

Laura Almond

From: Laura Almond
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:27 AM
To: 'apa.h-natr@legis.la.gov'; 'apa.s-envq@legis.la.gov'; 'apa.senatepresident@legis.la.gov'; 'apa.housespeaker@legis.la.gov'
Cc: Courtney Burdette (DEQ); Jill Clark; Deidra Johnson; William Little; Nathan Mills; Robert Shadoin; Jay Love
Subject: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117
Attachments: WQ117 NOI.pdf

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	'apa.h-natr@legis.la.gov'	
	'apa.s-envq@legis.la.gov'	
	'apa.senatepresident@legis.la.gov'	
	'apa.housespeaker@legis.la.gov'	
	Courtney Burdette (DEQ)	Delivered: 3/10/2026 8:28 AM
	Jill Clark	Delivered: 3/10/2026 8:28 AM
	Deidra Johnson	Delivered: 3/10/2026 8:28 AM
	William Little	Delivered: 3/10/2026 8:28 AM
	Nathan Mills	Delivered: 3/10/2026 8:28 AM
	Robert Shadoin	Delivered: 3/10/2026 8:28 AM
	Jay Love	Delivered: 3/10/2026 8:28 AM

March 10, 2026

The Honorable Eddie J. Lambert, Chairman
c/o Committee Staff
Senate Committee on Environmental Quality

The Honorable Brett F. Geymann, Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment
c/o Committee Staff

**RE: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117
Water Quality Standards Triennial Revision
(LAC 33:IX.1109)
Proposed on January 20, 2026**

Pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is submitting a report regarding the above-referenced proposed rule, which was published in the *Louisiana Register*. Neither oral nor written comments were received. No changes have been made to the proposed rule since the report provided for in R.S. 49:966(B) was submitted. Attached is the Notice of Intent for informational purposes. The original proposed rule was previously provided to you and is not being resubmitted with this report.

We would appreciate it if you would acknowledge receipt of this message by return email. Please contact Laura Almond at laura.almond@la.gov or (225) 219-3981 if you have any questions regarding this material.

Sincerely yours,

Jill C. Clark
General Counsel

This concludes this transmission.

Laura Almond
Environmental Project Specialist
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Legal Affairs Division
(225) 219-3985

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
RULE TITLE: Late Fee Update**

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (Summary)

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) does not anticipate any implementation costs or savings associated with the proposed rule change as it will align the administrative code with current practice concerning the assessment of late payment penalties.

The proposed rule change removes 15-day and 30-day late payment penalties. Currently, if payment is received less than 15 days after the invoice is due, there is no penalty; if received 15 days to 29 days after the due date, the penalty is 5%; if received 30 days to 59 days after payment is due, the penalty is 10%; and if payment is received 60 days or later after payment is due then the penalty is 15%, payable to the department. The proposed rule change removes this tiered fee schedule and replaces it with a late fee of 15%, assessed 60 days after payment is due.

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

The proposed rule change removes the assessment of the 15-day and 30-day late fees. However, the department reports it has not collected the 15-day late fee since 2016 and the 30-day late fee since 2020. Based on this and data showing the department typically receives payment from entities within 60 days following the due date, DEQ does not anticipate any impact on revenue collections as a result of the proposed rule change.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

The proposed rule change is anticipated to economically benefit businesses working within the industries regulated by DEQ. Currently, these businesses are required to pay invoices within 15 days. The removal of any late fees charged prior to the 60th day following a due date will provide more time for businesses to process invoices without penalties.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to impact competition or employment in either the public or private sector.

Jill C. Clark
General Counsel
2601#033

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer
Legislative Fiscal Office

NOTICE OF INTENT

**Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary
Legal Affairs Division**

**Water Quality Standards Triennial Revision
(LAC 33:IX.1109)**

Under the authority of the Louisiana 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 Water Quality regulations, LAC 33:IX.1109 (WQ117).

