How Does LDEQ Function?

Chris Ratcliff
Attorney/Ombudsman
La. Dept. of Environmental Quality
Legislative Branch
Executive Branch
Judicial Branch
DEQ Organization

Office of the Secretary

- Office of Management and Finance
- Office of Environmental Services
- Office of Environmental Compliance
Office of the Secretary Functions:

- General oversight and supervision of the department
- Legal support
- Criminal investigations
- Communications
- Small business/small community assistance
Office of Management and Finance Functions:

- accounting and budget control
- procurement
- contract management
- grants management
- Administration of Waste Tire Management Fund
- Administration of Motor Fuels UST Trust Fund
Office of Environmental Services Functions:

- issuance of permits, licenses, registrations, variances, exemptions, and certifications (except radiation)
Office of Environmental Compliance Functions:

- surveillance of the regulated community
- enforcement of environmental laws and regulations
- issuance of licenses, registrations, exemptions, and certifications of radiation sources.
Office of the Secretary

Secretary
Peggy Hatch

Deputy Secretary

Criminal Investigations Division

Legal Division
Office of the Secretary, cont.

Deputy Secretary

Business, Community Outreach and Incentives Div.
Office of the Secretary, cont.

Business, Community Outreach and Incentives Div.

- Small Business/Small Community Assistance Program
- Clean Water Revolving Fund
- Louisiana Environmental Leadership Program
- Planning and performance management
- Strategic planning
- Drinking Water Protection Program
- Nonpoint Source Program
Office of the Secretary, cont.

Criminal Investigation Div.

- Investigates violations that appear to be knowing and willful
- Assists district attorneys with prosecution of cases
Office of the Secretary, cont.

Legal Division

• Advises and represents the agency in the areas of:
  • Permitting decisions
  • Surveillance, Enforcement & Remediation
  • General law (collection, regulation development, public records, contracts)
  • Ombudsman
Rulemaking Process

Request to Initiate Rulemaking

Notice of Intent, proposed rule to La. Register & Legis. Oversight Committee

Publication in La. Register; start 45-day comment period

Publication in Newspapers, web, & direct mail

Public hearing
Rulemaking Process

1. Summary of comments; response
2. Legislative oversight committee hearing
3. Publication of final rule in La. Register
DEQ Organization

Office of the Secretary

Office of Management and Finance

Office of Environmental Services

Office of Environmental Compliance
Office of Environmental Services

- Waste Permits Div.
- Air Permits Div.
- Water Permits Div.
- Public Participation and Permit Support Div.
Office of Environmental Services

Waste Permits Division

- Reviews applications for permits for solid waste and hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities
- Drafts permits for management consideration
- Reviews landfill construction quality assurance testing data
- Reviews groundwater monitoring plans and reports
Office of Environmental Services, cont.

Waste Permits Division, cont.

- Inspects groundwater monitoring systems
- Reviews corrective action plans and reports
- Reviews P.E-certified SPCC plans
- Reviews closure plans
Office of Environmental Services, cont.

Air Permits Division

- Reviews applications for air permits
- Drafts air permits for management consideration
- Emission reduction credits banking
- Prepares State Implementation Plans
- Monitors stack testing
- Performs air dispersion modeling
- Reviews air toxics and criteria pollutant emission inventories
Office of Environmental Services, cont.

Public Participation and Permit Support Div.

• Reviews all permit applications for administrative completeness
• Responds to questions about applications
• Processes name changes
• Processes permit transfers
• Issues public notices
• Conducts public hearings
• Registers solid waste transporters and generators
Office of Environmental Services, cont.

Public Participation and Permit Support Div., cont.

- Manages RCRA Info Database
- Manages Annual Hazardous Waste Reports
- Issues asbestos and lead worker accreditations
- Approves asbestos and lead training providers
- Receives & logs notifications for asbestos demolition and renovations
- Receives & logs asbestos disposal verifications
- Receives & logs lead project notifications
- Manages Louisiana Environmental Lab Accreditation Program
Permitting Process: Individual Air Permits

1. Completeness Review of Application (≤60 days)
2. Technical Review of Application
3. Drafting of Permit
4. Internal Review of Draft Permit
5. Issuance of Public Notice
6. Public Comment Period
7. Revision of Draft Permit
8. Internal Review of Revised Draft Permit
9. Final Decision (≤300 days)
DEQ Organization

- Office of the Secretary
  - Office of Management and Finance
  - Office of Environmental Services
  - Office of Environmental Compliance
Inspection Division

- Inspects regulated entities to evaluate compliance
- Investigates complaints
- Operates Early Warning Organic Compound Detection System
Office of Environmental Compliance, cont.

- Evaluates referrals from Inspection Div.
- Evaluates other compliance information
- Drafts enforcement actions
- Negotiates settlements
Office of Environmental Compliance, cont.

- Monitors and surveys ambient water quality & air quality
- Emergency response
- Licenses and registers radiation sources
Office of Environmental Compliance, cont.

Underground Storage Tank and Remediation Division

- Oversees investigation and remediation of contaminated sites
- Manages UST registration
- Approves UST response action contractors
- Certifies UST operators
- Certifies UST Installers/Repairers
- Certifies UST Closers
Remediation Process

1. DEQ receives notice of contamination
2. Referral to USTRD
3. Triage
4. Assignment to Team Leader; notification to responsible party(ies)
5. Remedial investigation
6. Investigation work plan

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Remedial investigation → Delineation of contamination → Determine remediation (RECAP) standards → Corrective action study → Select final remedy → Implement remedy → Remediation Process, cont.
For more information ...

www.deq.state.la.us

- Records: EDMS
- Online permit application forms: Online Services

Customer Service Center

- 225-219-LDEQ (5337)
- 866-896-LDEQ (5337)

Public Records Center

- 225-219-3168
DEQ employees to receive performance adjustment

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality announced today that employees will be receiving a four percent performance adjustment, beginning Oct. 1.

DEQ, law enforcement partners, team up to crack down on illegal inspection stickers

The East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office and the Louisiana State Police, in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, are cracking down on the use of altered and counterfeit inspection stickers on vehicles. In the last 10 weeks, more than 200 fraudulent stickers have been located and confiscated. Investigations have shown that these inspection stickers have been issued to drivers who lack the proper paperwork or whose vehicles would not pass inspection.

For more information on the Inspection and Maintenance Program

EnviroSchool to present free seminars on Air Permits 101

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is hosting a free seminar entitled "Air Permits 101: Understanding the Basics" in four different locations around the state. The session will give you a basic understanding of air permitting including the types, associated regulations and the permitting process.

For more information on EnviroSchool, go to

Louisiana State Police honors DEQ Emergency Responders

On August 30, the Louisiana State Police’s Transportation and Environmental Safety unit presented certificates of recognition to DEQ Emergency Responders Bryan Riché and Lee Lemond for their work to secure the damaged Stolthaven New Orleans, LLC, facility in Braithwaite during the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac in August 2012. Hurricane Isaac was a slow...
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