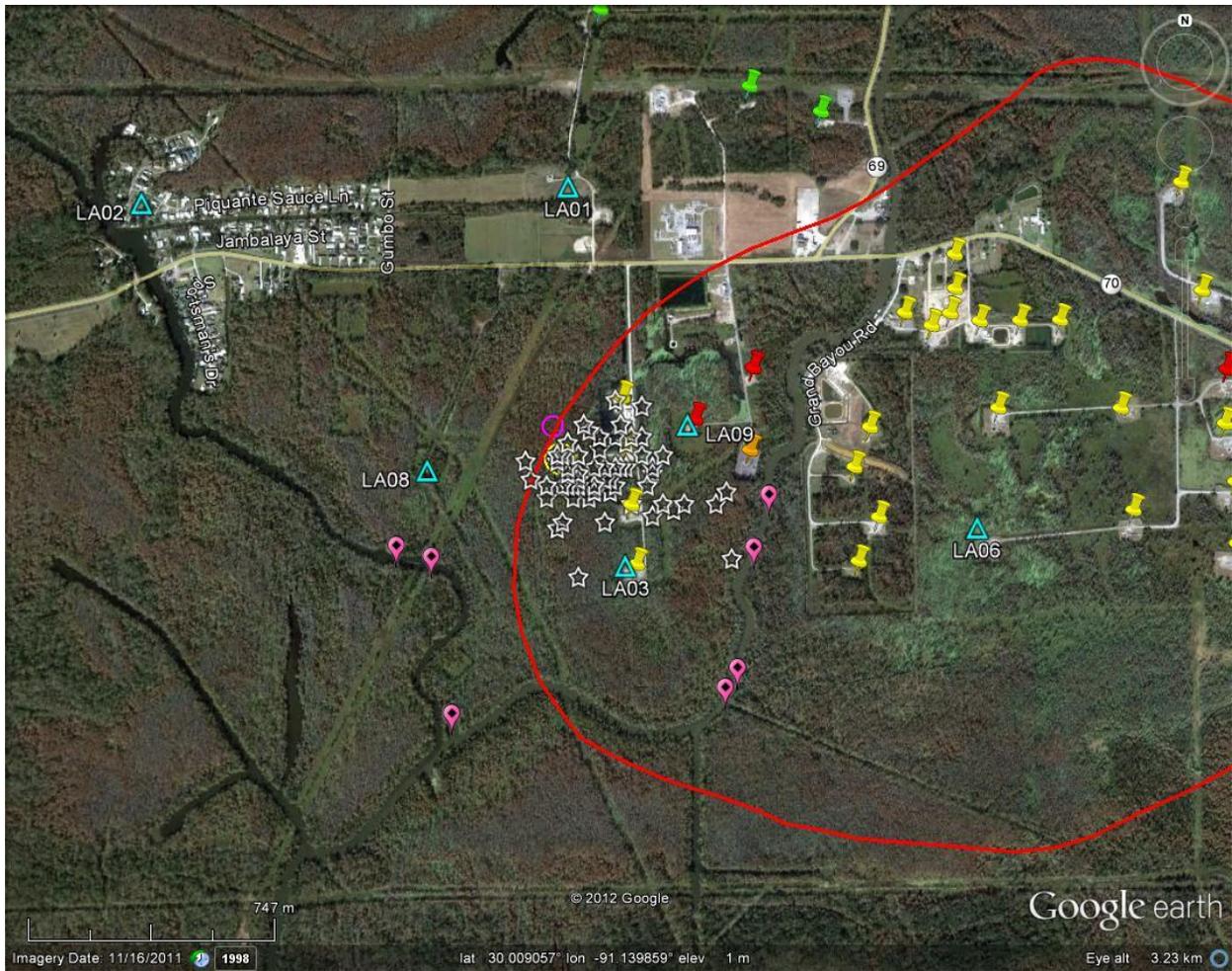


USGS talking points for August 7 meeting in Pierre Part, Louisiana

Bill Leith, Senior Science Advisor for Earthquake and Geologic Hazards, U.S. Geological Survey, based on a preliminary technical summary by Steve Horton of the University of Memphis

- On 6/8, and again on 7/3, local residents of the *Bayou Corne* community reported feeling the ground shake in Assumption Parish . Some of the tremors were large enough to produce “cracks in sheet rock and foundations.” Natural gas had been observed bubbling up at a spots in *Bayou Corne* where three natural gas pipelines cross. The state of Louisiana contacted the USGS for help understanding the ground shaking.
- Beginning on 7/12, the USGS and the University of Memphis deployed six seismic stations in Assumption Parish, to monitor the reported seismic activity and to help determine the cause of that activity. Data is transmitted in real-time to the USGS National Earthquake Information Center and then to the University of Memphis for analysis. Over several weeks, the network configuration has been adjusted to improve the locations of tremor in the area.
- Analysis of the initial data showed that tremors were indeed occurring locally at a rate of 10-to-20 events per day. Bubbling gas had been observed at seven different locations on *Bayou Corne* and *Grand Bayou*.
- Most of the earthquakes are at a depth approximately within the top part of the salt dome. The largest tremor was about magnitude 2.5. Most were much smaller; too small to be felt.
- On the morning of 7/24, an intense swarm of tremors began with upwards of 1,000 events per day. This was accompanied by long bursts of tremor (5-10 minutes in duration).
- The locations of the seismic events (during the intense swarm) overlie the top, NW portion of the Napoleonville salt dome. Both the cavity *Geiser#3* and the sinkhole are located within the broader area covered by the scatter of epicenters.
- Around 2:00 pm CDT on 8/02, the seismic swarm stopped. Few if any tremors have been observed since that time.
- On the morning of 8/03, a sinkhole/slurry was discovered by employees of Texas Brine, following reports of gas odors by the local community. The sinkhole is located near *Geiser#3* and near the cluster of seismically-determined event locations (see graphic).
- USGS will continue to monitor earthquake activity into September, but expect that long-term monitoring will be assumed by the State or the companies operating in the area.



Earthquakes epicenters (white stars) between 7/24 and 8/02. The red pins are location of LPG storage cavity, orange pins are locations of gas storage cavities, yellow pins are location of brine cavity, and green pins are salt water disposal wells. The sinkhole is located at the magenta-colored circle, with the *Geiser#3* cavity just to the south of it (yellow circle beneath earthquake symbols).