

**STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**AGENCY INTEREST NO. 243422**

**TROPICAL STORM FRANCINE**

**THIRD AMENDED DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY  
AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

Pursuant to the authority granted to me by Louisiana Revised Statutes 30:2001 *et seq.*, and particularly La. R.S. 30:2033 and 2011(D)(6), and in recognition of National Weather Service Warnings and the Governor's Declaration of Emergency, 142 JML 2024, I hereby make the following findings, amended declaration, and amended order:

**FINDINGS AND DECLARATION**

1. **Hurricane Francine**, (hereinafter "**EVENT**") made landfall on the Louisiana Coast on the afternoon of September 11, 2024 after rapidly strengthening into a Category 2 hurricane. It adversely impacted the State of Louisiana and caused damage and flooding, especially in Southeastern Louisiana. The following parishes remain affected by Hurricane Francine: Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Jefferson, LaFourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John The Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Terrebonne, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana, and Washington.
2. Louisiana Governor, Jeffrey Martin Landry, pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. R.S. 29:271 *et seq.*, declared a State of Emergency on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, by signing 173 JML 2024 (hereinafter "**Declaration**").
3. I find that the **EVENT** has created conditions that require continuing action to prevent irreparable damage to the environment and serious threats to life or safety. To address these conditions, I previously issued a Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order on September 10, 2024 which has been twice amended. After review of the conditions, I find that an amendment of that order is required.

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**WHEREFORE**, I hereby declare that an emergency continues to exist, and amend the previous Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order issued for this event. This First Amended Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order (hereinafter “**Order**”) supersedes all prior Declarations of Emergency and Administrative Orders, and includes the following measures deemed necessary to prevent irreparable damage to the environment and serious threats to life or safety. This **Order** has application only in the following Parishes: Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Jefferson, LaFourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John The Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Terrebonne, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana, and Washington, which shall hereinafter be referred to as, the “**Emergency Areas**”:

### **ORDER**

Within the **Emergency Areas**:

#### **§ 1. Solid Waste Management**

- a. State of Louisiana “Comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management,” (the Debris Management Plan)

When handling and managing wastes generated as a result of the **EVENT**, owners and operators of solid waste management facilities and local governments shall adhere to the Debris Management Plan except where the Debris Management Plan may be in conflict with the provisions of this Order, in which case the provisions of this Order shall prevail. The Debris Management Plan contains provisions and instructions for handling various types of waste material and for locating and receiving authorization for Emergency Debris Sites. A copy of the Debris Management Plan can be obtained via LDEQ’s website at the following link,

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management>.

- b. Permitted Solid Waste Management Facilities

- i. Owners and operators of solid waste management facilities permitted by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (“LDEQ” or “Department”) before the **EVENT** are authorized to make all necessary repairs to restore essential services and the functionality of storm water management and leachate collection systems damaged by the **EVENT**, without prior notice to the Department. Within thirty (30) days of commencing the work of such repair or replacement, however, the permittee shall notify the Department in writing, describing the nature of the work,

giving its location, and providing the name, address, and telephone number of the representative of the permittee to contact concerning the work.

ii. Permitted facilities within or outside of the Emergency Areas, which accept **EVENT**-generated debris in accordance with the terms of this Order, may accept **EVENT**-generated debris for disposal or storage without the need to first modify existing permits, as follows:

(1). Prior notification is submitted to the Department describing any proposed deviations from permit conditions;

(2). Any proposed deviations from permit limits must be within the bounds of engineering assumptions used in the design of the facility, and conducted in accordance with the Debris Management Plan; and

(3). Written approval by the Department (including electronic mail) of the proposed deviations is received.

iii. Operators of permitted facilities may request extended hours of operation and increased solid waste acceptance rates to facilitate recovery and clean-up efforts. The Department may approve such requests for the duration of the Order without the need for a permit modification.

iv. Operators of permitted facilities approved for permit deviations under this Order may be required to submit application for modifications of their existing permits to address any long-term impacts of accepting **EVENT**-generated debris on operations and closure that are not addressed in existing permits if it is determined long-term impacts will result from these activities. Long-term impacts are those that will extend past the expiration date of this Order. The requests for modification shall be submitted no later than six (6) months after the date the Governor declared the emergency, unless otherwise extended by the Department. No permit fee will be required for any modifications necessitated solely by the clean-up activities resulting from the **EVENT**. The Department may, for good cause shown, issue a temporary authorization pursuant to LAC 33:VII.509.B.1.a for activities that are addressed in a permit modification request as provided for in this subsection, to authorize operations after expiration of this Order, pending a decision on the modification request.

