NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Environmental Quality

Office of the Secretary

Legal Affairs and Criminal Investigations Division

Procedures

(LAC 33:I.2105.B) (OS102)

 Under the authority of the Environmental Quality Act, R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the secretary gives notice that rulemaking procedures have been initiated to amend the Office of the Secretary regulations, LAC 33:I.2105.B (OS102).

 The proposed changes to LAC 33:I.2105.B are intended to clarify the approval procedure for subscriber agreements as defined in LAC 33:I.2103.A. Previously, the approval procedure for subscriber agreements, as found in LAC 33:I.2105.B, differed from the definition of subscriber agreement, as found in LAC 33:I.2103.A. The proposed changes to LAC 33:I.2105.B are intended to bring such language into conformity. The basis and rationale for this Rule are to increase procedural clarity and reduce confusion. This Rule meets an exception listed in R.S. 30:2019(D)(2) and R.S. 49:963.B(3); therefore, no report regarding environmental/health benefits and social/economic costs is required.

**Family Impact Statement**

This Rule has no known impact on family formation, stability, and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

**Poverty Impact Statement**

This Rule has no known impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

**Small Business Analysis**

This Rule has no known impact on small business as described in R.S. 49:974.1 - 974.8.

**Provider Impact Statement**

This Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

**Public Comments**

 All interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed regulation. Persons commenting should reference this proposed regulation by OS102. Such comments must be received no later than December 5, 2023, at 4:30 p.m., and should be sent to William Little, Attorney Supervisor, Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, P.O. Box 4302, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4302, by fax (225) 219-4068, or by E-mail to DEQ.Reg.Dev.Comments@la.gov. Copies of the proposed regulation can be purchased by contacting the LDEQ Public Records Center at (225) 219-3168. Check or money order is required in advance for each copy of OS102. The proposed regulation is available on the Internet at https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/monthly-regulation-changes-2023%20.

**Public Hearing**

A public hearing will be held via Zoom on November 28, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. Interested persons are invited to attend and submit oral comments via PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android at https://deqlouisiana.zoom.us/j/81211942923?pwd=gdYW43qh9oakrNY0PiAc88YyKygcti.1password 813415 or by telephone by dialing (636) 651-3182 using the conference code 725573. Should individuals with a disability need an accommodation in order to participate, contact William Little at the address given below or at (225) 219-3985.

 The proposed regulation is available for inspection at the following LDEQ office locations from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.: 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; 508 Downing Pines Road, West Monroe, LA 71292; State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101; 1301 Gadwall Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615; 111 New Center Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508; 110 Barataria Street, Lockport, LA 70374; 201 Evans Road, Bldg. 4, Suite 420, New Orleans, LA 70123.

 Courtney J. Burdette

 Executive Counsel

**Title 33**

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**Part I. Office of the Secretary**

**Chapter 21.** **Electronic Submittals and Electronic Signatures**

**§2105. Procedures**

A. — A.4. …

B. Each *subscriber agreement*, as defined in LAC 33:I.2103.A, shall ~~include one or more handwritten wet ink signatures,~~ receive approval from the department, and be retained on file with the department while the subscriber agreement is active and for an additional five years.

 AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2043 and 9:2601.

 HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 34:1612 (August 2008), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs and Criminal Investigations Division, LR 49:

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

**FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Person Preparing Statement:  | William E. Little |  | Dept.:  | Environmental Quality |
| Phone:  | (225) 219-3985 |  | Office:  | OSEC/Legal Affairs & Criminal Investigations |
| Return Address:  | 602 N. Fifth Street |  | Rule Title:  | Procedures |
|  | Baton Rouge, LA 70802 |  |  | LAC 33:I.2105.B |
|  |  |  | Date Rule Takes Effect:  | Upon Promulgation |

SUMMARY

(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 961 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SUMMARIZE ATTACHED WORKSHEETS, I THROUGH IV AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE LOUISIANA REGISTER WITH THE PROPOSED AGENCY RULE.

1. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to have any implementation costs or savings to state or local governmental units.

The proposed rule change clarifies the approval procedure for subscriber agreements. Previously, the approval procedure for subscriber agreements differed from the definition of subscriber agreement. This rule change brings such language into conformity which will increase procedural clarity and reduce confusion.

1. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to have any effect on revenue collections of state or local governmental units.

1. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to have any effect on costs and/or economic benefits to directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups.

1. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to have any effect on competition or employment.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| Signature of Head or Designee |  | Legislative Fiscal Officer or Designee |
| Courtney J. Burdette, Executive Counsel |  |  |
| Typed Name & Title of Agency Head or Designee  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Date of Signature  |  | Date of Signature  |

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

**FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

The following information is required in order to assist the Legislative Fiscal Office in its review of the fiscal and economic impact statement and to assist the appropriate legislative oversight subcommittee in its deliberation on the proposed rule.

1. Provide a brief summary of the content of the rule (if proposed for adoption, or repeal) or a brief summary of the change in the rule (if proposed for amendment). Attach a copy of the notice of intent and a copy of the rule proposed for initial adoption or repeal (or, in the case of a rule change, copies of both the current and proposed rules with amended portions indicated).

The proposed changes to LAC 33:I.2105.B are intended to clarify the approval procedure for subscriber agreements as defined in LAC 33:I.2103.A.
2. Summarize the circumstances, which require this action. If the Action is required by federal regulation, attach a copy of the applicable regulation.

Previously, the approval procedure for subscriber agreements, as found in LAC 33:I.2105.B, differed from the definition of subscriber agreement, as found in LAC 33:I.2103.A. The proposed changes to LAC 33:I.2105.B are intended to bring such language into conformity.
3. Compliance with Act 11 of the 1986 First Extraordinary Session
4. Will the proposed rule change result in any increase in the expenditure of funds? If so, specify amount and source of funding.

The proposed rule change will not result in any increase in the expenditure of funds.

(2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, has the Legislature specifically appropriated the funds necessary for the associated expenditure increase?

 (a) YES. If yes, attach documentation.

(b) NO. If no, provide justification as to why this rule change should be published at this time

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

**WORKSHEET**

I. A. COSTS OR SAVINGS TO STATE AGENCIES RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED

1. What is the anticipated increase (decrease) in costs to implement the proposed action?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COSTS** | **FY 24** | **FY 25** | **FY 26** |
| PERSONAL SERVICES | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| OTHER CHARGES | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| EQUIPMENT | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| MAJOR REPAIR & CONSTR. | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| **TOTAL** | **$0** | **$0** | **$0** |
| **POSITIONS (#)** | **0** | **0** | **0** |

1. Provide a narrative explanation of the costs or savings shown in "A. 1.", including the increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.) anticipated as a result of the implementation of the proposed action. Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these costs.

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to have any effect on costs or savings, including the increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork.
2. Sources of funding for implementing the proposed rule or rule change.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOURCE** | **FY 24** | **FY 25** | **FY 26** |
| STATE GENERAL FUND | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| AGENCY SELF-GENERATED | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| DEDICATED | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| OTHER (Specify) | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| **TOTAL** | **$0** | **$0** | **$0** |

1. Does your agency currently have sufficient funds to implement the proposed action? If not, how and when do you anticipate obtaining such funds?

No additional funds are needed to implement the proposed rule change.

B. COST OR SAVINGS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED.

1. Provide an estimate of the anticipated impact of the proposed action on local governmental units, including adjustments in workload and paperwork requirements. Describe all data, assumptions and methods used in calculating this impact.

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to have any impact on local governmental units, including adjustment in workload and paperwork requirements.
2. Indicate the sources of funding of the local governmental unit, which will be affected by these costs or savings.

No sources of funding of local governmental units will be affected by the proposed rule change.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

**WORKSHEET**

II. EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

1. What increase (decrease) in revenues can be anticipated from the proposed action?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **REVENUE INCREASE/DECREASE** | **FY 24** | **FY 25** | **FY 26** |
| STATE GENERAL FUND | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| AGENCY SELF-GENERATED | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| DEDICATED | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| LOCAL FUNDS | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| **TOTAL** | **$0** | **$0** | **$0** |

\*Specify the particular fund being impacted.

1. Provide a narrative explanation of each increase or decrease in revenues shown in "A." Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these increases or decreases.

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to cause any increase or decrease in revenues.

III. COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS

 A. What persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups would be directly affected by the proposed action? For each, provide an estimate and a narrative description of any effect on costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.), they may have to incur as a result of the proposed action.

Individuals and entities that submit subscriber agreements to the Department of Environmental Quality for approval will be directly affected by the proposed rule change. However, the proposed rule change is not anticipated to have any effect on costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork.

1. Also provide an estimate and a narrative description of any impact on receipts and/or income resulting from this rule or rule change to these groups.

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to have any impact on receipts and/or income.

IV. EFFECTS ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT

Identify and provide estimates of the impact of the proposed action on competition and employment

 in the public and private sectors. Include a summary of any data, assumptions and methods used in making these estimates.

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to have any impact on competition, either in the public or the private sector.