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Contact: LDEQ Communications
Phone: 225-219-3964

LDEQ CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION WITH ASCENSION PARISH AND L'ALUMINA ON ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

BATON ROUGE, LA — The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) proudly announces a significant achievement in its ongoing efforts to address longstanding environmental concerns at the L'Alumina facility in Ascension Parish. Following months of dedicated work by the LDEQ Tiger Team — totaling more than 1,000 staff hours — the agency has formally approved a comprehensive Closure Plan for the site's Red Mud Lakes 4 and 5 and has signed a Cooperative Agreement with the Ascension Parish Government and L'Alumina LLC. This marks a pivotal milestone in launching closure activities and establishing a framework for long-term environmental oversight and accountability.



The LDEQ Tiger Team, initiated by Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto, exemplifies a solutions-driven approach to resolving some of Louisiana's most pressing environmental challenges. This specialized task force brings together State and local agencies, industry representatives, and community stakeholders to develop effective, science-based solutions aimed at mitigating the persistent red dust emissions that have impacted residents in the Burnside area for nearly a decade.

Governor Jeff Landry praised the initiative as a benchmark for environmental leadership, stating, "This is what effective government looks like — State and local leaders stepping up, partnering with industry, and delivering real results for our communities. The LDEQ's efforts to resolve the issues at the L'Alumina site demonstrate that we can protect our environment, restore public trust, and support responsible economic development all at once."

"This milestone demonstrates what we can achieve when State agencies, local government, and industry come together with a shared goal," stated **LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto**. "From the outset, our focus has been on protecting the health of residents while creating a clear, enforceable path forward. The Closure Plan

and Cooperative Agreement underscore the effectiveness of collaboration, and I am extremely proud of our Tiger Team's hard work and the dedication of our partners."

State Senator Ed Price remarked, "This progress represents an important moment for the people of Ascension Parish who have long been affected by the red dust from L'Alumina. The collaboration between LDEQ and local and State partners brings us closer than ever to solving a problem that has impacted our residents for years."

"The cooperative efforts at L'Alumina are proof that we can achieve lasting solutions through teamwork and dedication to doing things the right way," echoed **State Senator Eddie Lambert**. "The community deserves this kind of follow-through."

The approved Closure Plan outlines a structured remediation strategy aimed at reducing airborne dust emissions and stabilizing the site for future use. Key elements of the plan include:

- **Implementation of a Soil-Capping System:** This multi-layer system will suppress dust migration, promote vegetation growth, and minimize erosion, thereby enhancing the environmental quality of the site.
- **Construction Quality Assurance Measures:** All closure activities will undergo strict engineering oversight to ensure compliance with state and federal environmental standards, thereby reinforcing public confidence in the integrity of the process.
- **Regular Progress Reporting:** L'Alumina is required to submit detailed monthly reports summarizing construction activities, completion status, quality control measures, and any weather-related impacts that could affect progress.
- **Independent Engineering Certification:** Upon completion of the closure work, an independent, Louisiana-licensed professional engineer will certify that the final cover has been properly designed and installed in accordance with the regulatory requirements.



In addition to the Closure Plan, the Cooperative Agreement establishes long-term oversight and accountability for the closure process. This agreement mandates regular inspections by LDEQ, long-term environmental monitoring, and consistent updates to local officials and residents to maintain transparency and address any ongoing concerns. It ensures that the closure and red dust cleanup will be carried out according to specifications and that ongoing environmental monitoring will be conducted to verify the plan's effectiveness.

State Representative Jeff Wiley emphasized the value of collaboration, stating, "What we're seeing here is the power of cooperation. This milestone isn't just a win for environmental quality — it's a win for the people who call this community home."

"On behalf of the residents of Ascension Parish — especially those in the community who have endured years of red dust coating their homes, yards, and vehicles — I want to thank Secretary Giacometto and LDEQ Tiger Team for their collaboration in helping us reach this critical milestone," said **Ascension Parish President Clint Cointment**. "The approval of this Partial Closure Plan is the first step in offering long-awaited relief and hope to families who have been living with this issue for far too long."



As the LDEQ Tiger Team formally concludes its work at the L'Alumina facility, the agency remains committed to ensuring the success of the Closure Plan through vigilant oversight and community engagement. The L'Alumina initiative serves as a model for future environmental challenges, reinforcing LDEQ's dedication to protecting Louisiana's environment while supporting responsible economic development.

With the conclusion of the L'Alumina Tiger Team's efforts, LDEQ will continue deploying Tiger Teams statewide to proactively address emerging environmental concerns and uphold Louisiana's commitment to a cleaner, healthier future.

For more information about LDEQ's Tiger Teams and ongoing environmental efforts, visit www.deq.louisiana.gov.

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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.
