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## Emission Reduction Credit Conference held at LDEQ

Having environmentally compatible economic growth in an area means learning how to control pollutant air emissions, and economic growth is the focus of Emissions Control Credit Banking. An ERC Conference, hosted by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition, was held at the LDEQ Conference Center Jan.26. More than 100 attendees heard LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown speak as he opened the session. Attendees listened to a variety of speakers concerning new LDEQ rules, opportunities for emissions reductions, opportunities to bank VOCs and NOx reductions.



*Dr. Brown speaks at the Emission Reduction Credit Conference.*

A discussion of how to create and bank emission reduction credits was the focus of the conference.

Speakers addressed the specifics of the new banking rule (AQ365); air quality and economic benefits; ERC project opportunities with roadway, marine, and rail emission sources; a new information resources website; inter-pollutant trading; Baton Rouge area emissions credits markets; legal issues with the new ERC program; and comparisons with a similar program being developed in Texas.

LDEQ will soon be implementing a revision to its emission reduction credit (ERC) banking rule that expands the eligibility of emission reduction projects to mobile sources (trucks, marine vessels, trains). Implementing this new ERC strategy will help improve Baton Rouge air quality and mitigate constraints to economic development of the current "point source only" banking system.

Information on ERC project opportunities with roadway, marine, and rail emission sources; a new information resources website; inter-pollutant trading; Baton Rouge area emissions credits markets; legal issues with the new ERC program; and comparisons with a similar program being developed in Texas was presented. The presentations and more information is available on the Capital Region Planning Commission website resource pages, [www.laerc.com](http://www.laerc.com).

The conference was held to help the regulated community and general public better understand the ramifications of this banking rule revision.



## Message from the Secretary

*Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.*

February has been a challenging month. There were two incidents, one at a plant in DeRidder on Feb. 8 and one at a pipeline in Paradis on Feb. 9, that resulted in fatalities. LDEQ personnel and other agencies responded to both of these incidents. Both events are still under investigation.

LDEQ and other first responding agencies must be ready because these kind of events can occur at any time. In these cases, LDEQ's Emergency Response section was ready to meet the need, providing air monitoring immediately and continuing assistance in the investigations. Being prepared to respond quickly is part of our responsibility.

LDEQ personnel were called upon on Feb. 7 as well when a series of tornadoes struck southeast Louisiana, damaging homes, businesses and blocking streets. Trees were downed and roofs ripped off. I visited one of the particularly hard-hit sites in New Orleans East on Feb. 17. This part of Louisiana was heavily damaged in hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. It was daunting to once again see trees down, blue tarps on roofs and electricity shut off in areas around Chef Menteur Highway. But it was heartening to see the swarm of emergency responders, including some from LDEQ, who were out in the area, cleaning up debris, restoring power, identifying possible issues and helping the people impacted by the storm.

Louisiana has resilient people. They demonstrated their mettle once again in this tornado outbreak. Storms are part of life in Louisiana, and we have to be prepared for them. February is rolling into March and in four months, hurricane season will arrive again. My personal advisor, Bijan Sharifkhani, and I gave presentations at the Louisiana Police Jury Association meeting in Lake Charles on Feb. 16. Bijan's talk was about solid waste, and I sat in on his presentation.

It was an eye-opener. The jurors and parish employees and officials at the presentation were focused and engaged. I was drawn into the lively give-and-take during the Q&A portion. Police jurors and participants were extremely interested in information about landfill management, storm debris management and burning regulations. They were especially interested in the process to set up pre-staged debris sites in their parishes. We will work to provide them with any and all information they need in advance of the approaching storm season. LDEQ provides an updated Parish Resource Manual for parishes, emergency operations centers and others. The book is available online at the LDEQ web site [www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov). The debris sites and information on how to request an emergency debris site as well as the debris management plan including forms are housed in that book.

And as we go into the month of March, we welcome a new EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt. I look forward to working with the new administrator and his Region 6 administrator. We expect to have a good working relationship with the new EPA executives at both the regional and national levels.

Stay safe and have a great Mardi Gras!



*Dr. Brown surveys tornado damage in Orleans Parish.*



## Landfill inspections a key component in environmental oversight

Periodic visits of landfills in the state is an important facet of LDEQ's mission – particularly when landfills take on extra loads during and after major events such as hurricanes, storms and floods. Landfills are inspected on a rotating basis by LDEQ, and any given landfill will be visited every year or every other year.