The proposed Rule will revise Chapter 11 of the Water Quality regulations for clarification. This action is required in

order to fulfill the department's obligation to review and revise, as necessary, at least once every three years, the state's water quality standards. The basis and rationale for this proposed Rule are to conform to Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act and to maintain and protect state waters. This proposed 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.

Title 33

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Part IX. Water Quality

Subpart 1. Water Pollution Control

Chapter 11. Surface Water Quality Standards

§1109. Policy

Water quality standards policies concerned with the protection and enhancement of water quality in the state are discussed in this Section. Policy statements on antidegradation, water use, water body exception classification, compliance schedules, variances, short-term activity authorization, errors, severability, revisions to standards, and sample collection and analytical procedures are described.

A. - K.4.e.i. ...

ii. Poydras-Verret Marsh Wetland - Designated Naturally Dystrophic Waters Segment. The following criteria are applicable:

(a). no more than 50 percent reduction in the wetlands faunal assemblage total abundance, total abundance of dominant species, or the species richness of fish and macroinvertebrates, minimum of five replicate samples per site; $p = 0.05$; and

(b). no more than 20 percent reduction in the total above-ground wetland productivity as measured by tree, shrub, and/or marsh grass productivity.

iii. Breaux Bridge Swamp and Thibodaux Swamp - Designated Naturally Dystrophic Waters Segment. The following criteria are applicable:

(a). no more than 20 percent decrease in naturally occurring litter fall or stem growth;

(b). no significant decrease in the dominance index or stem density of bald cypress; and

(c). no significant decrease in faunal species diversity and no more than a 20 percent decrease in biomass.

iv. Bayou Ramos Swamp Wetland - Designated Naturally Dystrophic Waters Segment. The following criteria are applicable:

(a). no more than 20 percent decrease in naturally occurring litter fall or stem growth;

(b). no significant decrease in the dominance index or stem density of bald cypress; and

(c). no significant decrease in faunal species diversity and no more than a 20 percent decrease in abundance.

5. - 6. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2074(B)(1).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, LR 10:745 (October 1984), amended LR 15:738 (September 1989), LR 17:264 (March 1991), LR 17:967 (October 1991), repromulgated LR 17:1083, amended LR 20:883 (August 1994), LR 24:688 (April 1998), amended by the Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:2402 (December 1999), LR 26:2547 (November 2000), LR 24:289 (March 2001), LR 30:1474 (July 2004), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 33:457 (March 2007), LR 33:829 (May 2007), LR 35:446 (March 2009), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Division, LR 42:736 (May 2016), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs and Criminal Investigations Division, LR 45:1188 (September 2019), LR 46:1550 (November 2020), LR 48:1498 (June 2022), LR 49:1553 (September 2023), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 52:

Family Impact Statement

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

Poverty Impact Statement

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

Small Business Analysis

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

Provider Impact Statement

This proposed 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 Rule. Persons commenting should reference this proposed Rule by WQ117. Such comments must be received no later than March 4, 2026, 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 Rule 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 WQ117. The proposed Rule is available on the Internet at <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/rules-regulations>.

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on February 25, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the Galvez Building, Oliver Pollock Conference Room, 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Interested persons are invited to attend in person or online via Zoom at <https://deqlouisiana.zoom.us/j/6836133613?omn=96984013461> or by phone at (309) 740-3221. Meeting ID 683 613 3613. Should individuals with a disability need an accommodation in order to participate, contact Doug Bordelon at the address given below or at (225) 219-1325.

The proposed Rule 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.

Jill C. Clark
General Counsel

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
RULE TITLE: Water Quality Standards
Triennial Revision**

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

There are no estimated implementation costs or savings to state or local governmental units as a result of the proposed rule changes. The proposed rule change will revise and clarify the intent of Chapter 11 of the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Water Quality regulations. The 2024 Triennial Review Report of Findings, a federally mandated review of water quality standards conducted by DEQ every three years, identified one citation in Section 1109 with errors; specifically, three uses of "and/or" when "and" is appropriate. This change in verbiage is not anticipated to create more stringent requirements, as it is a technical correction to align the administrative code with the existing Water Quality Management Plan, which is the primary document governing water quality management, pollution control, and planning activities carried out by the state in order to comply with the provisions of the federal Clean Water Act.

