



LDEQ PERSPECTIVES

Presentation to

*Air and Waste Management
Association
Louisiana Section*

**Baton Rouge, LA
October 29, 2007**



LDEQ PERSPECTIVES

Presentation Outline

- **SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2004-2007**
- **ONGOING PROJECTS/WORK IN PROGRESS**
- **MAJOR/SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS PLANNED FOR NEXT ONE TO FIVE YEARS**
- **CONCLUSIONS**



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Significant Accomplishments 2004-2007



Response to environmental challenges brought by Hurricanes Katrina & Rita.



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Significant Accomplishments 2004-2007

1. Hurricanes Response & Recovery Activities

- Search and rescue
- Early reconnaissance, damage & threats assessment
- Collaboration with state and fed agency partners
- Emergency declaration and orders
- Environmental sampling & analysis
- Storm debris management
- Hazardous and radiological materials management
- Disposition of vehicles and boats
- Extensive communications with media and public
- Management of controversies and litigation
- After action reports, hearings, testimony



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Environmental Sampling & Assessment



Water = 6158
(floodwater, Lake Pontchartrain, MS River intakes, groundwater, bioassay)

Soils/Sediment = 2,600

Air = 12,600

*** Over a million individual analyses conducted by LDEQ and EPA**



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Storm Debris Management

Storm Debris Quantity Estimates:

- Applicant and USACE Managed Debris= 63.3 million cubic yards
- Over 1.5 million truckloads





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Storm Debris Management



Construction & Demolition Wastes Management:

- An estimated 140,000-160,000 homes in Southeast Louisiana received substantial flood damage.
- An estimated 37,000 structures will ultimately need to be demolished and disposed of. Approximately 13,000 have been completed.



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Storm Debris Management



**Vehicles: More than 300,000 vehicles impacted
Over 10,000 scrap vehicles were dismantled and properly recycled under LDEQ contract oversight. The following materials recovered upon disposal:**

- **Gasoline and diesel fuel,**
- **Refrigerants, lubricating oils,**
- **Mercury ABS switches, mercury convenience switches,**
- **Lead acid batteries, brake & transmission fluid, antifreeze, & tires.**
- **Propane tanks and large appliances in recreational vehicles**



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Storm Debris Management



More than 60,000 vessels impacted

Under LDEQ contract oversight, more than 860 vessels destined for scrap were crushed to reduce volume for easier handling and management, shredded and properly recycled when possible. The following materials were recovered:

- **Gasoline and diesel fuel**
- **Refrigerants, lubricating oils**
- **Mercury bilge switches, propane tanks**
- **Large appliances, lead acid batteries**
- **Transmission fluid and electronics, such as, radar sets, radios, GPS units, and depth finders**



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Storm Debris Management



White Goods (refrigerators, freezers, ACs, washers/dryers, stoves, etc):

- **Around 1 million white goods recycled**
- **Freon Extraction - around 400,000 units >50,000 lbs. Freon**



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Electronic Goods:

- Around 1.1 million electronic goods recycled



1. *eGoods prepared for recycling*



2. *eGoods at curbside*



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- Orphan Containers (tanks, drums, canisters, etc):**
- **Over 4 million orphan containers have been collected**



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Storm Debris Management



Hazardous Waste Disposal: Over 26 million pounds of hazardous wastes have been collected and disposed of properly.



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Significant Accomplishments 2004-2007 (continued)

- **Cleared water, air, RCRA petitions for EPA to withdraw program authority**
- **Attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard for the Baton Rouge area**
- **Launch of the Louisiana Clean Waters Program**
- **Greatly improved permits processing status: created new expedited permits program, established regulatory permits, introduced new electronic submittal capabilities, eliminated or significantly reduced permits backlogs**
- **Enforcement program innovations including Circuit Rider (significantly improving enforcement action processing efficiency), expedited penalties, and compliance schools for sewer treatment plant and underground storage tank rule violators**



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Significant Accomplishments 2004-2007 (continued)



- Completion of the Mercury Risk Reduction Strategies Report for Louisiana



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Significant Accomplishments 2004-2007 (continued)

- **Recorded no exceedances of Louisiana's air toxics standards for the past two years**
- **Implemented new brownfields revolving loan program**
- **Customer service improvements such as significant website upgrade, internet access to DEQ documents through Electronic Data Management System, new Call Center**
- **DEQ's lab recognized as "Best Environmental Laboratory in the United States" by the American Public Laboratory Association and was the national winner of the "Gold Standard Award" for 2007**
- **Employment of new technologies – outfitted and deployed the new Mobile Air Monitoring Lab, aerial and ground application of infrared camera technology to detect leaks of hydrocarbons from tanks, barges, and pipelines**



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Significant Accomplishments 2004-2007 (continued)



Deployed new technology to target air quality-The HAWK Infrared gas imaging camera

- Able to “see” emissions and leaks either handheld or from a helicopter
- Mobile – can identify leaks at industrial facilities, pipelines, barges, tank farms, railcars and trucks
- DEQ has purchased a handheld HAWK that will be used to spot leaks and help improve air quality



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Significant Accomplishments 2004-2007 (continued)



HAWK Image of Leaking Propane Sphere



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Significant Accomplishments 2004-2007 (continued)



Mobile Air Monitoring Lab:

- Will monitor for VOCs, NO_x, Ozone, Sulfur Dioxide, particulate matter, mercury, and more
- Mobile so it can go where the problems are
- Will allow quick analyses of the problem
- Speed investigations
- New tool in the arsenal to improve air quality



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Significant Accomplishments 2004-2007 (continued)

- **Regionalization of services – increased capabilities of regional offices to offer routine department regulatory services**
- **Developed and implemented a Department-specific ethics policy**
- **DEQ developed and implemented a comprehensive workforce development program to facilitate a sustained, quality workforce for the Department**
- **Moved toward final resolution for a number of historical contaminated sites (e.g. Bayou Trepagnier, Marine Shale, Thompson-Hayward, Eunice Lake)**
- **Launched a wetlands assimilation initiative. Issued first wetlands assimilation permit under the new, streamlined wetlands assimilation permits process. These permits will play a critical role in the restoration of Louisiana’s diminishing coastal and wetland areas.**



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Ongoing Projects/Work in Progress

- Continue remaining hurricane cleanup and recovery efforts (est. completion 2010)
- Implementation of the Louisiana Clean Waters Program (2012 goals)
- Implement recommendations of mercury risk reduction strategies report (ongoing)
- Continue with ozone attainment efforts for the Baton Rouge area (2010 attainment date)
- DEQ is developing an online permitting system that will allow for the application of permits via the internet for oil and gas permits. The system is scheduled to be rolled out in early 2008
- Complete development and implementation of a new statewide emissions reporting and inventory system (ERIC) (December, 2007)
- Assist the CPRA and CAC with implementation of Coastal Advisory Panel recommendations. Coastal forestry delineation/mapping efforts represent the first effort.



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Major/Significant Projects Planned for the Next One to Five Years

- **Complete attainment demonstration for the Baton Rouge Ozone Nonattainment Area**
- **Respond to new ozone standard to be announced in March, 2008**
- **Implement Clean Air Interstate and Clean Air Mercury Rule requirements**
- **Work toward goals for the Louisiana Clean Waters Program**
- **Follow and respond to global climate change developments at the federal level**



Conclusions

- **LDEQ has made good progress over the past four years**
- **The Department's response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita was remarkable**
- **There are many important on-going programs**
- **Significant challenges lie ahead**