*Environmental Scientists Theron Magers, left, and Mallorey Milner tour a landfill in Tensas Parish to note any areas of concern.*

In January, landfills in Tensas Parish and Jefferson Davis Parish were inspected by LDEQ environmental scientists from their respective regional office. Visits are unannounced, with the exception of unmanned locations that require an advance phone call to ensure a site representative is present to unlock the gate.

Environmental Scientists Theron Magers, based out of the Kisatchie substation in Pineville, and Mallorey Milner, from the Northeast Regional Office in West Monroe, toured the Tensas Parish site. Environmental Scientist Stephen Mattison, based out of the Southwest Regional Office in Lake Charles, inspected the Jefferson Davis Parish site.

Prior to the visit, the inspector reviews documentation in the Electronic Data Management System, or EDMS, the public record of the paperwork pertaining to the site. A review of the waste permit, discharge monitoring reports (if applicable) and other reports are viewed to check for any deficiencies, red flags or areas of concern that may need to be addressed.

Once at the site, reports in EDMS are checked against the documentation that is physically on file at the landfill office, plus additional records. "At the landfill, I will look at cover logs, a contingency plan, safety logs, training reports/logs and load tickets detailing what is being taken in by the landfill," Milner said. Monitoring wells, oxidation ponds, groundwater monitoring reports and the leachate collection system are reviewed. Surface impoundments, fire protection plans, hazardous waste checks and criteria air pollutant emissions inventories are reviewed to ensure the site is operating within measures protective of human health and the environment.

A site tour then proceeds with the site superintendent/operator or owner. The inspector will photograph the area, document any areas of concern and confer with the owner/operator about any questions or assistance in correcting any issues that need to be addressed.

Inspectors tour the site boundary to ensure that water collection wells are locked, set on a concrete pad and have four immovable posts surrounding each well as a collision protection barrier. Loose posts and open, unlocked well caps will be noted and must be corrected before the follow-up inspection.



*Environmental Scientist Stephen Mattison photographs C&D landfill debris at a site in Jefferson Davis Parish.*

posts surrounding each well as a collision protection barrier. Loose posts and open, unlocked well caps will be noted and must be corrected before the follow-up inspection.

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“While some areas of concern were noted, the goal is to inform the owner/operator and work with them to correct any issues,” Magers said.

Conversely, some landfills feature less complicated guidelines and take in only what is known as construction and demolition waste, or “C&D.” C&Ds accept only debris accumulated in home construction or demolition work, such as sheetrock, roofing shingles, wood, tile and residential/commercial materials. Many items are not allowed, such as cardboard, mattresses and plastic bins. Carpeting is also generally excluded, but will be allowed under an expanded definition in an emergency declaration.

If any non-applicable items are found in the landfill, the inspector will inform the owner of the regulations as those items must be removed and/or placed in a separate container. The prohibited material is sent for disposal at a landfill that is permitted to accept such waste.

Since C&D landfills do not contain water soluble debris, a leachate collection system along with liners and water monitoring wells are not required. However, under the regulations, landfills must be covered by soil every 30 days or every 14 days (which may vary depending on the site’s permit) if a problem was noted by LDEQ Enforcement.

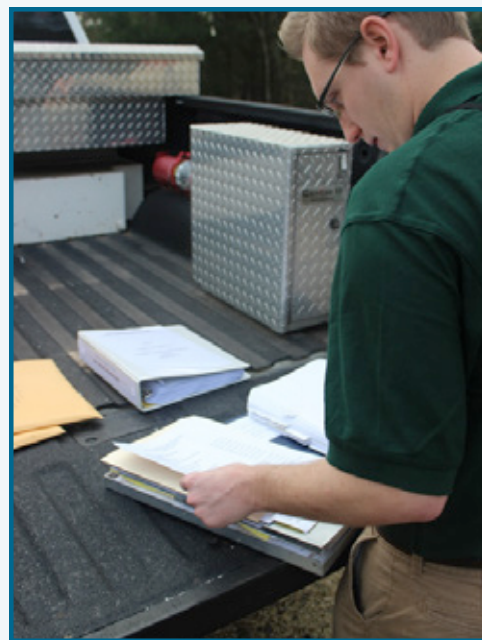
“I will review the reports and applicable records in EDMS prior to the visit in order to save the owner’s time and to be more efficient in my inspections,” Mattison said. “I will then check the documentation against what the owner has on file to ensure there are no chronological gaps and everything matches.”

