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State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

STEPHEN CHUSTZ
SECRETARY

JAMES H. WELSH
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

October 9, 2015

Senator John A. Alario, Jr., President
Senator Gerald Long, Natural Resource Committee Chairman
Representative Chuck Kleckley, Speaker
Representative Gordon E. Dove, Sr., Natural Resources and Environment Committee Chairman

Via Statutorily Prescribed E-mail

Re: Post Hearing Report of Proposed Amendment to
Office of Conservation Rules and Regulations
LAC 43:XIX. Chapter 47 (Statewide Order No. 29-B)

Dear Oversight Authorities:

The Commissioner of Conservation proposes to amend LAC 43:XIX.Chapter 47 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 amendment is made to bring Conservation rules into compliance with Act 362 of the 2015 Legislative Session and will adopt an expedited permit processing program.

In accordance with La R.S. 49:968.B and C. the Commissioner forwarded a report (dated August 10, 2015) of proposed amendments to the appropriate legislative committees, presiding officers of the House and Senate, and other state offices.

A public hearing held September 29, 2015, under Docket Number CON RULE AMD 2015-09, afforded interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed rule amendments. The public comment period was held open until 4:30 PM October 5, 2015. 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:

The agency introduced the proposed rule and filed the state exhibits into the record. Although several members of the public attended the hearing, no testimony was offered and no comments were received during the hearing.

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:

During the open comment period, several letters containing comments were received. All comments received were favorable to the passage of the proposed rule, though several of the comments requested additional elaboration on specific processes and other comments pointed out typographical issues that should be addressed. As all comments received were in favor of the proposed rule and none rose to a level necessitating a delay in the current publication schedule, the currently proposed rule will proceed as is and each of the comments received, including those pointing out typographical issues, will be addressed in future rulemaking proposals.

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 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:

In light of the response to comments above, no changes or amendments are intended to be implemented.

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 225-342-7889 if there are any questions or if any clarification of the above is needed.

Yours very truly,



John W. Adams
Attorney, Office of Conservation

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