v. White goods (e.g., air conditioners, stoves, range tops, refrigerators and freezers from which food has been removed) shall be stored in an area separate from other solid wastes and in a manner that prevents vector and odor problems. No white goods may be stored in or on any permitted landfill cells that have not undergone final closure and have not received

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written authorization from the LDEQ specifically allowing storage in that area. All white goods shall be removed from the storage facility or staging area and sent offsite for recycling, or recycled onsite, within ninety (90) days of initial receipt at the site.

c. Emergency Debris Sites

i. Upon the declaration of an emergency by LDEQ and the issuance of this Order, local governments and state agencies may “activate” a pre-approved emergency debris site. Upon activation, the governmental body shall notify LDEQ Headquarters via the debris hotline (225-364-7901) that the site is being activated. This verbal notification shall occur as soon as practicable depending on communication capability. If LDEQ Headquarters does not have communication capability, please call one of LDEQ’s regional offices listed in Appendix D.

Written notification (Written Notification of the Activation of Pre-Approved Emergency Site) shall be sent to the LDEQ Regional Manager and the LDEQ Headquarters within five (5) days of verbally activating the site, or as soon as mail delivery is possible. A copy of the form is contained in the Debris Management Plan or can be obtained via LDEQ’s website at the following link:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management>.

LDEQ Headquarters address is as follows: Waste Permits Division, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313 or fax (225) 325-8236 or email [deqdebrisrequests@la.gov](mailto:deqdebrisrequests@la.gov).

ii. New temporary emergency debris sites may be considered in accordance with procedures contained in the Debris Management Plan. Authorizations may be requested by providing a notice to the Department on approved forms (Emergency Debris Site Request Form). The request forms can be obtained via LDEQ’s website at the following link:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management>.

New temporary emergency debris sites can be requested as follows:

- (1). Emailing a completed request form to [deqdebrisrequests@la.gov](mailto:deqdebrisrequests@la.gov);
- (2). Faxing a completed request form to (225) 325-8236, or
- (3). If a request form is not immediately available, the local government can call the emergency debris hotline at (225) 364-7901, and provide the information over the phone to receive verbal approval to stage. The verbal request shall be followed up with a written request as soon as possible after mail delivery is available but no later than 21 days after verbal approval is given.

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iii. All temporary and activated pre-approved emergency debris sites accepting vegetative debris shall submit completed weekly debris management report (WDMR) forms to the Department each week, no later than Sunday, during operations until the debris site is completely closed or deactivated and the final report has been submitted in accordance with the Debris Management Plan. A copy of the WDMR form is contained in the Debris Management Plan or can be obtained via LDEQ's website at the following link, <http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management>.

d. Construction and demolition debris generated from residential structures of four units or less that are subject to a government-ordered demolition shall be disposed of in accordance with the Debris Management Plan except Regulated Asbestos Containing Material (RACM) shall be disposed of in a Type I/II landfill. A request by a landfill owner or operator for authorization to accept such RACM must include a certification that the owner or operator will manage the RACM in accordance with the landfill's QA/QC plan and LDEQ requirements. The Department will provide a written response to the request for authorization to accept solid waste and asbestos containing material in a Type I or II landfill.

e. Waste Tires

i. All tires must be classified for either recycling under existing approved beneficial uses, or for resale. Any person who claims for resale any tires from salvaged or scrapped vehicles in the affected area shall report to the Department the number of such tires classified for resale, and their destination, within fifteen (15) days.

ii. All tires that are removed from vehicles in the affected area that are destined for salvage because of damage resulting from the **EVENT** must be collected, transported, and either recycled or disposed of with an accompanying manifest that lists the tires as being ineligible for the WTMF. If the tires are deemed "used tires" for resale, such a declaration must be reported to the Department by the person responsible for removal of the tires from the vehicle being scrapped and/or salvaged. The report must contain the VIN of the vehicle being scrapped and/or salvaged, the number of tires being removed, the number being classified for resale, and the number classified for recycling and/or disposal.

iii. Eligibility of tires for the WTMF shall be governed by LAC 33:VII.Chapter 105.