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

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to impact the revenue collections of state or local governmental units.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

There are no estimated costs and/or economic benefits to directly affected persons or non-governmental groups as a result of the proposed rule change.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

There is no estimated effect on competition and employment as a result of the proposed rule change.

Jill C. Clark
General Counsel
2601#035

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer
Legislative Fiscal Office

NOTICE OF INTENT

**Office of the Governor
Board of Architectural Examiners**

Louisiana Architecture Education and Research Fund
(LAC 46:I.Chapter 22)

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Architectural Examiners, in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 49:950 et seq., and through the authority granted in R.S. 37:144(C), proposes to amend many of the Sections in LAC 46:I.Chapter 22 pertaining to the Louisiana Architecture Education and Research Fund. More specifically, the board gives notice that it proposes to amend LAC 46:I.2201 pertaining to proposals, LAC 46:I.2211 pertaining to awards, LAC 46:I.2213 pertaining to use of funds awarded, and LAC 46:I.2115 pertaining to the final report.

Act 192 of 2024 mandated that all state agencies which make rules (i) systematically review in accordance with stated criteria a sufficient number of rules each year so that all rules

Laura Almond

From: APA - House Natural Res <apa.h-natr@legis.la.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:28 AM
To: Laura Almond
Subject: Request received

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

ELECTRONIC RECEIPT BY COMMITTEE

Your Administrative Procedure Act (APA) submission has been received by the Committee on Natural Resources, Louisiana House.

(Please do not respond to this automatically generated response.)

If your communication is unrelated to an APA required submission, it has been deleted.

If you would like to contact your state legislator, click here <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/HowDoI2.aspx?p=3#11> to determine the name of your state representative and state senator and to find their contact information.

If you would like to contact members of a particular committee, click here for House Committees <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/Committees.aspx?c=H> and here for Senate Committees <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/Committees.aspx?c=S>. The name and contact information of all committee members is available at these sites.

Laura Almond

From: APA - House Speaker <apa.housespeaker@legis.la.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:28 AM
To: Laura Almond
Subject: Request received

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

ELECTRONIC RECEIPT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Your Administrative Procedure Act (APA) submission has been received by the Office of the Speaker, Louisiana House of Representatives.

(Please do not respond to this automatically generated response.)

If your communication is unrelated to an APA required submission, it has been deleted.

If you would like to contact your state legislator, click here <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/HowDoI2.aspx?p=3#11> to determine the name of your state representative and state senator and to find their contact information.

If you would like to contact members of a particular committee, click here for House Committees

<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/Committees.aspx?c=H> and here for Senate Committees

<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/Committees.aspx?c=S>. The name and contact information of all committee members is available at these sites.

Laura Almond

From: APA - Senate President <APA.senatepresident@legis.la.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:28 AM
To: Laura Almond
Subject: Request received

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

ELECTRONIC RECEIPT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Your Administrative Procedure Act (APA) submission has been received by the Office of the President, Louisiana Senate.

(Please do not respond to this automatically generated response.)

If your communication is unrelated to an APA required submission, it has been deleted.

If you would like to contact your state legislator, click here <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/HowDoI2.aspx?p=3#11> to determine the name of your state representative and state senator and to find their contact information.

If you would like to contact members of a particular committee, click here for House Committees

<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/Committees.aspx?c=H> and here for Senate Committees

<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/Committees.aspx?c=S>. The name and contact information of all committee members is available at these sites.

