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Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometteaux Highlights Progress in Streamlining Permitting Processes for Louisiana's Oil and Gas Industry

Modernized processes strengthen economic growth and environmental stewardship

BATON ROUGE, LA — **Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometteaux** of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is proud to announce transformative advancements in streamlining the permitting processes for the state's oil and gas industry. These efforts, initiated under **Governor Jeff Landry's Executive Order JML 24-17**, emphasize creating a more efficient, transparent and responsive system to support the industry while safeguarding the environment.

"The oil and gas industry is the backbone of Louisiana's economy, supporting over 45,000 direct jobs and 260,000 related positions," said **Governor Jeff Landry**. "Streamlining our permitting processes not only enhances efficiency but also reflects our unwavering commitment to protecting the environment and improving the lives of all Louisianans."

Actions taken by LDEQ to support Governor Landry's Executive Order include a comprehensive review of all existing workflows across the agency, with over 225 permit types and 900 internal workflows. A comprehensive gap analysis was used to evaluate policy and process inefficiencies as well as a stakeholder survey to better understand permitting challenges.

The report, submitted to the Governor's Office on December 31, 2024, outlines the following plans for modernization:

- **Digital Transformation:** Replace outdated systems with advanced digital platforms, reducing permit processing times by 40% including the introduction of electronic signatures and approvals, including for Professional Engineering (PE) and Geologist Seals.
- **Increased Transparency:** Introduce a user-friendly online portal for real-time tracking of permit applications.
- **Interagency Efficiency:** Enhanced collaboration with the Secretary of State to minimize delays, streamline workflows and connect business license changes with permitting systems.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Continuing interactive workshops with industry leaders, system users and small businesses to align modernization efforts with operational needs.
- **Public-Facing Dashboard Development:** Provide internal stakeholders with tools to improve process transparency; for example, the two-day LDEQ Innovation Summit held in July 2024.

"The \$1 billion in state and local taxes generated by the oil and gas industry funds essential services for our environment and communities," added **Secretary Giacometteaux**. "Our streamlined permitting process ensures that Louisiana remains competitive while fostering responsible environmental stewardship. We can have a clean environment and a healthy environment. We can have and do both."

Louisiana Chemical Association President Greg Bowser emphasized the importance of industry collaboration by saying, "The oil and gas industry is not just an economic engine for Louisiana; it is a partner in innovation and progress. By working closely with industry leaders, we have created a permitting system that supports growth, ensures environmental stewardship and makes Louisiana more competitive on the national stage."

This modernization not only supports economic development but reinforces LDEQ's mission to promote and protect human health, safety and welfare for future generations. By utilizing technology in the permitting process, LDEQ aims to create a more transparent, accountable, accessible and user-friendly system that can provide actionable data to address priority areas and reduce permitting times.

This initiative is expected to enhance management, compliance and regulatory assurance while also introducing automated process for routine tasks to improve efficiency. For more information or to view the full report, please visit www.deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/News_Releases/2024/ExecutiveOrder17Report.pdf.

About the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

LDEQ is dedicated to serving the people of Louisiana by providing comprehensive environmental protection to promote and protect health, safety and welfare.