On the day of his visit, Mattison noticed that cardboard and plastic bins were in the debris pile, so he arranged a follow-up visit in a week’s time in order to ensure the items were removed. Often owners may not be up to speed on the current regulations, so Mattison advises the landfill operator of the regulations defining C&D waste, detailed in Title 33, Part VII of the state’s environmental regulatory code. “We tend to get better results (with regard to compliance) by informing owners of the regulations as we conduct inspections,” Mattison said.

Areas of Concern are noted on the inspector’s Field Interview Form. The site operator will receive a copy and a copy goes into EDMS, the agency’s electronic document management system. If an issue is corrected, a Notice of Corrected Deficiency will then be added to the record to show that the problem was addressed. If an issue continues to go unaddressed, LDEQ Enforcement has several options to take to achieve compliance. One is the issuance of a Notice of Potential Penalty if the owner/operator fails in making a good faith attempt to correct the deficiency.

LDEQ’s surveillance section also may play a role reviewing complaints and following up on any incidents.

For more information on landfills, please go to: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WastePermits.aspx>.



*Stephen Mattison prepares to consult the site operator on Title 33, Part VII of the state environmental regulations, which cover the guidelines on landfill operations.*



## LDEQ collaborates with partners to restore and preserve the Vermilion River



*Members of LDEQ and the BVD meet to discuss nonpoint source pollution reduction methods.*

Located in Lafayette Parish, the Vermilion River is breathtaking with its beautiful water giving way to reflective images, capturing the trees overhanging the banks as if to protect it. But don't let the beauty of the Vermilion River be deceiving. The river's water is contaminated with bacteria. Through the collaboration of the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District (BVD), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and LDEQ, nonpoint source efforts to restore and preserve this watershed are underway.

LDEQ's Nonpoint Source group met with BVD representatives in Lafayette on Jan. 26 to kick off activity under the new contract for the "Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction through On-Site Sewer System Inspections, Education and Outreach in Vermilion River," scheduled to begin January 2017. EPA's special 319 grant will support this project through Sept. 30, 2019.

A subsegment of the Vermilion located near the towns of Lafayette, Carencro and Scott has been identified as a priority watershed in

Louisiana's nonpoint source draft Management Plan. As such, the subsegment will be undergoing inspections and sampling activity in order to address the impairment.

"According to the draft 2016 Integrated Report, the subsegment is not meeting the water quality standards associated with primary contact recreation designated use due to high concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria," LDEQ water planning team member Lisa Miller said. The Integrated Report indicates the suspected sources of water quality impairment are on-site treatment systems, package plant or other permitted small flow discharges and agriculture.

To address the microbial contamination conditions prevalent in area drainage and waterways, the BVD will initiate individual on-site sewage system inspections and develop a public education and awareness campaign that will address the importance of inspection and maintenance of sewage systems. This will facilitate improvement of the Vermilion's water quality in Lafayette Parish by reducing or eliminating the potential for contamination of the area waterways from individual on-site sewage disposal systems.

Restoration efforts will consist of inspecting an estimated 944 existing individual on-site home sewage disposal systems and informing home and business owners of the need for proper operation and routine maintenance.

The overall project began with the EPA-approved sampling plan on April 29, 2016.

LDEQ conducted sampling efforts in the Vermilion in June 2016 at 23 sites, sampling twice a month. The activity is to continue for one year and should be completed by May 2017, allowing for the baseline to be established and long-term sites to be selected.

The approval of the EPA grant that was awarded Sept. 29, 2016, prompted the initiation of the contract between LDEQ and BVD. Activity under this contract will allow for an education and outreach campaign while allowing BVD to schedule the home sewage inspections which are slated to begin around June 2017, once long-term sites have been selected.

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“We’d like to express our appreciation to EPA Region 6 staff for their support and patience in getting the special funds in place, which has allowed for these restoration efforts in Lafayette Parish,” Miller said.

As the community outreach and home inspections get underway, the hope is that the water quality in the Vermilion River can get back on track to being fully supportive of recreational activities and fish and wildlife propagation.

## LDEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown meets with Police Jury Association

LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown revealed what’s in the cards for environmental regulations at the Louisiana Police Jury Association Meeting Feb. 16. Presenting to a room full of jurors, officials and parish workers at the Golden Nugget Casino, Brown gave a fast-paced overview of everything from new technology to beneficial environmental projects to outreach.

“Communications is a vital part of the whole process,” Brown said. Those communications have to flow back and forth, he said. “You want to make sure communication is two-way.”