## § 2. Hazardous Waste

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In accordance with the Debris Management Plan, hazardous waste generated as a result of the **EVENT** must be separated from other **EVENT**-generated waste and disposed of at a permitted hazardous waste disposal facility.

**§ 4. Open Burning**

The Department will consider, on an individual basis, requests for approval for open burning, by persons other than local governments or their agents, of **EVENT**-generated trees, leaves, vines, twigs, branches, grass, and other vegetative debris. Any such burning approved by the Department must be conducted in compliance with the requirements of the Debris Management Plan and LAC 33:III.1109.D.6 and as authorized by the Department. Local governments and their agents shall follow the provisions of the Debris Management Plan.

**§ 3. Underground Storage Tanks**

Before placing any Underground Storage Tank (UST) system impacted by the **EVENT** back in operation, and no later than ninety (90) days after **EVENT**-related conditions permit, the owner and/or operator shall perform an emergency evaluation of the UST system. The evaluation shall consist of, at a minimum, a general inspection of the UST system, followed by performing the startup protocol contained in Appendix C, “Plan For Evaluating Underground Storage Tank Sites Impacted by Natural and Catastrophic Disasters.” Before placing fuel into any UST system that has been damaged or has sustained a release, the owner/operator must repair or replace the UST system, perform precision tank and line tightness tests and leak detection system tests, and provide a fully functional corrosion control system.

During the time that the UST system is not accessible due to conditions resulting from the **EVENT**, the owner/operator of the UST system is relieved of the requirements for release detection, corrosion protection, and inventory control. Each owner/operator shall report any suspected UST releases to the Department within seven (7) days of gaining knowledge of the suspected release, unless an emergency condition makes it impossible for the owner/operator to do so, in which case the owner/operator shall report the suspected release to the Department as soon as he/she is able. All recordkeeping requirements for inoperable systems are suspended during the time of this Order. During the time of this Order, in the **Emergency Areas**, non-compliance with release detection, corrosion protection, and inventory control for UST owners and operators will not constitute non-compliance for purposes of the deductibles enumerated in La. R.S. 30:2195.10.

**§ 4. Records Management**

Copies of LDEQ documents are usually available online in LDEQ's Electronic Document Management System (EDMS). The EDMS is available at <http://edms.deq.louisiana.gov>. Additional documents may be available by placing a Public Records Request using the online form at <http://edms.deq.louisiana.gov/prr> or the printable paper form available at <http://deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/General/PublicRecordsRequestForm.pdf>. There is no charge to replace copies of documents destroyed by the **EVENT**. Please contact Records Management with any questions at (225) 219-3171 or [deqrecords@la.gov](mailto:deqrecords@la.gov).

**§ 5. Fees and Invoices**

The LDEQ Office of Management and Finance, Billing and Invoice Management Section, will continue to mail invoices according to its annual schedule. However, if your facility is located in the **Emergency Areas** and you need additional time to pay, please send an email to [DEQ-Invoices@la.gov](mailto:DEQ-Invoices@la.gov) and someone will assist you.

**§ 6. General Conditions**

a. This Order does not convey any property rights or any rights or privileges other than those specified in this Order.

b. This Order only serves as relief for the duration of this Order from the regulatory and proprietary requirements of the Department, and does not provide relief from the requirements of other federal, state, and local agencies. This Order therefore does not negate the need for the property owner or facility operator to obtain any other required permits or authorizations, nor from the need to comply with all the requirements of those agencies.

**§ 7. General Limitations**

The Department issues this Order solely to address the emergency created by the **EVENT**. This Order shall not be construed to authorize any activity within the jurisdiction of the Department except in accordance with the express terms of this Order. Under no circumstances shall anything contained in this Order be construed to authorize the repair, replacement, or reconstruction of any type of unauthorized or illegal structure, habitable or otherwise.

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**§ 8. Other Authorizations Required**

Nothing in this Order shall eliminate the necessity for obtaining any other federal, state, or local permits or other authorizations that may be required.

**§ 10. Completion of Authorized Activities**

All activities authorized under this Order must be commenced before the expiration of this Order unless otherwise provided in an authorization or permit. The deadline for commencement under any authorization or permit issued under this Order may be extended on a showing that contractors or supplies are not available to commence the work, or if additional time is needed to obtain any required authorization from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or other local, state, or federal agencies.

**§ 11. Amendments**

This Order may be amended as required to abate the emergency.

