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COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

May 06, 2022

Senator Patrick Page Cortez, President
Senator Bob Hensgens, Natural Resources Committee Chairman
Representative Clay Schexnayder, Speaker
Representative Jean-Paul Coussan, Natural Resources and Environment Committee Chairman

Via Statutorily Prescribed E-mail

Re: Summary Report of Proposed Amendment to
Public Works
LAC 56:I.303.B. and LAC 56:I.503.B
Water Well Guidance Manual

Dear Oversight Authorities:

The Commissioner of Conservation proposes to amend LAC 56:I.303.B. and LAC 56:I.503.B. for reference to a common industry practices guidance document in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act R.S. 49:950 et seq., and pursuant to the power delegated under the laws of the state of Louisiana. The proposed regulatory amendment includes reference to the use of the Guidance Manual for Environmental Boreholes & Monitoring Systems in the water well registration and plugging and abandonment regulations of Title 56.

In accordance with La R.S. 49:968.B and C. the Commissioner forwarded a report (dated January 24, 2022) of proposed amendments to the appropriate legislative committees, presiding officers of the House and Senate, and other state offices.

A comment period was held open from March 20, 2022 to April 10, 2022 affording interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed rule amendments. Pursuant to La R.S. 49:968.D(1)(b), the Commissioner of Conservation submits the following summary report of the public hearing.

I. La R.S. 49:968.D(1)(b)(i) – A summary of public hearing testimony:

No public hearing was requested, nor were any comments received during the comment period.

II. La R.S. 49:968.D(1)(b)(ii) – A summary of all comments received, a copy of the agency’s responses, and a statement of the agency’s action resulting from comments received:

No comments were received during the comment period.

III. La R.S. 49:968.D(1)(b)(iii) – A revision of the proposed rule since submitting the report of La R.S. 49:968.B, or a statement that no changes were made:

No substantive changes were made since submitting the previous report.

IV. La R.S. 49:968.D(1)(b)(iv) – A concise statement of the principal reasons for and against adoption of any amendments or changes suggested:

Clarification was provided by revising wording of 303.B. and 503.B., line 2, “*and specifically as stipulated in the*” which is now removed, ending the previous word “chapter” with a period to conclude that sentence, and beginning a new sentence that starts with, and replaces entirely, the above *italicized* with “A resource available to drillers as reference material of common industry practices for installation of environmental boreholes and monitoring systems is the” as recommended by staff of the Louisiana State Register.

The Office of Conservation expects to publish the final rule in the Louisiana Register as soon as permissible under the Administrative Procedures Act. Please inform us of your decision on whether or not you intend to hold a hearing as permitted by La R.S. 49:968.D(2)(a).

Please contact me at 225-342-8244 if there are any questions or if any clarification of the above is needed.

Yours very truly,

Timothy D. Schroeder
Administrative Assistant, Office of Conservation, Environmental Division