

Beckey Vincent

From: Williams, Trey [williamst@gov.state.la.us]
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2001 3:42 PM
To: Amite Tangi-Digest (E-mail); Ascension Citizen (E-mail); Assumption Pioneer (E-mail); Baker Observer (E-mail); Basile Weekly (E-mail); Bastrop Daily Enterprise (E-mail); Baton Rouge Business Report (E-mail 2); Baton Rouge Business Report (E-mail); Beauregard Daily News (E-mail); Bob Johanneson (E-mail); Bossier Press Tribune (E-mail 2); Bossier Press Tribune (E-mail); Brenda Hodge (E-mail); Brett Graff (E-mail); Bunkie Record (E-mail); Caldwell Watchman (E-mail); Cameron Parish Pilot/DeQuincy News (E-mail); Catahoula News-Booster (E-mail); Catherine Simpson (E-mail); Chester Moore (Port Arthur News) (E-mail); Church Point News (E-mail); City Business (E-mail); Crowley Post Signal (E-mail); Daily Iberian (E-mail); Daily Review (Morgan City) (E-mail); Dan Turner (Shreveport Times) (E-mail); Danny Brown (E-mail); David Austin (E-mail); Delhi Dispatch (E-mail); Eunice News (E-mail); Gonzales Weekly (E-mail); Guardian Journal (Homer) (E-mail); Gueydan Journal (E-mail); Hammond Daily Star (E-mail); Houma Courier (E-mail); Jackson Independent (E-mail); Jeff Simon (E-mail); Jennifer Ledbetter (E-mail); Jennings Daily News (E-mail); John Hill (Gannett) (E-mail); Julie Baxter (E-mail); Kaplan Herald (E-mail); KDCG-TV (Melanie Zeringue) (E-mail); KLRZ (Jeff Boggs) (E-mail); KNOE (Jim Shannon) (E-mail); KNTS-TV (Rachel White) (E-mail); KPLC (Sheletta Smith) (E-mail); La. Technology Journal (E-mail); Lafayette Daily Advertiser (E-mail); Lake Charles American Press (E-mail); Leesville Daily Leader (E-mail); Legiscon (E-mail 2); Legiscon (E-mail); L'Observateur (E-mail); Madison Journal (Tallulah) (E-mail); Malcolm Jones (E-mail); Marksville Weekly News (E-mail); Marvin McGraw (WBRZ) (E-mail); Mary Ann Burke (E-mail); Mike Bourgeois (E-mail); Mike Edmonson (E-mail); Minden Press Herald (E-mail); Monroe News Star (E-mail 2); Monroe News Star (E-mail 3); Monroe News Star (E-mail); Morning Paper (Ruston) (E-mail); NOLA Live (E-mail); Oakdale Journal (E-mail); Opelousas Daily World (E-mail); Plaquemine Post (E-mail); Plaquemines Gazette/Watchman (Belle Chasse) (E-mail); Ponchatoula Times (E-mail); Rayne Acadian Tribune (E-mail); Rayne Independent (E-mail); Richland Beacon News (E-mail); Ruston Daily Leader (E-mail); Sheila McCant (E-mail); Sidney Coffee (E-mail); South Baton Rouge Journal (E-mail); Southern Digest (E-mail); Southwest Daily News/Iowa News/ (E-mail); St. Francisville Democrat (E-mail); St. Mary & Franklin Banner-Tribune (E-mail); St. Tammany Farmer (Covington) (E-mail); Steve Ibanez (E-mail); Teche News (St. Martinville) (E-mail); Tensas Gazette (St. Joseph) (E-mail); The Chronicle (Colfax) (E-mail); The Enterprise (Vacherie) (E-mail); The Era-Leader (Franklinton) (E-mail); The Watchman (Clinton) (E-mail); Times of Acadiana (E-mail); Ville Platte Gazette (E-mail); WAFB-TV (E-mail 2); WAFB-TV (E-mail); WBRZ-TV (E-mail); Welsh Citizen (E-mail); West Carroll Gazette (E-mail); WLPB (Jeff Duhe) (E-mail); WVUE-TV (E-mail 2); WVUE-TV (E-mail); WWL-TV (E-mail 2); WWL-TV (E-mail); Zachary Plainsman-News (E-mail)
Subject: Press Release

Release Date—July 13, 2001

Contact—Dr. Karolien Debusschere, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, (225) 219-5800

State and Federal Agencies Developing Regional Restoration Planning Program for Oil Spills

State and Federal natural resource officials are requesting public comments on the development of the first statewide Regional Restoration Planning Program (RRP), including Regional Restoration Plans, that will assist in restoring natural resources injured by oil spills.

The goal of this new program is to make the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process more efficient. NRDA is the mechanism by which the trustees pursue damages from responsible parties to compensate the public for any injuries to natural resources resulting from

oil spills. The planning program and restoration plans will identify potential restoration projects and the criteria for selecting the appropriate project prior to spill incidents; thereby shortening the NRDA process, minimizing costs, and expediting restoration of lost natural resources and services.

Implementation of the RRP Program will allow the state to dramatically improve the coordination of restoration conducted through the NRDA process with on-going restoration efforts.

Officials are requesting comments on the proposed RRP Program as described in a Public Review Document that was released at end of June 2001 and is available at www.darp.noaa.gov. The trustees are also soliciting restoration projects for potential inclusion in the proposed Regional Restoration Plans. Restoration projects will be included based on the selection criteria that will be developed as part of the RRP Program.

Public meetings on this Program are scheduled on the following dates at the following locations from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm:

C July 17, 2001, Shreveport, State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Room 205, Shreveport, LA

C July 18, 2001, Monroe, Monroe City Hall, Council Chamber, 1st Floor, 400, Lea Joyner Expressway, Monroe, LA

C July 19, 2001, Alexandria, Louisiana, Convention Center, 2225 N., MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA

C July 24, 2001, New Orleans, Joseph S. Yenni Bldg., 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Jefferson Parish Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Jefferson, LA

C July 25, 2001, Lake Charles, Burton Business Center, McNeese State University, 350 Lawton Drive, Lake Charles, LA

C July 26, 2001, Baton Rouge, Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, 1st Floor, Louisiana Room, Baton Rouge, LA

Requests for copies of the "Public Review Document of the Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program" should be sent to Karolien Debusschere, Deputy Coordinator, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, Office of the Governor, 625 N. 4th Street, Suite 800, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; Kdebusschere@losco.state.la.us <<mailto:Kdebusschere@losco.state.la.us>>.

Written comments on the plan should be sent to the contact at address listed above and must be submitted on or before August 20, 2001.

Opportunities for public comment will be provided throughout the development of the RRP Program and RRP's.