**§ 12. Expiration Date**

This Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order shall take effect immediately upon execution by the Secretary of the Department, and shall expire on December 24, 2024, at 11:59 P.M., unless modified or extended by further order.

**DONE AND ORDERED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

  
AURELIA S. GIACOMETTO  
Secretary



## APPENDIX A

### GUIDANCE PROTOCOL FOR SANITARY WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

The following protocol is intended to assist operators of sanitary wastewater treatment systems in the Emergency Areas in start-up and operation.

#### 1. Access

Entrance to the treatment plant should be considered only after flood waters have receded enough to allow safe operation of the treatment plant including the safe conditions for staff. Accessibility to treatment plants in restricted areas may need to be cleared with the Office of Emergency Preparedness. Contact the local sheriff if assistance in gaining access to the treatment plant is required. The use of sound personal protective equipment for safety in unsanitary or unsafe conditions is required. Early return to compliant operation minimizes long-term problems within the entire wastewater system.

#### 2. Power Supply

For use of generator power, arrange for a reliable and continual fuel source. Contact the Department of Agriculture if assistance in obtaining fuel for power generation at your treatment plant is needed. If no generation is available and you must wait for electrical providers; consider notification to residents of the effect on collection lines. If removal of clean out plugs is needed to prevent back up into homes, notify affected customers warning them to remain clear of these areas. If pump trucks are used, LDEQ can advise of locations to dispose of the pumped sewage.

#### 3. Start Up

Once it is safe, re-power the treatment system, aerators and pumps. The primary goal is to remove sanitary wastewater from contact with humans, while making every effort to do so in a manner that is practical and least impacting on the environment. Activate disinfection units and maintain them. Initial effluent will likely be poorly treated and of a very poor quality. Adequate disinfection will be important to protect human health downstream of the discharge. If the system has been down and/or without power for an extended period of time, resident bacteria used in the treatment process may need to be re-established. Consider reseeded the system with activated sludge from operating aerated treatment plants.

#### 4. Monitoring

Watch plant operations carefully to confirm it is functioning properly. Ensure that lift stations within the collection system are functional. Without functioning lift stations, sewage is not being removed from residences and sent for treatment. Visually observe effluent to maximize treatment effectiveness in the short term. If simple tools and/or tests are available to diagnose the plant's operational status ("sludge judge," settle-o-meter, dissolved oxygen meters, BOD analyses-when performed in-house, all third party analysts must be accredited) use them frequently. If your plant is discharging poorly treated sewage, consider the impacts to persons, fish and wildlife downstream, including the possibility that drinking water intakes may be located downstream of

your effluent. Notification to downstream users may be necessary to protect human health. Sample and analyze your effluent per LPDES requirements as soon as you are able.

5. **Notifications and Documentation**

Discharges that result in emergency conditions (threat to human health and the environment) must be reported immediately (1-877-925-6595). Discharges that result in emergency conditions (threat to human health and the environment) may require notification to affected persons. Report to the Department any discharges that interfere with downstream uses, such as swimming or drinking water sources or if fish kills occur. Discharge Monitoring Reports (per permit requirements) should be used to notify the Department of non-emergency conditions. Notification to sewage users may be necessary if problem with the system prevents removal of sewage from residences (or other human contact) on an on-going basis. Notification to downstream users may be necessary to protect human health. Notify the Local Office of Emergency Preparedness when damage repairs due to the **EVENT** are known – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may be able to help with costs associated with damage due to the **EVENT**.

A permittee who wishes to establish the affirmative defense of upset must document the cause of the upset, that the facility was being properly operated at the time of the upset, that notice of the upset that exceeded effluent limitations was submitted to the DEQ and that the permittee took all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent the likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

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## APPENDIX B

### TEMPORARY HOUSING SITE SELECTION

#### Initial Screening

#### **Sanitary Wastewater**

All discharges shall be properly permitted.

- Attempts must be made to route sanitary wastewater to an existing wastewater collection system or wastewater treatment system whenever feasible. This option requires no permitting action or approval from the Department. However, the primary FEMA contractor shall notify the Department, in writing, of any such discharge to an existing wastewater collection system.
- If a point source discharge is to be made into waters of the state, identify the effluent route to the first named waterbody (a waterbody that is readily recognizable).
- Avoid discharge into a drainage system that goes through or next to a sensitive area. Sensitive areas include, but are not limited to: drainage behind a subdivision, school, or park; drainage that routes the effluent through a private pond or private property; or discharge into a designated outstanding natural resource waterbody.
- If feasible, route effluent to the Mississippi River, or through local drainage to the Mississippi River. If not possible, route effluent directly into the largest waterbody in the vicinity, or into the waterbody's drainage system as close as possible to the waterbody.
- Mobile homes will be rated at 250 gallons per day per mobile home. Travel trailers will be rated at 125 gallons per day per trailer. If washing machines will be made available outside of the mobile home or travel trailer (in a washateria) 800 gallons per day per washing machine will be factored into the allowable capacity. Any combination of the above should be utilized to determine overall gallons per day per site.
- All single point source discharge into waters of the state should be limited to 100,000 gallons per day in order to qualify for rapid coverage under the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Sanitary Permit. Discharges in exceedance of 100,000 gallons per day will be evaluated by the Department on a case-by-case basis in compliance with water quality standards of the receiving waterbody.
- If feasible, select site that is an existing development, such as, an existing mobile home park, or a site that has existing infrastructure that can be utilized.
- Research existing databases and make on-site physical observations for former municipal waste sites, abandoned hazardous waste sites, former underground storage tank remediation sites, etc. These areas should be avoided as locations for staging or locating temporary housing.

#### Notification after Initial Screening

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- After the initial screening, notify the Department and provide the following information:
  - Location – site name, physical location (911 address if available) and coordinates (i.e. latitude and longitude) shall be provided.
  - Identify the method of wastewater treatment or management. Notification must be made of connection to an existing wastewater collection system or treatment system (provide name of system); collection for off-site disposal (provide disposal name/location); or treatment and discharge to surface waters of the state.
  - If proposal is to discharge to surface waters from a treatment system that did not previously discharge at the proposed location, provide an estimated design flow (based on numbers above) and the effluent discharge route to first named waterbody. (Ex. unnamed ditch, to LA Hwy 19 ditch, to unnamed creek, to White’s Bayou, to the Comite River.)
- Notification must be made to the Department at P. O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313 or by fax at (225)219-3309 to the attention of the Administrator of the Water Permits Division.
- Following notification as provided in this section, the Department will provide comments on the proposed site.

#### Storm Water Permit Prior to Construction

- If dirt work is going to be required at the site, a stormwater general permit for construction may be required.
- If the area to be developed is less than one (1) acre, coverage under a stormwater general permit is not required.
- If the area to be developed is at least one (1) acre but less than five (5) acres, coverage under Construction General Permit LAR200000 will be required. A Notice of Intent (NOI) is not required to obtain coverage under this permit. However, a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) must be prepared and implemented at the time construction begins. A copy of the permit is available at <http://deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/Permits/LAR200000.pdf>. A Notice of Termination (NOT) is required when construction is complete.
- If the area to be developed is five (5) acres or greater, coverage under the Construction General Permit, LAR100000, will be required. Submittal of a NOI (CSW-S) is required prior to commencement of construction. The NOI and a copy of the general permit can be found at <http://deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/Permits/CSW-G.docx>. Submission of an NOT is required when construction is complete.
- Close attention must be given to the Historic Preservation sections of each of the construction general permits for any construction at previously undeveloped sites.
- Coverage under the construction general permits is necessary prior to construction. However, authorization to discharge as described is not required before construction, but is required before the discharge begins.

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### Registration for Authorization for Direct Discharges

- See Section 1.d above.
- For FEMA temporary housing sites, the primary FEMA contractor shall apply for and be the responsible entity for the permit, operation, maintenance and reporting requirements to LDEQ.

### Additional Recommendations/Requirements for the Housing Sites

#### **Water**

- Wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) must be operated by a certified operator.
- WWTP's must be properly operated and maintained at all times.
- Disinfection of effluent must be provided.
- Permittee should implement a program to inform residents of things that might be harmful to the WWTP such as the introduction of grease or large amounts of household chemicals to the treatment plant.

#### **Waste**

- Provide for collection and disposal of solid waste in accordance with applicable regulations
- Provisions should be made for proper disposal of household hazardous waste in accordance with applicable during the operation of the facility and as residents leave the facility.
- It is recommended that the residents be informed about the benefits and requirements of proper disposal of solid waste and household hazardous waste.

#### **Recycling**

- Whenever feasible, provide for recycling, such as, providing a recycling center on site with appropriate recycle containers.
- Inform residents about the proper procedures for recycling household materials.
- Recycling incentives for residents can prove beneficial.

