

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## **Louisiana Multi-Media Environmental Results Program**

Annual Report on Progress  
October 2008 - September 2009

The Louisiana Environmental Results Program (ERP) focuses on the Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Industry. Business processes associated with this large and very dynamic industry challenge traditional environmental regulatory approaches and demand innovative solutions to maintain compliant operations in an industry sector whose success is in the interest of national security.

The past year has seen aggressive progress in implementation of the program's tasks and objectives. Data on baseline compliance rates have been collected on 280 applicable facilities from June 2008 to June 2009. This represents a high percentage of the targeted universe and ensures high statistical confidence in the representation of the major companies in the industry. Preliminary indications confirm that selected compliance assistance tools developed within the scope of this program are well suited to addressing the largest number of non-compliant findings, such as adequate permit coverage, timely permit applications, permit transfers, and permit modifications.

The development, testing, and public demonstration of on-line application for Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit coverage occurred during this period with the demonstration taking place on July 30, 2009 in Baton Rouge. The on-line air permit module development has been delayed until finalization of a permit that incorporates both state and federal requirements into a general permit format. This module is nearing completion and should be available by year's end.

From the period June 30 to August 14, 2009, workshops were held with stakeholder groups at five locations across the state where industry activities are highest. Approximately 130 attendees, representing industry and agency interests, signed attendance rosters and many also volunteered to assist in the development of one of the work products of the program, the highly desired "Field Guide to Compliance Assistance for the Louisiana Oil and Gas Industry".

The Louisiana ERP was enriched with the involvement of the Communications Section of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality in the spring of 2009. Communications personnel use their skills in mass media to promote the program using graphics for presentations and announcement development, as well as serving to coordinate information gathering from stakeholders and using media contacts to promote the workshops. These skills will be invaluable for the finalization of the "Field Guide". A draft of the "Field Guide" is anticipated to be ready for distribution to the ERP stakeholder group at large by Christmas of 2009. For 2010, we expect use of all developed compliance assistance tools to be in full swing, and will be prepared to initiate "post-assistance" compliance rate determinations to begin in after a period of 9-12 months of compliance assistance tool use.