Laura Almond

From: APA - Senate Environment <apa.s-envq@legis.la.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:28 AM
To: Laura Almond
Cc: APA - Senate Environment
Subject: Request received

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

ELECTRONIC RECEIPT BY COMMITTEE

Your Administrative Procedure Act (APA) submission has been received by the Committee on Environment, Louisiana Senate.

(Please do not respond to this automatically generated response.)

If your communication is unrelated to an APA required submission, it has been deleted.

If you would like to contact your state legislator, click here <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/HowDol2.aspx?p=3#11> to determine the name of your state representative and state senator and to find their contact information.

If you would like to contact members of a particular committee, click here for House Committees

<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/Committees.aspx?c=H> and here for Senate Committees

<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/Committees.aspx?c=S>. The name and contact information of all committee members is available at these sites.

Laura Almond

From: Microsoft Outlook
To: Jill Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:28 AM
Subject: Delivered: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117

Your message has been delivered to the following recipients:

Jill Clark (Jill.Clark@la.gov)

Subject: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117



Summary Report
for Proposed Ru...

Laura Almond

From: Microsoft Outlook
To: 'apa.h-natr@legis.la.gov'; apa.s-envq@legis.la.gov; 'apa.senatepresident@legis.la.gov';
apa.housespeaker@legis.la.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:28 AM
Subject: Relayed: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117

Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:

'apa.h-natr@legis.la.gov' (apa.h-natr@legis.la.gov)

apa.s-envq@legis.la.gov (apa.s-envq@legis.la.gov)

'apa.senatepresident@legis.la.gov' (apa.senatepresident@legis.la.gov)

apa.housespeaker@legis.la.gov (apa.housespeaker@legis.la.gov)

Subject: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117



Summary Report
for Proposed Ru...

Laura Almond

From: Microsoft Outlook
To: Courtney Burdette (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:28 AM
Subject: Delivered: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117

Your message has been delivered to the following recipients:

Courtney Burdette (DEQ) (Courtney.Burdette@LA.GOV)

Subject: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117



Summary Report
for Proposed Ru...

Laura Almond

From: Microsoft Outlook
To: Robert Shadoin
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:28 AM
Subject: Delivered: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117

Your message has been delivered to the following recipients:

Robert Shadoin (Robert.Shadoin2@LA.GOV)

Subject: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117



Summary Report
for Proposed Ru...

Laura Almond

From: Microsoft Outlook
To: Jay Love
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:28 AM
Subject: Delivered: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117

Your message has been delivered to the following recipients:

Jay Love (Jay.Love2@la.gov)

Subject: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117



Summary Report
for Proposed Ru...

Laura Almond

From: Microsoft Outlook
To: Deidra Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:28 AM
Subject: Delivered: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117

Your message has been delivered to the following recipients:

[Deidra Johnson \(Deidra.Johnson@LA.GOV\)](mailto:Deidra.Johnson@LA.GOV)

Subject: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117



Summary Report
for Proposed Ru...

Laura Almond

From: Microsoft Outlook
To: Nathan Mills
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:28 AM
Subject: Delivered: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117

Your message has been delivered to the following recipients:

Nathan Mills (Nathan.Mills@LA.GOV)

Subject: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117



Summary Report
for Proposed Ru...

Laura Almond

From: Microsoft Outlook
To: William Little
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:28 AM
Subject: Delivered: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117

Your message has been delivered to the following recipients:

[William Little \(William.Little@la.gov\)](mailto:William.Little@la.gov)

Subject: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117



Summary Report
for Proposed Ru...

Laura Almond

From: Stalder, Robin <stalderr@legis.la.gov>
To: Laura Almond
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:47 AM
Subject: Read: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117

Your message

To: Stalder, Robin
Subject: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:27:29 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

was read on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:47:15 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada).

Laura Almond

From: Jay Love
To: Laura Almond
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:33 AM
Subject: Read: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117

Your message

To: Jay Love
Subject: Summary Report for Proposed Rule WQ117
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:27:29 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

was read on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:33:09 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada).