormick, Acadiana Regional Office Manager. "There's also an automatic connection to Wi-Fi for state-owned laptops, which makes communication much easier," said Jimbo Earles, Environmental Scientist Supervisor with the Kisatchie Central Regional Office.

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The space includes an equipment staging warehouse and a water sampling lab.

The move from a fairly rural area in Pineville to a busy thoroughfare in Alexandria is a benefit to the department. The new location brings prominence while providing easier access for the general public. Earles elaborated on that point, noting that having an office centrally located in the state allows citizens to meet with and better communicate with the department. Its location in Alexandria also adds to the strategic capabilities for the department, as it is within a two-hour drive of most other regional offices, and the nearby airstrip allows fast access by plane for LDEQ staff when an immediate visit is necessary.

Operating under the oversight of the Acadiana Regional Office, the Kisatchie office has a varied staff and comprises personnel from surveillance, emergency response, underground storage tanks/remediation, radiation and legal. Due to its central location, Kisatchie is predominantly tasked with addressing environmentally related incidents and inquiries in the surrounding parishes of Rapides, Avoyelles, Grant, LaSalle, Catahoula and Concordia. The Acadiana office also serves those parishes in addition to St. Mary, Iberia, Vermilion, St. Martin, Evangeline, Acadia, Lafayette and St. Landry parishes. Both offices support each other, however, and exchange personnel and resources based on the scope of the environmental issue being addressed.

“There is a lot of crossover staffing between both offices, especially for compliance inspections. Everyone works together to address environmental concerns and in serving the needs of the entire region,” Earles said.

The new address and contact information are: Kisatchie Central Regional Office, 2800 S. MacArthur Drive, Suite A, Alexandria, LA 71301; phone (318) 487-5656, fax: (318) 487-5927. Email: ***KCRO@la.gov***.

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LDEQ's Enviroschool to host webinar: Understanding Water Permitting

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) Enviroschool will host a webinar on Understanding Water Permitting. This session will focus on the industrial permitting process, from the water permit application submittal to the issuance of a final Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit.

When: 10 a.m. Thursday, July 15

Online: Live Webinar Only

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
ENVIROSCHOOL

Please register by emailing ***Enviroschool@la.gov.***

Louisiana's Water Quality Regulations (LAC 33: Chapter IX) require permits for the discharge of pollutants from any point source into the waters of the state of Louisiana. This surface water discharge permitting system is administered under the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program. LDEQ became delegated to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program in August of 1996.

The Water Permits Division, within the Office of Environmental Services, consists of two LPDES Water Permitting Sections: Industrial Water Permits and Municipal & General Water Permits. Permitting responsibilities are distributed between the two sections based on facility type. General Permits (authorized under LAC 33:IX.2515) are written to cover one or more categories or subcategories of discharges within a geographic area, which can range from a specific watershed to a broad area such as the entire state. Individual Permits are specifically written to cover a facility's wastewater discharges that do not qualify for authorization under a general permit. This presentation will be focused on the individual industrial permitting process.

The Enviroschool program at LDEQ is the environmental education outreach arm of the agency and provides training for communities, businesses and other organizations on a number of regulatory topics. The program aims to inform attendees about the environmental regulatory process and to maintain and improve environmental compliance.

The workshops are free and open to the public. If you are interested, please feel free to register for any of our workshops. For more information, go to ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroschool*** or email Enviroschool at ***Enviroschool@la.gov***.

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Village Blue Project launched in New Orleans

EPA and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) recently launched a new water quality monitoring project in New Orleans. Village Blue Lake Pontchartrain is a real-time water quality monitoring project. It demonstrates the use of water quality sensors to help Louisiana communities understand Lake Pontchartrain's water quality and its connection to the Mississippi River.

Citizens can learn about Village Blue Lake Pontchartrain and view the live data by visiting: ***www.epa.gov/water-research/village-blue***. This is the second monitoring location for Village Blue. The first operated from 2017-2019 in Maryland's Baltimore Harbor.

EPA and USGS installed water sensors at a site near the New Canal Lighthouse on the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain in February 2021. The sensors are recording measurements of select water quality parameters every hour. Measurements will continue over the next two years.

Village Blue's new sensor deployment site on the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Photo: Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

Village Blue – Lake Pontchartrain measurements

- Algae
- Chlorophyll
- Turbidity
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Nitrate
- Temperature
- pH

Water sensor data from the site are not representative of the entire lake's water quality. However, data from this site and an existing USGS site on the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge could be combined, allowing river and lake conditions to be evaluated under normal conditions on the river. It would also give insight into what happens when river and lake waters come together during Bonnet Carré Spillway openings. The spillway is a feature of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mississippi River and Tributaries Project that diverts floodwaters from the Mississippi River through Lake Pontchartrain into the Gulf of Mexico, according to EPA.

Real-time water quality information about nutrients and potential algal blooms will help Village Blue Lake Pontchartrain users develop a greater understanding of water quality issues. Issues like the ways that heavy rainfall can contribute to changes in nitrate, turbidity (the relative clarity of the water) and dissolved oxygen (the amount of oxygen present in the water) levels in water bodies. These are three important measures of the quality of the water.

Involving the community is an important aspect of the project. The monitoring data from Village Blue can help close information gaps, giving citizens and professional scientists more data to inform communities, policies and environmental restoration efforts. Therefore, EPA and USGS would like to partner with local organizations. They are looking for community and academic partners interested in water quality, water quality sensors, ecological and human health and communication of water quality information. The project may provide opportunities for additional research efforts.

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Village Blue Lake Pontchartrain partners currently include EPA's Office of Research & Development (ORD), EPA Region 6, EPA Gulf of Mexico Division, USGS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Village Blue Lake Pontchartrain was funded through EPA's Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE) Program with additional support from EPA's Region 4 Gulf of Mexico Division.

Station Location: New Canal Lighthouse, 8001 Lakeshore Dr, New Orleans, LA Installation: February 2021

Real-time water sensor data from Village Blue Lake Pontchartrain is now available on USGS's National Water Information System (NWIS) on the website: ***waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=300138090064700***.

If you would like to learn more about this project, you can visit the ***Village Blue website***, read the ***Village Blue Lake Pontchartrain Fact Sheet***, or contact the team at ***villageblue@epa.gov***.

Ambient water quality monitoring program covers several sites across the state

LDEQ Environmental Scientist Kyle Bird (l) deploys a Secchi disk to measure water turbidity in Lake Verret, while environmental scientist Michele Abbene collects water samples.

Ensuring the health and safety of Louisiana's Sportsman's Paradise is LDEQ's mission, and a large component of that mission is accomplished by the Surveillance Division. The division is charged with conducting a multitude of inspections from solid and hazardous waste to water quality and air emissions.

A key component of those inspections involves the department's ongoing ambient water quality program – one that involves all of LDEQ's regional offices, each of which is tasked with collecting water quality data within its respective jurisdiction.

Each month, on a rotating basis, environmental scientists in the Surveillance Division visit the state's bayous, lakes and tributaries by boat and on foot at pre-designated sites in a watershed. Measurements concerning the water quality are gathered, and water samples are placed in labeled bottles for further analysis.

First, when conducting a site inspection, the team will prepare several sampling containers, mark each accordingly and ensure that a preservative is present in each, so that the sample parameters won't be affected. During this process, duplicate containers will contain an equipment blank, which consists of distilled water used to rinse sampling equipment after decontamination. The equipment blank is used as a comparison against the actual sample to verify that no cross-contamination has occurred during sample collection, transport and analysis. Doing so ensures that the actual samples obtained are accurate and reflective of what's being seen in a given water body.

Upon arrival at a sampling site, the team notes the water conditions and may deploy a Secchi disk, a black and white wooden disk connected to a cord used to measure water clarity/turbidity. "The Secchi measurement is taken at the point in which the black/white panels of the disk can no longer be visualized in the column. In turbid water, the measurement will be relatively

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low, and conversely, in clear water, the measurement will be relatively higher," said Kyle Bird, an environmental scientist from LDEQ's Surveillance Division with the Capital Regional Office in Baton Rouge.

Next, the team will lower a Hydrolab HL4 sonde into the water to record various water quality measurement parameters. The Hydrolab is a tube-like measuring instrument that provides real-time data which feeds into a hand-held device. Water samples are then collected in a steel cylinder and poured into various plastic bottles that are marked accordingly for specific constituents such as chloride, total dissolved solids, total suspended solids, alkaline and turbidity.