Brown told attendees that LDEQ is exploring new, innovative ways to communicate. YouTube videos are one medium the agency is now using to get its message out, he said. The key is to target the interested audience and use any means necessary – Facebook, YouTube, Twitter or whatever -- to reach that audience, Brown said. You have to gain the audience’s attention and establish yourself as a trusted source of reliable information,” he said. “The more you talk to them, the more they gravitate to you.”

Brown talked about the agency’s goals and how it has reached some important milestones, including improved air quality. All of Louisiana is now in attainment with the federal ozone standard, he said. “We are breathing the cleanest air since the industrial revolution.”

While there have been some successes, Brown said, much remains to be done. There are challenges like landfill odors – and the agency has developed protocols it will follow in response to those odors. He also reminded the group of the importance the agency places on the permitting process. “Every permit in the state is important to someone,” he said. When there is a violation of a permit, Brown wants to shorten or eliminate lag time between when an infraction is reported and the resultant enforcement action is taken. “We are going to shorten that gap.”

Following his presentation, Brown fielded questions on subjects ranging from emissions reductions credits (LDEQ has proposed a rule that will allow businesses to claim bankable credits for reductions in emissions from mobile sources) to waste tires. To shore up the waste tire program, LDEQ is looking for more end uses of processed waste tires.

Confidential Advisor to the Secretary Bijan Sharafkhani also spoke at the Police Jury Association Meeting. He talked about solid waste issues, and his presentation sparked a lively discussion with heavy audience participation, particularly when he talked about setting up pre-approved staging areas to allow parishes to be ready to deal with debris after storms.



*Dr. Brown speaks at the Louisiana Police Jury Association.*



## LDEQ supports the American Heart Association

Heart disease is the number one killer of Americans, and the American Heart Association continues to bring awareness to citizens on how they can live healthier lives.

LDEQ stands by the AHA in their efforts to raise funding and awareness in the battle against heart disease. The fundraising goal for LDEQ is \$10,000, and many activities are being held in order to reach that goal.

The campaign began on Feb. 1, kicking off with employee casual dress days. For \$20, employees will get a sticker allowing them to dress casually on Wednesdays and Thursdays for a total of 10 days through March.

Snack Day – Healthy and sweet Tuesday, snack day – popcorn, Thursday, a Heart Walk T-shirt sale and an office basket raffle are ongoing events to raise money. The floor in the Galvez building that sells the most hearts gets a Smoothie King Floor Party.

On April 8, LDEQ will participate in the annual Capital Area Heart Walk at LSU. The theme of the walk for LDEQ participants is LDEQ walks for Coop, honoring employee Greg Cooper.



Heart Walk T-shirt design



LDEQ Geologist Mary Gentry gives a presentation on drinking water protection methods to a group in St. Tammany Parish.

## Drinking Water Protection Team hosts informational workshops in St. Tammany Parish

Drinking water is a necessity, essential to life. Drinking water protection will always need attention, as littering, illegal dumping, agricultural runoff and other things will negatively impact water sources. Through informational sessions and community outreach functions to engage the public in protecting drinking water, the Drinking Water Protection team fulfills one of LDEQ’s missions.

LDEQ hosts workshops and demonstrations for citizens to show them actions they can take to protect their drinking water. With assistance from Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and the Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA), LDEQ has implemented a public education and awareness campaign regarding the importance of drinking water protection. Funding for the program is provided the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“LDEQ’s Source Water Assessment Program entails an assessment of the potential susceptibility of all sources of public drinking water supplies to contamination,” LDEQ geologist Mary Gentry said. “This is done by first locating all public supply

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### What you can do to protect your drinking water sources:

- Limit usage of hazardous products
- Use and dispose of chemicals properly
- Avoid spilling or pouring automotive waste on the ground
- Be observant – report spills or illegal dumping
- Maintain onsite sewage treatment systems
- Recycle
- Conserve water
- Inform others – share your knowledge!

wells, surface water intakes and potential sources of contamination within delineated source water protection areas – also known as Drinking Water Protection Areas.”

Potential contaminant sources include household cleaners, oven cleaners, toilet cleaners, paints, varnishes, stains, dyes, floor and furniture strippers, pesticides, herbicides, car wash detergents, heavy metals, battery acid, animal waste, fertilizers, antifreeze, used oil and gasoline/fuel.

Proper disposal of such items makes a huge impact on the protection of our drinking water sources.

For more information, contact LDEQ at 225-219-3510 or [\\_DEQ-DWPPTeam@la.gov](mailto:_DEQ-DWPPTeam@la.gov), or the LRWA at 1-800-256-2591.

## Sean Darensbourg honored as Black Men Run’s National Runner of the Year

DEQ environmental scientist and avid runner, Sean Darensbourg, was awarded the honor of National Runner of the Year from Black Men Run, a running organization. Darensbourg is a member of the organization.

“[Sean] helps define what Black Men Run can achieve once the mission is held in high regard, the commitment is set and accountability is in place,” said Edward Walton, chief managing officer, of the Black Men Run organization.

“His personal achievements are shared to others as motivation that we can all get better in many facets of our lives if we have a safe place, rock or standard to use as the starting point,” Walton continued. “His dedication to his chapter as well as other chapters close to his home shows his continued support and belief of what BMR is striving to achieve. Their mission is to ‘Take Responsibility of your lifestyle and your health!’”

Darensbourg has run in several 5K, 10K and 15K races, including half marathons in New Orleans, Lafayette, Gretna, Baton Rouge and Savanna, Ga., in 2015 and 2016. In 2016, he also ran a full marathon at the Louisiana Marathon Running Festival, and the Louisiana Bridge Run Series which included the St. Charles Levee, Huey P. Long Bridge and Crescent City Connection Levee.



*Sean has earned more than 20 medals from his runs.*





## King Cake Contest held at LDEQ

It is Mardi Gras season in Louisiana and what is Mardi Gras without King Cake? To celebrate, LDEQ employees had a King Cake tasting contest on the 8th floor of the Galvez Building, LDEQ headquarters.

Held for the first time last year, the event involves entrants bringing a King Cake from their favorite bakery and submitting it for an anonymous taste test. Cake flavors included cream cheese, plain, blueberry, turtle, apple, praline cream cheese, Galette de Rois (almond paste), bacon/caramel and blueberry cream cheese.

Cathy Rodgers from the Environmental Assessment Division took first place for her Turtle King Cake selection from Oak Point market.



*Charlotte Goudeau (l) and Brittany Heil participated in the event.*



*Cathy Rodgers, last year's 3rd place winner, took 1st place this year.*



## DEQ On The Move



*Dr. Chuck Carr Brown greets students from Scotlandville High School in Baton Rouge on a career shadowing event at LDEQ.*



*Scotlandville High School in Baton Rouge attended a career shadowing event at LDEQ.*



*Marissa Jimenez, LDEQ environmental scientist, talks with science teacher at the Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium.*



## Who's Who At DEQ?



### **Byron Blanchard – Internal Auditor, Office of the Secretary**

Blanchard, a native of Assumption Parish, has a bachelor's degree in accounting from Southeastern Louisiana University.

Blanchard moved to Baton Rouge in 2001. Before joining LDEQ, he worked as an Accountant Manager for the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), and as an Auditor for the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS).

Blanchard became a Certified Internal Auditor in 2011. He is a member of The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA).

### **Kristin C. Shaffer – Environmental Scientist 3, Water Enforcement/Permit Compliance Unit**

Shaffer, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., moved to Baton Rouge in 2005.

Shaffer graduated from Long Island University, Southampton College campus, with a B.S. in Biology. Before joining LDEQ, she worked at C-K Associates as their senior lab technician/junior Quality Assurance/Quality Control officer. She also worked for Audubon and The Nature Conservancy.

Shaffer lives in Zachary with her husband, David, their daughter Riley, and their rescue lab, Sanders.



### **Daniel Smith – Agency Relationship Manager, Office of Technology Services, Division of Administration**

Smith holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering and a Master of Science in Biological and Agricultural Engineering. He started work at LDEQ in 1993 in Technical Services. He served as the UNIX systems manager for the Geographic Information Systems Section until 1996 when he left to become the Computer Systems Manager for the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at LSU. He returned to LDEQ in 2000 as an IT Technical Support Specialist in GIS where he worked until the statewide IT consolidation took place.

As part of the Office of Technology Services, Smith has served as a Database Administrator, the interim head of statewide GIS, an IT Statewide Systems Project Officer and is now the Agency Relationship Manager for LDEQ and the Louisiana Department of Veteran's Affairs.



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## Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Fourth Quarter Summaries

### Fourth Quarter 2016 Enforcement Actions:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/EnforcementActions.aspx>

### Fourth Quarter 2016 Settlement Agreements:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/SettlementAgreements.aspx>

### Fourth Quarter 2016 Air Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx>

### Fourth Quarter 2016 Water Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx>

### Fourth Quarter 2016 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/divisions/wastepermits.aspx>

