

**STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
SEVERE WEATHER  
APRIL 12, 2020**

**AGENCY INTEREST NO. 222340**

**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), I hereby make the following findings, declaration and order:

**FINDINGS AND DECLARATION**

1. On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of **April, 2020, Severe Weather April 2020** (hereinafter “the **EVENT**”) moved into the state, bringing with it heavy rainfall, wind gusts up to 60 miles per hour, large hail (two inches in diameter or greater), flash flooding, and strong or long tracked tornado activity.
2. By State of Louisiana Proclamation No. **45 JBE 2020**, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. R.S. 29:271 *et seq.*, declared on **April 12, 2020**, that a state of emergency exists in the state of Louisiana, as a result of the **EVENT** and the imminent threat of emergency conditions that threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State.
3. The following parishes shall constitute the specific areas covered by this Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order (hereinafter “Order”): Bossier, Bienville, DeSoto and Ouachita. These areas shall herein be referred to as the “Emergency Areas.”
4. I find that the **EVENT** has created or will create conditions that require immediate action to prevent irreparable damage to the environment and serious threats to life or safety throughout the Emergency Areas.

April 14, 2020

WHEREFORE, I hereby declare that an emergency exists, and that the following measures are necessary to prevent irreparable damage to the environment and serious threats to life or safety throughout 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 (See Appendix B), 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 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 Area, 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:

April 14, 2020

(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 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.

April 14, 2020

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 E.

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 [deqdebrisrequest@la.gov](mailto:deqdebrisrequest@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 [deqdebrisrequest@la.gov](mailto:deqdebrisrequest@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.

iii. All temporary and activated pre-approved emergency debris sites accepting vegetative debris shall submit completed weekly debris management report

April 14, 2020

(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://deg.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 waste material in a Type I or II landfill.

## **§ 2. 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. Local governments and their agents shall follow the provisions of the Debris Management Plan.

## **§ 3. 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.deg.louisiana.gov>.

Additional documents may be available by placing a Public Records Request using the online form at <http://edms.deg.louisiana.gov/prr> or the printable paper form available at <http://deg.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/General/PublicRecordsRequestForm.pdf>. There is no charge to replace copies of documents destroyed by **EVENT**. Please contact Records Management with any questions at (225) 219-3171 or [degrecords@la.gov](mailto:degrecords@la.gov).

April 14, 2020

**§ 4. 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.

**§ 5. 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.

**§ 6. 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.

**§ 7. 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.

**§ 8. Amendments**

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

April 14, 2020

**§ 9. Expiration Date**

This Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order shall take effect immediately upon execution by the Secretary of the Department, and shall expire at midnight on the sixtieth day after the date of execution set forth below, unless modified or extended by further order.

**DONE AND ORDERED** on this 14th day of April, 2020, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



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Dr. Chuck Carr Brown  
Secretary

## APPENDIX A

### LDEQ Regional Office Contact Information

<b>Acadiana Regional Office</b>	<b>Parishes Served</b>
<p><b>Regional Manager: Rhonda McCormick</b>            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></p>	<p>Acadia, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Evangeline, Grant, Iberia, Lafayette, LaSalle, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion</p>
<b>Capital Regional Office</b>	<b>Parishes Served</b>
<p><b>Regional Manager: April Baiamonte</b>            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></p>	<p>Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana</p>
<b>Northeast Regional Office</b>	<b>Parishes Served</b>
<p><b>Regional Manager: Casey Head</b>            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></p>	<p>Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll, Winn</p>
<b>Northwest Regional Office</b>	<b>Parishes Served</b>
<p><b>Regional Manager: Mark Juneau</b>            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></p>	<p>Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, De Soto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster</p>
<b>Southeast Regional Office</b>	<b>Parishes Served</b>
<p><b>Regional Manager: Brian Tusa</b>            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></p>	<p>Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington</p>
<b>Southwest Regional Office</b>	<b>Parishes Served</b>
<p><b>Regional Manager: Billy Eakin</b>            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></p>	<p>Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Vernon</p>



April 14, 2020

## **APPENDIX B**

### **State of Louisiana**

**“Comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management,”**

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