One bottle's sample is observed for nitrates, nitrites, phosphates and ammonia, while an additional bottle are tested for any presence of fecal coliform. The fecal sample must be submitted to the lab within eight hours in order to gain an accurate reading. In addition, depending on the site history, certain sites are sampled monthly or quarterly for volatile organic compounds.

LDEQ Environmental Scientists Michele Abbene (l) and Kyle Bird collect water samples from a bridge in Assumption Parish.

The time, location and results of each sample and the sampling location will be noted, along with salinity, temperature, conductivity, pH and dissolved oxygen. The samples are then kept on ice in a cooler to preserve them so that the subsequent lab analysis will be accurate.

Also, the team will conduct sampling for data inputs for what's known as the Biotic Ligand Model in certain locations in order to determine whether a metal's concentration is toxic to aquatic life. Locations are selected based on waterbody type, pH, dissolved organic carbon concentrations and other factors. "The model is a mathematical tool used to predict metal toxicity in aquatic organisms by considering multiple contributing factors such as metal concentrations, organic carbon, pH, etc.," Bird explained. "Metals can bind to gill surfaces and generate toxic effects in aquatic organisms, but there are many factors at play in water chemistry (other than the type/amount of metals) that may reduce or increase a metal's potential toxicity. Therefore, the model takes multiple contributing factors into account to predict the potential toxicity."

For this test, additional sampling bottles are used, as the model's analytic parameters include dissolved organic carbon, total organic carbon and dissolved metals (calcium, aluminum, sodium, magnesium, copper, potassium, lead and zinc). Results from the samples determine whether the study can be validated for ongoing use in Louisiana's waters.

Depending on water depth, the sample depth can vary. Surface water quality will usually be conducted at a standard of one meter unless the water level is too low. In those situations, the sampling depth will be noted in the field datasheet.

For other areas where boat access is difficult, unnecessary or impractical, the team will retrieve the data and water samples on foot, usually from a bridge or overpass. This is to ensure that accurate data and a good sample set can be taken from the middle of a waterway (with the standard depth at one meter).

All data compiled for each sampling location will be noted on a datasheet which will be submitted up the LDEQ chain of command for further review. Senior environmental scientists in the ambient water quality team review the data and history to determine whether or not further information will be needed. This may include additional sampling and/or possibly deploying a continuous water quality monitor at a given location. In some cases, a particular constituent (i.e., mercury or iron) may

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continue to show up in the results for a given site, thereby necessitating further investigation as to that constituent's potential entrance source.

The presence of any abnormalities or constituents of concern in those samples, coupled with the water quality data that was collected determine whether or not further evaluation at a site needs to occur.

The Ambient Water Quality monitoring staff will then use the data to ascertain the breadth and impact that any issue may have upon the water body, and steps will then be taken to get that water body back into compliance with state and federal regulations.

The main objective is to ensure that all waters of the state meet the environmental regulations for their designated use, such as swimming, fishing or fish and wildlife propagation. The work is a major component in LDEQ's ongoing water quality monitoring endeavor across the state.

For more information about the program, visit ***www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/ambient-water-quality-monitoring-data***.

LOUISIANA BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

2021 RECAP Training Series – Webinar No. 2: Back to Basics

Date: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Time: 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. *Break for Lunch* 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Via Zoom – *Register Here*

Registration: Webinars are FREE but registration is required to receive the webinar link

Join Dr. June Sutherlin, LDEQ Toxicologist, for this informative presentation on LDEQ's Risk Evaluation/Corrective Action Program (RECAP) where she'll lay the groundwork for RECAP-compliant investigations and reports with special attention to data analysis. Don't miss this opportunity to come up to speed on RECAP or sharpen your existing RECAP skills with this extended training.

Missed the 2021 RECAP Training Series: Webinar No. 1 – Soil Sampling Best Practices? Watch the presentation here: ***https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYftmUkuzbWDvLqDDtMUVSJQmbQfnCrAe***

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Louisiana Clean Fuels is hosting upcoming webinars

EV Market Watch: Work Trucks 2021 Update

When: 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 14

Join Louisiana Clean Fuels (LDF) for a 2021 update on the popular 2020 LCF webinar! Discover all of the options available on the market today and what vehicles are coming soon.