#### **Open Burning**

- Open burning at these sites shall be prohibited. This does not include charcoal or gas grills.

#### **Site Closure**

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- Once all the residents have left, the site must be closed.
- All solid and household hazardous waste shall be removed and properly disposed.
- If a WWTP was used for treatment of sanitary wastewater, it shall be removed.
- Notification of closure must be made to the Department through SPOC (225-219-3640 or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424). The Department will approve the site for closure.

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## APPENDIX C

### PLAN FOR EVALUATING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK SITES IMPACTED BY A NATURAL AND CATASTOPHIC DISASTER

#### **PROBLEM DEFINITION**

Natural and catastrophic disasters are unforeseen and uncontrollable; and emergency conditions (threats to human health and the environment) occur and may persist. Underground Storage Tank (UST) sites impacted by flood waters will require actions be taken to place these sites back into operation. Steps necessary to place the site into operation are being outlined to ensure that new releases do not occur and if releases are identified in this process that they are properly addressed. The focus of this effort will be to place these sites into operation while ensuring protection of human health and the environment.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Flooding and damage related to the natural and catastrophic disasters has raised many issues regarding Underground Storage Tank site status. Damage to UST systems as well as remediation systems is expected. The impact of this damage must be evaluated to determine what steps are necessary to place these sites back into service.

Damage that occurs to UST systems generally results from: the buoying up of tanks which are partially full or empty, water entering the tanks and displacing product, failure of underground piping as a result of stresses induced by groundwater pressures or debris, and damage to electrical systems from extended contact with water. Additionally, another route of infiltration exists if the level of floodwaters exceeds the top of the vent lines. Regulated UST's which are weighted down with fuel or anchored by other means (deadmen or attached to an underlying pad) and have properly installed and tightened filler caps and vapor recovery port caps should sustain little impact, even after being submerged for days.

Tanks in which fill caps are not tightened will fill with water and then spill product, some of which may percolate into shallow soil. Empty or near-empty tanks will float up, destroying overlying concrete/asphalt and distribution lines, also spilling product. In these situations, it is expected that the entire UST system would require replacement.

Initially, the extent and magnitude of damage to UST systems themselves and to the shallow subsurface environment as a result of a natural and catastrophic disaster is unknown. During this time the primary objective is to put these systems back into proper service to meet the fuel supply need of initial and subsequent response efforts. Later, as time and resources permit, assessment and remediation of any environmental impacts will take place.

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## UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK EVALUATION

Underground Storage Tank sites flooded by the a natural and catastrophic disaster must be evaluated to determine response actions necessary to place these UST facilities back into service and protect human health and the environment. New product should not be placed in the tanks if there are indications that the integrity of the tank has been comprised when performing the activities outlined below.

### General Information:

UST Owners/Operators will be responsible for evaluating underground storage tank systems to determine if they are suitable for receiving product. Flooded systems that are **determined to be suitable for receiving product** may be put back into service and should have an integrity test performed as soon as contractors and services become available to perform the testing and no later than six (6) months after product was first placed into the tank after flooding. If the tank inspection outlined below (or subsequent monitoring of the tank), indicates that the system has been comprised; **the system should be taken out of service** and repaired or replaced as necessary and an integrity test performed prior to again putting the system into operation.

The Department has established a contact telephone number to be used by contractors and citizens for reporting exigent conditions and for questions concerning problems with UST systems. This UST “hotline” will be manned by agency staff to assist the regulated community. The UST hotline number is (225) 219-3640. These procedures for contractors are being provided to tank owners, tank removal and installation contractors, response action contractors and trade groups that represent the industry such as Louisiana Oil Marketers Association and Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association. This information will also be posted on the Department’s Web site.

### General Evaluation Protocol for Contractors:

No equipment should be turned on prior to examination. Check all electrical panels and make sure they are clean and dry. All equipment related to electric power service should be inspected and any necessary repairs should be made prior to power restoration. This includes all fueling systems, leak-detection devices and corrosion prevention (impressed current) equipment. The electrical system should be checked for continuity and shorts (pumps, turbines, dispensers, ATG consoles, emergency shutoff, panel box, etc.)

Specifically, all electrical junction boxes and dispenser heads should be opened, inspected and dried if necessary. Conduits should be inspected for the presence of water, insulation damage, shorts or opens. Conduits exhibiting water should be dried or vacuumed as appropriate and all defective wiring should be replaced. To apply electrical power to a UST system before conducting basic examination could be extremely dangerous.

Submerged pumps and dispensers should not be operated if there is the possibility of water entering into the system as pumping water may damage hydraulic components.

### Technical Protocol for Contractors:

These protocols should be followed to place tanks back into service:



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1. Stick tanks using water finding paste or read automatic tank gauge system, if operable, to determine whether water has entered the UST.
2. Flooded or water impacted tanks and all lines may need to be drained of water and dirt/mud or perhaps pumped dry and cleaned as conditions warrant. Liquids removed must be properly handled and disposed.
3. Interstitial spaces of tanks and lines of double walled systems, if flood-impacted, will need to be drained and flushed where possible. Blockage of interstitial spaces will render leak detection useless. Depending on the level of residual contamination at the facility, certain leak detection methods may no longer be viable. Tanks with brine or vacuum interstitial sensors may be returned to service if brine or vacuum levels are normal. Be prepared to update damaged leak detection equipment after emergency conditions are abated.
4. All facility sumps, pans, and spill buckets need to be pumped dry and cleaned. Replace sump lid gaskets if applicable. If sump lids are missing, replace with new water tight lids. Replace sumps and spill buckets that fail to prevent water intrusion after initial cleaning and drying.
5. Check tank bottoms for water and debris. Remove and dispose as appropriate (see item #2 above).
6. Check deflection of fiberglass tanks. If deflection is greater than manufacturer's specification (general guideline is 2%) call the manufacturer for instruction.
7. If tanks shifted and problems are found, **repair or replace them** according to manufacturer's instructions and appropriate industry standards and regulations. Obviously, these **systems should be shut down and not receive fuel** until they are deemed safe for reuse (tightness tested).
8. Check vents for movement, cracking, blockage and proper operation.
9. Check dispenser filters and submersible check-valve screens for plugging with dirt or mud.
10. Flush dispensers and UST system if necessary. Collect fluids for proper disposal.
11. Check critical safety devices (e.g., emergency power off controls, line leak detectors, air compressor pressure limiters, shear valves, stop switches, isolation relays on dispensers, etc.). Shear valves may be salvaged if they can be cleaned and lubricated with corrosion preventative. Some will still have to be replaced.
12. Sump sensors may need to be replaced after emergency conditions cease.
13. In-tank pumps, Automatic Tank Gauge (ATG) probes, overfill devices, automatic line leak detectors, fill and vapor dust caps, etc. should be assessed. Assess their condition after cleaning and replace as necessary.

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14. ATG consoles and any associated electronics that are not submerged, should have a programming and operability check performed by a certified technician after emergency conditions cease.
15. After emergency conditions are abated, submerged Corrosion Protection (CP) rectifiers and associated aboveground equipment protecting tanks and/or lines may have to be replaced. If not submerged have a National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) certified professional perform an operability check of the equipment. Inspect CP lines in saw cuts for damage and replace as necessary. If CP systems are out of service for an extended period of time perform integrity assessment of affected component before placing CP system back into service. A NACE certified professional will be helpful assessing the CP system.
16. Check accessible fittings, valves and miscellaneous piping for damage and corrosion. Clean and replace as necessary.
17. Document all inspection, assessment and repair activities at each UST system site. Provide this information to the Department in stand-alone report format within ninety (90) days of initiation of operations of that UST facility.
18. Submerged dispensers will have to be replaced or repaired as necessary. This includes the hanging hardware. Any suction system dispensers will probably have flood impacted motors and pumps and may need complete replacement.

General Protocol Upon Resumption of Service:

Depending on the level of residual contamination at the facility, certain leak detection methods may no longer be viable. Daily inventory control (with strict record keeping) may be the short-term leak detection method by necessity. Daily checks for water with water-finding paste should be done for several days until it has been determined that the system is tight. If these daily water checks indicate excessive water or the daily inventory control shows loss of product, **the tanks should be emptied of product and use of the tanks should cease**. Notification of these conditions should be made to the Department's UST hotline ((225) 219-3640) as soon as practical.

Post Start-Up Protocol for Contractors:

This protocol should be followed once flood-impacted tanks have been placed back into service and emergency response and restoration have been completed or as otherwise directed by the Department:

Precision tightness test tanks, lines and interstitial spaces (after emergency conditions abate). Assess interstitial spaces for blockages, especially if used for leak detection. Decisions regarding replacement of tanks and lines should be made based on outcome of these tests. Department field staff should be consulted on these decisions whenever possible. Cathodic protection systems should be checked to make sure they are connected and operational.

These actions are being delayed in an effort to expedite fuel delivery capabilities and due to unavailability of sufficient contractors to perform the otherwise required work in a timely manner.

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All leak detection equipment must be put back into operation as soon as practically possible or as directed by the Department after the emergency has abated.

Other General Provisions for Owner/Operators and Contractors:

At flood-impacted sites, facilities will be allowed to salvage useable fuel in USTs by checking fuel for water and allow salvage of useable fuel. If flood water covered vent lines, displacement of fuel would have occurred and large volumes of water may exist in the affected USTs and require proper storage/disposal. This water should not be discharged to areas such as streets, storm drains, sumps and ditches that are not permitted to receive these liquids.

Requirements for remediation of contaminated groundwater via approved corrective action plans in place prior to the natural and catastrophic disaster are suspended at UST sites in the parishes of the **Emergency Areas** unless otherwise directed by the Department. However, the Department may require systems remediating free phased product to continue pumping operations.

Sites which have not experienced impacts from the disaster shall continue with routine remedial efforts and reporting (Unless RAC/consulting firm handling the remediation has been affected and displaced by the **EVENT**).

All facilities in which remedial efforts are temporarily suspended or delayed must provide notice to the Department UST hotline (225) 219-3640 and provide written documentation as directed.

**EVALUATION SCHEDULE**

The evaluation of UST status should be initiated as soon as conditions allow flood area re-entry. Further testing will be performed once emergency conditions and major restoration efforts are complete and when sufficient contractors are available to perform the work. This further testing should be performed no later than six (6) months after product was first placed into the tank after flooding.

## APPENDIX D

### LDEQ Regional Office Contact Information

<b>Acadiana Regional Office</b>	<b>Parishes Served</b>
<i>Regional Manager: Rhonda McCormick</i> 111 New Center Drive Lafayette, LA 70508 <b>phone: (337) 262-5584</b> fax: (337) 262-5593 <b>email: <a href="mailto:aroadmin@la.gov">aroadmin@la.gov</a></b>	Acadia, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Evangeline, Grant, Iberia, Lafayette, LaSalle, Rapides, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion
<b>Capital Regional Office</b>	<b>Parishes Served</b>
<i>Regional Manager: April Wallace</i> PO. Box 4312 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312 <b>phone: (225) 219-3600</b> fax: (225) 219-3695 <b>email: <a href="mailto:croadmin@la.gov">croadmin@la.gov</a></b>	Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, Tangipahoa, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana
<b>Northeast Regional Office</b>	<b>Parishes Served</b>
<i>Regional Manager: Casey Head</i> 508 Downing Pines Road West Monroe, LA 71292-0442 <b>phone: (318) 362-5439</b> fax: (318) 362-5448 <b>email: <a href="mailto:neroadmin@la.gov">neroadmin@la.gov</a></b>	Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll, Winn
<b>Northwest Regional Office</b>	<b>Parishes Served</b>
<i>Regional Manager: Mark Juneau</i> 1525 Fairfield, Room 520 Shreveport, LA 71101-4388 <b>phone: (318) 676-7227</b> fax: (318) 676-7573 <b>email: <a href="mailto:nwroadmin@la.gov">nwroadmin@la.gov</a></b>	Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, De Soto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster
<b>Southeast Regional Office</b>	<b>Parishes Served</b>
<i>Regional Manager: Dionne Magness</i> 201 Evans Road, Building 4, Suite 420 New Orleans, LA 70123-5230 <b>phone: (504) 736-7701</b> fax: (504) 736-7702 <b>email: <a href="mailto:seroadmin@la.gov">seroadmin@la.gov</a></b>	Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, St. Tammany, Terrebonne, Washington
<b>Southwest Regional Office</b>	<b>Parishes Served</b>
<i>Regional Manager: Chrissie Gubancsik</i> 1301 Gadwall Street Lake Charles, LA 70615 <b>phone: (337) 491-2667</b> fax: (337) 491-2682 <b>email: <a href="mailto:swroadmin@la.gov">swroadmin@la.gov</a></b>	Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Vernon