Register: ***https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_odBlgdpQTKyznciLbdPO7A***

Charge It! Preparing Your Hometown For Electric Transit

When: 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 28

Rural towns and smaller municipalities have specific challenges when it comes to using electric vehicles in their transit systems and installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure. From power delivery and lack of community support to local availability of electric vehicles (EVs) and overall lack of awareness, rural townships may face multiple roadblocks. In this webinar, Clean Cities coordinators from Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas and Kansas will share case studies and best practices to help avoid the pitfalls that can impede plans to deploy EVs and develop an equitable charging infrastructure that fits the needs of a smaller transit system. Guest speaker, Chris Nielsen of eCab North America, uses low-speed electric vehicles for his fleet of eCabs. He is part of a grant providing eCabs and drivers to rural transit systems for first/last mile trips, a cost-effective way to extend the reach of the transit.

Register: ***https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TVgN70kpTze1ksZkzmW2cQ***

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LDEQ On The Move

Jennifer Elee, Radiation Section, receives Meritorious Service Award

The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), at their Annual Meeting held May 18, presented a Meritorious Service Award to Jennifer Elee. She is an employee of LDEQ's Office of Environmental Compliance, Emergency and Radiological Services Division, Radiation Section. Elee was recognized for her active participation in the H-46 Committee on International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC Standards), Guidance and Outreach Working Group.

"Jennifer's active participation in this working group utilized her knowledge and years of experience in the radiological field. Jennifer is a leader in the field of Radiation and is no stranger to national-level awards for service. Jennifer has been recognized several times over the last few years for her efforts in the radiological field. We are proud of Jennifer, her continued collaborative work and yet another national-level award!," said Jeff J. Dauzat, Administrator of the Emergency and Radiological Services Division.

Please help to congratulate Jennifer on this achievement!

Ashley Menard receives Outstanding Achievement Award

The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), at their Annual Meeting held on May 18, presented a Board of Directors Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Radiation Protection to Ashley Menard.

Menard is an employee of LDEQ's Office of Environmental Compliance, Emergency and Radiological Services Division, Radiation Section. She was recognized for her active participation in the H-11 Committee on Mammography Working Group.

"Ashley's active participation in this working group utilized her unique knowledge and experience in the field of Mammography. Ashley's participation also allowed the state of Louisiana and the LDEQ to share information in a collaborative format with other states and federal entities in this unique space. We are proud of Ashley, her willingness to work collaboratively on a national level and her national recognition!," said Jeff J. Dauzat, Administrator of the Emergency and Radiological Services Division.

Please help to congratulate Ashley on this special achievement!

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Who's Who At LDEQ?

Otis Randle – Environmental Scientist Supervisor, Office of Environmental Compliance, Surveillance Division, Northwest Regional Office

A Minden native, Randle rejoins the LDEQ from the Ferrellgas/Bridger Environmental, LLC. He earned a bachelor's degree in wildlife conservation from Louisiana Tech University. He will be working in the Northwest Regional Office as the Environmental Scientist Supervisor. Randle previously worked for LDEQ in the Northwest Regional Office from 1990 to 2011.

Since leaving LDEQ, he worked for Bridger Logistics, LLC, as their Director of Environmental Safety and Regulatory Compliance. The company was combined with Ferrellgas in 2015, where he continued as Vice President of Environmental Safety and Regulatory Compliance.

Kimberly Carter – Environmental Scientist, Office of Environmental Services, Waste Permits Division

Carter is a native of Tallulah who moved to Baton Rouge in 2000 to attend Southern University. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences. She also holds a Master of Business Administration.

Carter recently joined LDEQ's Waste Permits Division as an environmental scientist after working with the Department of Transportation and Development as an Environmental Impact Specialist since 2010. She has over 10 years of experience in environmental compliance and site investigation/assessment.

She enjoys outdoor activities, Saints and Jag football, reading and traveling.

Jennifer Blanchard – Environmental Scientist, Office of Environmental Assessment, Air Planning Division, Air Field Services, Southwest Regional Office

Blanchard was born and raised in Lake Charles. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from McNeese State University, where she also earned a Master of Science degree in environmental and chemical sciences. "I have had the privilege of being able to join this air field service team and look forward to beginning my career here at the LDEQ."

Her hobbies include spending time with family, painting and DIY projects, cooking and baking.

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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's First Quarter Summaries

First Quarter 2021 Enforcement Actions:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions

First Quarter 2021 Settlement Agreements:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division

First Quarter 2021 Air Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter

First Quarter 2021 Water Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes

First Quarter 2021 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits