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OFFICE OF CONSERVATION
STATE OF LOUISIANA
DOCKET NO: ENV 2012-01
SALTWATER ENCROACHMENT PUBLIC MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2012,
REPORTED BY RUTH E. FORET,
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

REPORTED AT:
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION
ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION
LABELLE ROOM
617 NORTH 3RD STREET
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

COMMENCING AT 6:02 P.M. ON MARCH 8TH, 2012

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A P P E A R A N C E S

MR. JAMES H. WELSH
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION
P. O. BOX 94275
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804

MR. J. BLAKE CANFIELD, ATTORNEY
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
P. O. BOX 94275
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MR. JOHN W. ADAMS, ATTORNEY
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
P. O. BOX 94275
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804

SPEAKERS PRESENT:
MR. ANTHONY DUPLECHIN, DIRECTOR
CAPITAL AREA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
3535 SOUTH SHERWOOD FOREST, SUITE 129
BATON ROUGE, LA
MR. JOHN LOVELACE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
LOUISIANA WATER SCIENCE CENTER
3535 SOUTH SHERWOOD FOREST, SUITE 120
BATON ROUGE, LA

MS. NARA CROWLEY, PRESIDENT
SAVE LAKE PEIGNEUR, INC.
P. O. BOX 645
ERATH, LA 70533

MR. WILLIAM B DANIEL, IV, DIRECTOR
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION
BATON ROUGE CITY-PARISH
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

1 MS. GLORIA CONLIN, CITIZEN
11411 WESLEY ROAD
2 ABBEVILLE, LA 70510
3 MR. EUGENE H. OWEN, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
BATON ROUGE WATER WORKS COMPANY
4 BATON ROUGE, LA
5 MR. WILLIE FONTENOT, CITIZEN
BATON ROUGE, LA
6
7 MR. HAYS TOWN
BATON ROUGE, LA
8 MR. HENRY GRAHAM, VICE PRESIDENT
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
9 LA CHEMICAL ASSOCIATION
BATON ROUGE, LA
10
11 MS. KATHY WASCOM
LEAN
12 1255 ABERDEEN
BATON ROUGE, LA 70808
13
14 NON-SPEAKERS PRESENT:
15 MR. MICHAEL A. SIMMS
SENIOR PROJECT GEOLOGIST
16 URS CORPORATION
7389 FLORIDA BLVD., SUITE 300
17 BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
18 MR. JAMES H. JENKINS, JR.
BATON ROUGE CITIZENS SAVE OUR WATER
19 1913 OLD PLANTATION LANE
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
20
21 MR. BRUCE M. DUHE, DISTRICT MANAGER
LAYNE CHRISTENSEN COMPANY
P. O. BOX 1652
22 PRAIRIEVILLE, LA 70769
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MR. JIM WELSH:

My name is Jim Welsh, and I'm the Commissioner of Conservation. I want to begin this meeting by saying that while tonight's meeting is not a public hearing, it is meant as a time for us to come together to listen and learn what it is that our community and our elected decision makers collectively have to say on this important issue of our state's ground work.

I am pleased to see so many people here tonight that wish to express their thoughts. Please know that I do and this office does take the health and sustainability of the Southern Hills aquifer very seriously. We understand the critical importance of the aquifer to the State, to the Capital area, East Baton Rouge Parish and her citizens. That is why I want to assure each of you here tonight that my office is committed to making sure that the

1 saltwater encroachment in the 1500-
2 foot and the 2,000-foot sands of the
3 Southern Hills Aquifer is stopped and
4 possibly reversed.

5 The measures we will take need to
6 be appropriate and allowable under
7 the authority we have been entrusted
8 with. I hope to hear from you
9 tonight and at our public hearing
10 again on April the 12th in this same
11 room, so that a rock-solid record can
12 be created to provide the legal and
13 technical basis for it in support of
14 any necessary orders or future
15 actions this office may undertake.

16 So thank you again for coming and
17 participating in tonight's meeting.
18 At this time, I'd like to turn it
19 over to Mr. Blake Canfield who is the
20 Senior Attorney with the Office of
21 Conservation who will be the chair
22 for the meeting tonight.

23 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

24 Thank you, Commissioner, and good
25 evening as well, and welcome to

1 tonight's meeting about the saltwater
2 encroachment in the 1,500 and 2,000-
3 foot sands in the Southern Hills
4 Aquifer System in the Baton Rouge
5 area.

6 As the Commissioner has stated, I
7 am Blake Canfield, an attorney with
8 the Office of Conservation. With me
9 tonight is Mr. John Adams, who is the
10 attorney with the Environmental
11 Division of the Office of
12 Conservation, and he will begin
13 tonight's meeting with some general
14 information regarding saltwater
15 encroachment in the Baton Rouge area
16 and the role of the Office of
17 Conservation in groundwater
18 management.

19 Tonight's meeting will be
20 transcribed, and my role for
21 tonight's hearing is to make sure
22 that an accurate record of this
23 meeting is made and that everyone who
24 wishes to speak is given the
25 opportunity to provide comments for

1 consideration. Following the
2 statement by Mr. Adams and a
3 representative of the Capital Area
4 Groundwater Conservation Commission,
5 as well as a representative from the
6 United States Geological Survey, I
7 will open the meeting for public
8 comments.

9 This public meeting is being held
10 at the request of the Capital
11 Regional Legislative Delegation and
12 the East Baton Rouge Parish Metro
13 Council. The purpose of tonight's
14 meeting is two-fold; one is to
15 provide the information on the issue
16 of saltwater encroachment, and the
17 other is to provide an opportunity
18 for stakeholders, interested parties,
19 and the general public to deliver
20 information on this issue for the
21 Office of Conservation and other
22 governing authorities to consider as
23 we proceed with evaluating,
24 determining and implementing the next
25 steps to take toward managing

1 sustainability in the Baton Rouge
2 area surrounding -- excuse me --
3 surrounding the Baton Rouge area
4 involving saltwater encroachment.

5 Keeping in mind the need to have
6 an accurate record of tonight's
7 meeting, please do not disrupt the
8 comments of anybody else. If you
9 have a pager or a cell phone, I ask
10 that you turn it off at this time and
11 for the remainder of the meeting.

12 During tonight's meeting, you may
13 make oral statements or submit
14 written comments. In order to obtain
15 a record of your attendance and to
16 give everyone an opportunity to make
17 comments for the record, we would
18 like to ask you to fill out one of
19 the blue cards at the front of this
20 table in front of me. On that card,
21 please indicate whether or not you
22 wish to make a statement. After you
23 have filled out the card, please
24 bring them up to the court reporter
25 or to anyone of us. Due to the large

1 number of people here tonight, your
2 time to comment tonight will
3 initially be limited to five (5)
4 minutes. And if there is time
5 available after everyone has had an
6 opportunity to speak, we will gladly
7 invite you back up to complete your
8 statements. You may also submit
9 written comments for consideration,
10 and please give any written comments
11 to the court reporter before the
12 hearing adjourns, or you may even
13 mail them to the Office of
14 Conservation's Environmental Division
15 which is the mailing address located
16 at 617 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge,
17 Louisiana 70802. All written
18 comments will receive the same level
19 of consideration as any oral
20 statements.

21 At this time, I will ask John
22 Adams to present general information
23 concerning saltwater encroachment in
24 the Baton Rouge area. John.

25 MR. JOHN ADAMS:

1 Thank you. According to the
2 scientific publications from the
3 United States Geological Survey
4 (USGS), two (2) major groundwater
5 supply aquifers of the Baton Rouge
6 area, namely the 1,500 and 2,000-foot
7 sands of the Southern Hills Aquifer
8 System, have undergone historic high
9 water use dating back to the 1940s,
10 and continue to be relied upon to
11 provide large volumes of water
12 supply. Historical observation well
13 data indicates that water levels have
14 declined as much as 175-feet in the
15 1,500-foot sand, approximately 150-
16 feet from 1945 to 1975, and an
17 additional 25-feet from 1975 to the
18 present. More recent well data
19 indicates that water levels continue
20 to decline, and a large cone of
21 depression in the 1,500-foot sand is
22 centered over the Lula Street,
23 central Baton Rouge public supply
24 pumping station consisting of six (6)
25 1,500-foot sand wells. Historic

1 observation well data shows that
2 water levels of the 2,000-foot sand
3 declined as much as 275-feet from
4 1945 to 1970, then rose 25 to 50-feet
5 after 1975. However, more recent
6 data shows that water levels of the
7 2,000-foot sand have been mostly
8 stable since 1985. A large cone of
9 depression in the 2,000-foot sand is
10 centered over the Baton Rouge
11 industrial area.

12 The USGS published information
13 during the 1970s reporting that large
14 withdrawals of groundwater from the
15 1,500-foot sand and 2,000-foot sand
16 aquifers in the Baton Rouge area have
17 caused groundwater flow patterns to
18 change from their former north to
19 south orientation toward the pumping
20 centers such that saltwater now flows
21 north across the Baton Rouge Fault
22 System and encroaches into these
23 formerly freshwater areas. Samples
24 collected semi-annually from thirteen
25 (13) public supply wells screened in

1 the 1,500-foot sand in 2004 and
2 following years indicate that
3 saltwater encroachment is presently
4 continuing and increasing in this
5 aquifer beneath the Baton Rouge area.
6 Similarly, samples collected semi-
7 annually from twenty-two (22) wells
8 screened in the 2,000-foot sand in
9 2004 and following years indicate
10 that saltwater encroachment is
11 presently continuing and increasing
12 in the 2,000-foot sand aquifer
13 beneath the Baton Rouge area.

14 Recognizing the issue, the State
15 passed legislation in 1974 creating
16 the Capital Area Groundwater
17 Conservation District comprised of
18 the parishes of East Baton Rouge,
19 East Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, West
20 Baton Rouge and West Feliciana. The
21 law also created a board of
22 commissioners to administer the
23 affairs of the district. The Capital
24 Area Groundwater Conservation
25 Commission consists of fifteen (15)

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members including representatives from state government, district parishes and groundwater users and stakeholders. The law provided the Commission broad authority to manage groundwater resource sustainability in the District which includes among other things specific provisions to address saltwater intrusion.

In 2003, the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission law was amended to recognize the newly established statewide governing authority granted to the Office of Conservation for groundwater resources management. Thus, since 2003, the Capital Area Commission continues to hold all previous authority to manage groundwater sustainability issues within their district, with the added measure that they broadly shall work with the Office of Conservation as it exercises its groundwater management authority within the District, and

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more specifically, shall have the authority to manage groundwater resources within their District in conjunction with the Commissioner of Conservation.

From its inception in 1974 to present, the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission has developed and implemented strategies to address groundwater issues within its District including the issues of water level decline and saltwater encroachment in the 1,500 and 2,000-foot sands in the Baton Rouge area. The latest effort will be delivery of a regional groundwater flow and solute-transport model to simulate past, current and a variety of possible future conditions in the 2,000-foot sand in the Baton Rouge area, with similar evaluation capabilities for the 1,500-foot sand. The model and simulation results are expected to be delivered and available to the public within nine

1 (9) months, with a target delivery
2 date of October of 2012.

3 Here with us this evening is Mr.
4 Tony Duplechin, Director of the
5 Capital Area Groundwater Commission,
6 who has volunteered to participate
7 with Conservation this evening. The
8 Capital Area Commission previously
9 provided Conservation a list of
10 actions taken by the Commission on
11 the issue of saltwater encroachment
12 in the Baton Rouge area from 1974 to
13 present. Mr. Duplechin will provide
14 that information to you now.

15 Mr. Duplechin.

16 MR. TONY DUPLÉCHIN:

17 Thank you, Mr. Adams. I kind of
18 feel like a caller on one of those
19 radio shows where the caller before
20 you said everything that you were
21 going to say, so I ask y'all to
22 please bare with me because some of
23 the things that Johnny said, I will
24 be repeating.

25 My name is Anthony Duplechin, and

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I am the Director of the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District.

The District and Commission were created by Act 678 in the 1974 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and can be found at Louisiana Revised Statute 38:3071 (et seq), and became effective on January 1st, 1975. The Capital Area includes the parishes of East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana and Pointe Coupee. The Commission consists of fifteen (15) members, one (1) member from each of the parishes composing the district, three (3) members representing the industrial users in the district, three (3) members representing private or public water supply for rural or municipal use in the district, with the condition that at least one (1) of said three (3) members shall always be from the nominees of privately owned users furnishing a municipal water supply,

1 one (1) member representing the
2 office of Public Works of the
3 Louisiana Department of
4 Transportation and Development, one
5 (1) member representing the Louisiana
6 Farm Bureau of Federation and the
7 Louisiana Cattlemen's Association,
8 one (1) member representing the
9 Louisiana Department of Environmental
10 Quality and one (1) member being a
11 nominee of the rest of the board.
12 Current members of the Commission
13 are:
14 Mr. Melvin Argrave who represents
15 public supply and works for Baton
16 Rouge Water Company;
17 Mr. Jody Burleson who represents
18 industry and works for Exxon;
19 Mr. Bo Bolourchi of DOTD;
20 Mr. Jay Causey who is our chairman
21 and who works for the Louisiana
22 Department of Health and Hospitals
23 and who represents public supply;
24 Mr. Brian Chustz represents industry
25 and works for Entergy;

1 Mr. Philip Crochet represents East
2 Feliciana Parish;
3 Mr. John Hashagen represents West
4 Feliciana Parish;
5 Mr. Joey Hebert represents industry
6 and works for Georgia-Pacific;
7 Mr. John Jennings is the
8 representative from the Louisiana
9 Department of Environmental Quality;
10 Dr. John Westra is the representative
11 for East Baton Rouge City-Parish;
12 Dennis McGehee is a public supplier
13 representative and works for the
14 Baton Rouge Water Company;
15 James Rills is our representative
16 from West Baton Rouge Parish;
17 Jens Rummier represents Pointe Coupee
18 Parish;
19 Mr. Mark Walton is the Commission
20 Nominee; and
21 Mr. Harold Kirby represents the Farm
22 Bureau and Cattlemen's Association.

23 As early as the 1930s, it was
24 realized that water levels in
25 Baton Rouge's city supply wells were

1 dropping. The Louisiana Legislature
2 established a Louisiana Water
3 Resources Study Commission in 1936,
4 but they had only met a few times and
5 did not take much action.

6 In 1964, a U.S. Geological Survey
7 Report titled "Saltwater Encroachment
8 in Aquifers of the Baton Rouge Area"
9 was published, in conjunction with
10 the Louisiana Office of Public Works,
11 recommending a drilling and
12 monitoring program be implemented.
13 Later that year, a water commission
14 was proposed to then Mayor Woody
15 Dumas by Leo Bankston and others.
16 East Baton Rouge Parish Resolution
17 53:24 established a special Water
18 Conservation Commission to study
19 groundwater conditions, with
20 particular interest in saltwater
21 encroachment, and to make
22 recommendations for remedial action.

23 In 1965, the Louisiana Water
24 Resources Research Institute proposed
25 a study of possible solutions to the

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saltwater encroachment threat.

In 1970, an act of the Legislature, number 682, allowed for the establishment of the Greater Baton Rouge Water Conservation District, and a twenty (20) member Board of Commissioners was appointed to administer district affairs. This Commission gathered enough information to determine the need for control legislation. Such legislation was presented to the Louisiana Legislature, but failed to pass.

In 1974, a similar bill was introduced that expanded the District to include the five (5) parishes in the capital area. The bill passed. It created the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District and a Board of Commissioners to administer the affairs of the District. An organizational meeting was held on January 14th, 1975.

Since its creation, the Capital

1 Area Groundwater Conservation
2 District has been involved in the
3 efficient administration,
4 conservation, orderly development and
5 supplementation of groundwater
6 resources in the five-parish area.
7 The Capital Area Groundwater
8 Conservation Commission has driven
9 investigative efforts and policy
10 changes and fostered an atmosphere of
11 cooperation to promote the
12 responsible development of the
13 groundwater resources in the Baton
14 Rouge area, and to protect the
15 quality of these resources. Numerous
16 actions have been taken by the
17 Commission to study, assess and
18 address the matters of subsidence,
19 saltwater encroachment and water
20 level decline in the district,
21 including:

22 In November of 1975, we requested
23 industry to reserve the 1,000, 1,500,
24 and 1,700-foot sands for public
25 supply wells.

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In July of 1988, the above was re-affirmed and called attention to the fact that the 1,500-foot sand south of the Baton Rouge fault in West Baton Rouge Parish is included.

In October of 1991, the Commission adopted the following conservation policy for the 2,000-foot sand in the Baton Rouge area. This policy would apply to the area bounded by Chippewa Street, the Mississippi River, Irene Road-Heck Young Road extended east, and Plank Road. This is called -- was known as the industrial area.

1. Requested a moratorium on installation of new industrial wells in the 2,000-foot sand in the above defined area, except for replacement wells or as approved by Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission.
2. Establish a limit for the annual pumping rate in the 2,000-foot

1 sand in the area defined above of
2 26 million gallons per day.

3 3. Proposed a maximum water level
4 for the 2,000-foot sand in the
5 defined area of 320-feet below
6 land surface.

7 4. Encouraged development of
8 alternate aquifers or surface
9 water sources as sources of
10 supply.

11 5. Encouraged use of shallow
12 aquifers or the Mississippi River
13 for cooling water and deeper
14 aquifers for process, boiler feed
15 and drinking water.

16 In April of 1992, Capital Area
17 Groundwater Conservation Commission
18 advised Senator John Breaux on the
19 saltwater problems in Baton Rouge and
20 the commission's concerns for
21 protecting the area water supply and
22 requesting funding support for
23 planning and implementing remedial
24 measures.

25 In July of 1992, the Commission

1 passed a resolution accepting, in
2 principle, Baton Rouge Water
3 Company's proposed construction and
4 lease back of saltwater remediation
5 facilities; also authorized the
6 Director to send a letter to all
7 pumpage users informing them of the
8 details of this remediation project.

9 In October of 1992, the
10 Commission authorized to proceed with
11 the Baton Rouge Water Company's
12 proposal, when approved, to install
13 1-3 scavenger wells in the 2,000-foot
14 sand. Unfortunately, this project
15 was cancelled due to insufficient
16 funding.

17 In June of 1994, the District
18 Director briefed the Capital Area
19 Groundwater Commission on a proposal
20 to obtain an EPA grant under Section
21 319(h) of the Clean Water Act aimed
22 at controlling saltwater encroachment
23 using the recharge effect of
24 connector wells.

25 In January of 1998, a successful

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bid was received for the connector well construction.

In April of 1999, the connector well was placed into operation.

In December of 1999, Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission received the National Groundwater Association's 1999 Outstanding Groundwater Project Commendation for the connector well project.

In June of 2002, the Technical Committee asked the Commission to consider alternative sources and recommended a feasibility study be undertaken to document the potential costs versus benefits.

In December of 2002, Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission approved a proposal by URS Corporation to conduct a feasibility study for alternative water supply sources, with funding to be split 50/50 between the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission and East Baton Rouge Parish.

1 In December of 2003, URS
2 Corporation reported to Capital Area
3 Groundwater Conservation Commission
4 the results of the study for
5 alternative water supply sources for
6 industrial users, stating that the
7 use of reclaimed treated effluent is
8 technically feasible, but would
9 require economic and financial
10 incentives, or strong political and
11 legislative initiatives.

12 In March of 2004, Capital Area
13 Groundwater Conservation Commission
14 approved URS study.

15 In March of 2007, the Capital
16 Area Groundwater Conservation
17 Commission approved moving forward
18 with the U.S. Geological Survey
19 project entitled "Simulation of
20 Groundwater Flow in the 1,500-foot
21 and 2,000-foot Sands and Movement of
22 Saltwater in the 2,000-foot Sand in
23 the Baton Rouge Area", to be funded
24 in part by joint Capital Area
25 Groundwater Conservation Commission,

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City of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish cooperative agreements, and Commission and USGS cooperative agreements.

In June of 2010, the Commission approved entering into an agreement with the Baton Rouge Water Company to fund research by Dr. Frank Tsai entitled "Scavenger Well Operation Model to Assist Baton Rouge Water Company to Identify Cost-Effective Approaches to Stop Saltwater Intrusion towards the Baton Rouge Water Company Wells in the 1,500-foot Sand of the Baton Rouge Area".

In June of 2011, the Commission approved sending a Letter of Recommendation to the Louisiana Board of Regents for a proposed study by Drs. Frank Tsai and Jeffrey Hanor called "Unconventional Hydraulic Control Deep-Aquifer Saltwater Intrusion Mitigation Under Uncertainty", in which they would study the feasibility of using

1 horizontal wells as saltwater
2 scavenger wells.

3 As you can see, saltwater
4 intrusion into the 1,500-foot and
5 2,000-foot sands has been
6 specifically addressed by the Capital
7 Area Groundwater Conservation
8 Commission. The "connector-well" to
9 recharge the 1,500-foot sand and
10 create a pressure barrier was placed
11 in operation in 1999, resulting in
12 partial mitigation of saltwater
13 movement toward the Baton Rouge Water
14 Company's 1,500-foot sands at their
15 Government Street pumping station.

16 Thank you for affording the
17 Capital Area Groundwater Conservation
18 Commission the opportunity to present
19 these facts to the Office of
20 Conservation.

21 MR. ADAMS:

22 Thank you, Mr. Duplechin. Now,
23 also participating with us this
24 evening is Mr. John Lovelace with the
25 U.S. Geological Survey, who has

1 volunteered to provide a summary of
2 the groundwater flow and solute-
3 transport model that Mr. Duplechin
4 and I previously mentioned. Mr.
5 Lovelace.

6 MR. JOHN LOVELACE:

7 Thank you, my name is John
8 Lovelace. I am the Assistant
9 Director of the Louisiana Water
10 Science Center of the U.S. Geological
11 Survey.

12 As previously stated, we are in
13 the process of creating a computer
14 model to simulate groundwater flow in
15 the 1,500 and 2,000-foot sands of the
16 Baton Rouge area, and saltwater
17 movement in the 2,000-foot sand.

18 One of the primary missions of
19 the USGS is to provide reliable
20 scientific information to describe
21 and understand our nation's water
22 resources. The Louisiana Water
23 Science Center has actively monitored
24 groundwater conditions in Baton Rouge
25 since the 1940s through cooperative

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programs with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission and East Baton Rouge City-Parish.

There are ten (10) named aquifers beneath Baton Rouge that provide freshwater for public supplies and industries, which are the main uses of water in the area. An east-west trending fault that runs through south Baton Rouge is a leaky barrier saltwater encroachment into the aquifers. In general, the aquifers contain freshwater north of the fault and saltwater south of the fault. The term "saltwater" here, when I use that, I'm referring to water with a chloride concentration above 250 milligrams per liter, which is an EPA secondary drinking water standard that was set for aesthetic purposes, actually for taste rather than health risks.

Pumping north of the fault has

1 caused saltwater to move across the
2 fault into the freshwater aquifers.
3 Saltwater encroachment into
4 freshwater sands in the Baton Rouge
5 area was first detected in 1948, when
6 a municipal well in the City Park
7 area had to be abandoned because of
8 rising salinity. There has been an
9 ongoing concern since that time and
10 as mentioned, numerous reports have
11 been written by the USGS and others
12 to document the encroachment and
13 suggest possible control strategies.
14 A recent investigation of saltwater
15 encroachment conducted during 2004
16 and 2005 indicated that saltwater was
17 present in one (1) or more wells in
18 the Baton Rouge fault in eight (8) of
19 the ten (10) sands, and chloride
20 concentrations, an indicator of
21 saltwater, are increasing at one (1)
22 or more wells in seven (7) of the
23 sands, which could indicate that
24 saltwater additional encroachment is
25 occurring.

1 In most of the sands, the
2 saltwater is occurring in very small
3 areas immediately adjacent to the
4 fault. Chloride concentrations at
5 wells in affected areas generally are
6 less than 250 milligrams per liter,
7 but have reached as high as 10,000
8 milligrams per liter in at least one
9 (1) well. Previous monitoring also
10 indicates that the rate of saltwater
11 movement in the freshwater aquifers
12 north of the fault is generally very
13 slow, on the order of a few tens or
14 hundreds of feet per year, but the
15 rate varies from aquifer to aquifer
16 and depends on a number of factors.

17 The most recent saltwater
18 encroachment as mentioned -- or the
19 most notable encroachment has been in
20 the 1,500 and 2,000-foot sands, which
21 are important sources of freshwater
22 to public supply and industry. In
23 2007, the USGS, in cooperation with
24 Capital Area Groundwater, DOTD and
25 East Baton Rouge City-Parish began to

1 develop a computer model to simulate
2 groundwater flow in the 1,500 and
3 2,000-foot sands and saltwater
4 movement in the 2,000-foot sands.
5 The completed model can be used to
6 investigate the impacts of various
7 future pumping scenarios and
8 saltwater mitigation strategy on
9 groundwater flow and saltwater
10 movement in these sands.

11 The planned completion date for
12 the model is September 30th of this
13 year. The completed model and
14 software needed to run the model will
15 be available to water managers and
16 any interested parties free of
17 charge.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. ADAMS:

20 Thank you, Mr. Lovelace.

21 The Office of Conservation has
22 and will continue to work with the
23 Capital Area Commission providing the
24 necessary guidance, governance and
25 action as needed within our statutory

1 authority to maintain the
2 sustainability of the aquifer in the
3 Baton Rouge area. The information
4 that you provide this evening will
5 assist both the Capital Area
6 Commission and Conservation as we
7 continue to evaluate, develop and
8 implement sound and objective
9 strategies to manage this vital
10 resource.

11 The next step in creating a
12 record for consideration by the
13 Commissioner of Conservation in
14 determining what action should be
15 undertaken to manage the
16 sustainability of the Southern Hills
17 Aquifer System, particularly as it
18 concerns saltwater encroachment in
19 the 1,500 and 2,000-foot sands in the
20 Baton Rouge area, is the opening of a
21 Docket Number ENV 2012-02, and the
22 public hearing scheduled for April
23 12th, 2012 in this room. At that
24 hearing, the Commissioner will take
25 testimony, receive evidence and hear

1 public comments in order to determine
2 if the water table under East Baton
3 Rouge Parish is being lowered because
4 of excessive pumping of groundwater,
5 and whether the lowering of the water
6 table is causing the acceleration of
7 the intrusion of saltwater in the
8 1,500 and 2,000-foot sands of the
9 Southern Hills Aquifer System from
10 south of Baton Rouge fault into the
11 freshwater north of the Baton Rouge
12 fault.

13 Relevant findings from that
14 hearing will be considered by the
15 Commissioner in determining what
16 future actions may be necessary to
17 address saltwater encroachment and
18 sustainability of the 1,500 and
19 2,000-foot sands of the Southern
20 Hills Aquifer System. Blake.

21 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

22 Thank you, Mr. Adams. We would
23 like to recognize Senator Dan Claitor
24 who has shown up, and thank you for
25 attending tonight. If you would like

1 to speak, we will provide that
2 opportunity to you now.

3 SENATOR DAN CLAITOR:

4 I appreciate it. I'm here to
5 listen.

6 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

7 Okay. Thank you very much.

8 We will now begin receiving
9 public comments. When I call your
10 name, please come up to the front and
11 sit in this chair, if you will. It
12 helps ourselves and the court
13 reporter get an accurate record.
14 Make sure to speak into the
15 microphone. State your name and who
16 you represent, if it's anyone other
17 than yourself.

18 There are a fairly large number
19 of people wishing to make comments
20 tonight. In order to allow everyone
21 time to speak, I am going to
22 initially limit the time of each
23 speaker to five (5) minutes. If,
24 however, at the end of everyone
25 having the opportunity to speak,

1 there's additional time, we'll allow
2 you to come back up and finish any
3 comments or statements that you may
4 wish. Any unsaid comments or if you
5 don't feel like waiting until the end
6 of the hearing, feel free to provide
7 us with any written comments, and you
8 can do that either in person today or
9 by submitting them to our office at
10 anytime after the hearing. Again,
11 it's in this building on the 9th
12 Floor, and for mailing purposes it's
13 617 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge,
14 Louisiana 70802. And I will now
15 begin calling the speakers. The
16 first card I have is for Ms. Nara
17 Crowley. Oh, I'm sorry.

18 SENATOR DAN CLAITOR:

19 That's alright. I just wanted to
20 say I appreciate what y'all are doing
21 in having this hearing here today,
22 but I have an obligation to be
23 elsewhere to discuss some education
24 matters. I don't want my leaving the
25 meeting to be interpreted as a lack

1 of interest. So I appreciate it. I
2 see that you are going to have a good
3 record that I can examine at a later
4 date. Thank you.

5 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

6 Thank you, Senator. The first
7 speaker I have is Ms. Nara Crowley.
8 Ms. Crowley. And I'm sorry, Ms.
9 Crowley. If you could sit here. I
10 don't mean to cause any confusion.

11 MS. NARA CROWLEY:

12 Thank you. I would like to make
13 one (1) statement. Baton Rouge
14 residents are not alone. Save Lake
15 Peigneur, Incorporated, has been
16 committed to protecting and
17 preserving the Chicot Aquifer from
18 saltwater intrusion and contamination
19 for numerous years.

20 I know this is about Baton Rouge,
21 but I want to express that.

22 Life cannot be sustained without
23 water. There should be no question
24 that naturally pure, aquifer drinking
25 water should be for human

1 consumption. Recycled water should
2 be the last option for human use.

3 Alternatively, the primary source
4 of water for industry should be
5 recycled water. Industry is vital to
6 society but industry and human life
7 should not be in competition for
8 drinking water. The highest
9 standards for protecting and
10 preserving drinking water for human
11 life should be paramount, including
12 contaminant discharge that may flow
13 into the aquifer.

14 We have the opportunity to
15 prevent calamity that already exists
16 in Third World Nations. The public
17 should not be pleading to protect
18 their water; this should be the Gold
19 Standard. We call this the great
20 State of Louisiana! We want economic
21 growth, better education and an
22 exemplary state.

23 This goal can be accomplished but
24 we cannot forget the basics in our
25 path. Texas, our neighboring state,

1 is suffering from a severe loss of
2 drinking water throughout the state.
3 We don't have to be the next one.

4 That's it.

5 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

6 Thank you. Next I have a card
7 from Mr. William Daniel.

8 MR. WILLIAM DANIEL:

9 Thank you, Mr. Commissioner and
10 members of the committee. I am here
11 representing Mayor-President Holden
12 on this issue. The Mayor wished he
13 could be here tonight, but he had
14 another engagement, so he asked me to
15 come.

16 The Mayor-President is obviously
17 extremely concerned about the future
18 of the water supply in Baton Rouge.
19 In that regard, he is very much in
20 favor of, I think what we passed in
21 2003, about using good management
22 practices and sound science to make a
23 very informed decision about what's
24 going on. So he asked me to come
25 here tonight just to ask that, you

1 know, whatever decisions are made
2 regarding the aquifer, and he has a
3 lot of faith in the ability of the
4 Commission to make those decisions,
5 he just would like sound science and
6 good management practices to rule the
7 day. Thank you.

8 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

9 Thank you. The next card I have
10 is for Ms. Gloria Conlin.

11 MS. GLORIA CONLIN:

12 My name is Gloria Conlin. I'm
13 not with any organization. On
14 February the 13th, the Baton Rouge
15 Advocate had an article about
16 concerns of the Baton Rouge Metro
17 Council and Eugene Owen, Executive
18 Chairman of the Baton Rouge Water
19 Company, regarding saltwater
20 intrusion into an important drinking
21 aquifer.

22 At first, the Louisiana Office of
23 Conservation Commissioner planned to
24 wait until at least late this year to
25 decide on the request for a hearing

1 to address saltwater intrusion. A
2 study from the U.S. Geological Survey
3 on the saltwater intrusion issue was
4 to be completed in October, but
5 thankfully, we are here tonight.
6 Eugene Owen, a Baton Rouge
7 Director/Chairman of Utility
8 Holdings, Baton Rouge Water, parish
9 water, Ascension water, New Iberia
10 water stated that they are running
11 out of time. Mr. Owen is very
12 experienced and even reappointed to
13 the Capital Area Groundwater
14 Conservation District.

15 At first I thought, Mr. Owen and
16 Metro Council, I hope you have better
17 luck getting the Office of
18 Conservation to listen to you than
19 our group from Vermilion and Iberia
20 Parishes, about the use of the Chicot
21 Aquifer for the expansion of AGL
22 Resources' salt dome natural gas
23 storage at Jefferson Island.

24 In May of 2011, the Senate
25 Committee of the DEQ in Baton Rouge

1 was concerned enough about the Chicot
2 Aquifer to have a meeting with our
3 group, the AGL Resources, the DNR,
4 and the Office of Conservation. At
5 that time, Mr. Owen stated that
6 increased withdrawal from the Chicot
7 Aquifer proposed expansion well-
8 pumping would accelerate the rate of
9 potential contaminants, arsenic.

10 Steve Langlinais, Vermilion
11 Parish engineer, stated that the
12 expansion would lower the Chicot
13 Aquifer as much as 17 to 75-feet,
14 leading to more saltwater intrusion.

15 We asked for an environmental
16 statement to preclude our concerns,
17 but we have not gotten one. Our
18 concerns at that meeting in May --
19 our concerns were not addressed by
20 the Office of Conservation.

21 At an August 4th, 2000 meeting in
22 New Iberia, the USGS gave
23 presentations that seemed to suggest
24 that there would be no problems with
25 the use of the Chicot with the

1 expansion. The presentation was
2 emailed to the USGS director in
3 Washington, D.C. Director Marcia
4 McNutt answered, "It does not appear
5 that the USGS would have the
6 information to comment on this
7 project one way or another."

8 During Governor Foster's term,
9 the USGS stated, "The saltwater
10 extends inland as a wedge and is
11 overlain by freshwater. As water
12 levels in the aquifer declines, the
13 potential for inland movement of
14 saltwater increases."

15 So please, and he disappeared,
16 Commissioner Welsh, do not ignore
17 Eugene Owen's experience. People are
18 telling you that there are problems
19 with saltwater intrusion.

20 Public outreach meetings about a
21 comprehensive water plan for
22 Louisiana have been held throughout
23 the state this year. A summary of
24 recommendations was printed December
25 of 2011. This is a good start.

1 Aquifers recharge in geological time.
2 That means centuries or millennia,
3 instead of months. Today's rainfall
4 won't even begin filtering through
5 its pathway for more than 500 years.
6 This is according to Gary Hanson,
7 LSU-E.

8 One of our most valuable
9 resources is our water. Eugene Owen
10 is right saying, "I'm not going to
11 say it's been all talk and no action,
12 but it's been mostly talk and no
13 action. We're just out of talking
14 time." Thank you.

15 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

16 Thank you, Ms. Conlin. Up next,
17 I have Mr. Eugene Owen. That was a
18 pretty good setup for you.

19 MR. EUGENE OWEN:

20 Mr. Canfield and Mr. Adams, I am
21 Eugene Owen, Executive Chairman of
22 Baton Rouge Water Company. The
23 stated purpose of this meeting is for
24 the purpose of discussing concerns
25 arising out of the potential for

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saltwater intrusion into the groundwater aquifers supplying East Baton Rouge Parish. The following comments are offered on behalf of Baton Rouge Water Company.

The Baton Rouge Water Works Company is a public utility and has functioned as the potable water supplier to the general public in Baton Rouge since 1888. The Baton Rouge Water Works Company presently supplies a population in its service area of approximately 500,000 people. This water, supplied entirely from groundwater sources, employs more than 81 operating water wells. These wells produce water from all ten (10) of the known freshwater bearing sands underlying the East Baton Rouge Parish area. All but two (2) of these wells in East Baton Rouge Parish are located north of Baton Rouge geologic fault. Additionally, Baton Rouge Water Works Company, through an affiliate, operates

1 approximately twelve (12) additional
2 very shallow freshwater wells located
3 in Ascension Parish.

4 In supplying the public water
5 supply demands of this service
6 population, Baton Rouge Water Works
7 Company, including the quantities
8 supplied to all of its affiliates,
9 produced in East Baton Rouge Parish
10 68-million gallons per day on the
11 average in 2010. Production for 2011
12 over 2010 increased by approximately
13 three percent (3%). In 2010 though,
14 all known groundwater withdrawals
15 within East Baton Rouge Parish
16 averaged at total of 154-million
17 gallons per day. Thus, Baton Rouge
18 Water Works withdrawal for all
19 potable purposes totaled forty-four
20 percent (44%) of the total
21 groundwater withdrawals by all users
22 in East Baton Rouge Parish.

23 Saltwater intrusion has been a
24 much discussed potential problem
25 since the early '60s. It was about

1 then that the geologic fought
2 significance of the Baton Rouge fault
3 became fully understood. Since we
4 have wells of all depths, it may be
5 useful to discuss the instances where
6 we have experienced or now are
7 experiencing problems with respect to
8 saltwater intrusion.

9 Virtually all the groundwater in
10 any aquifer contains some small but
11 measurable amount of salt, usually
12 expressed as a concentration of
13 chlorides, and this small quantity is
14 what we term "background levels of
15 chlorides". It has been our
16 experience where a measuring point is
17 near the fault that once the level of
18 chlorides in the water departs from
19 background levels, then this is the
20 warning flag for saltwater intrusion.
21 In areas very near the fault, once the
22 chloride levels rise above background
23 levels, the chloride content may rise
24 and then recede, but it usually does
25 not return to background levels even

1 during periods of lower pumping.
2 Sometimes this rise is relatively
3 swift over a period of a very few
4 years.

5 The chloride standards for potable
6 water purposes are a maximum
7 concentration of 250 milligrams per
8 liter. We have only one (1) well
9 located in the far southeast portion
10 of East Baton Rouge Parish and
11 developed in the 1,000-foot sand,
12 which is consistently above the 250
13 milligrams per liter limit. This well
14 is effectively shut-in for all but
15 emergency purposes. We have no other
16 active wells that are consistently
17 above the 250 milligrams per liter
18 secondary limit, although we have a
19 few wells scattered among the 1,000-
20 foot, 1,700-foot, the 1,500-foot and
21 the 2,000-foot sand, located near the
22 fault which sometimes approach but do
23 not remain above the 250 milligram per
24 liter limit.

25 We did, however, observe a general

1 change in chloride content in some of
2 our wells as an aftermath of the 1998,
3 1999 and 2000 droughts. These were
4 each years of accelerated production
5 withdrawals by all water users,
6 including the Baton Rouge Water Works
7 Company. It was then that we observed
8 some wells departing from the
9 background levels to levels within the
10 potable limit, less than 250
11 milligrams per liter, but
12 nevertheless, representing a
13 significant departure from background
14 levels.

15 The current principal area of
16 concern for the Baton Rouge Water
17 Works Company is the threat of
18 approaching saltwater front moving
19 from the Baton Rouge fault north
20 toward producing well fields at
21 Government Street and Lula pumping
22 stations. There we have wells in the
23 1,500-foot sand at Lula and 1,500,
24 2,000-foot sands at Government Street.
25 This threat was different from the

1 threat posed by departure from
2 background levels of chlorides at
3 isolated wells near the fault, because
4 this threatened a concentration of
5 wells located at these pumping
6 stations. This concentration of wells
7 constitutes an important portion of
8 our productive capacity.

9 In 1998, as Mr. Duplechin has just
10 testified, the Capital Area
11 Groundwater Conservation Commission,
12 acting through a grant from the
13 federal government, installed south of
14 Government Street what is termed a
15 "connector well". This well, without
16 pumping involved, connected the 800-
17 foot sand with the 1,500-foot sand.
18 The static pressure in the 800-foot
19 sand was higher than the pressure in
20 the 1,500-foot sand, and so the
21 resultant flow of water from the 800-
22 foot sand to the 1,500-foot sand
23 resulted in a pressure ridge so that
24 this hydraulic -- this interrupted the
25 flow or prevented the flow of

1 saltwater, or impeded the flow of
2 saltwater as it came across the fault
3 towards wells at Government Street at
4 least for a time.

5 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

6 Mr. Owen, I just wanted to let you
7 know that your five (5) minutes is up.
8 Do you think you can summarize in
9 thirty (30) seconds, or would you like
10 to come back after everyone else has
11 had a chance.

12 MR. EUGENE OWEN:

13 I can summarize in one (1) minute
14 if you'll grant me that.

15 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

16 I'll grant you one (1) minute.

17 MR. EUGENE OWEN:

18 Unfortunately, we have learned in
19 the past two (2) years that the
20 saltwater that was effectively blocked
21 to the east of the connector well, but
22 the saltwater found a route west of
23 the connector well and is moving
24 toward our six (6) wells in the 1,500-
25 foot sand at Lula. Production from

1 these Lula wells total seventeen
2 percent (17%) of production from all
3 wells.

4 We have found through a study, a
5 copy of which has previously been
6 submitted electronically both to the
7 Capital Area Groundwater Commission
8 and to the Commission of Conservation.
9 We have found through these studies
10 that this exploratory well developed a
11 procedure in which we can develop some
12 scavenger wells which would
13 effectively intercept the saltwater as
14 its moving toward the 1500-foot well
15 at Lula at about the rate at which the
16 saltwater is coming across the fault.
17 The effect of this would be to extend
18 or perhaps a period of as long a fifty
19 (50) years, our vital supplies at
20 Lula, Government Street and North 45th
21 Street. We expect to begin
22 construction of these scavenger wells
23 within the next four (4) to five (5)
24 months, and to complete these
25 scavenger wells within the next year

1 to eighteen (18) months.

2 In summary, Baton Rouge has always
3 enjoyed some of the finest, softest
4 and purest water of any place in the
5 United States. We hope to keep it
6 that way, and we hope to continue
7 supplying this water for generations
8 to come. Thank you.

9 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

10 Thank you. The next speaker I
11 have is Mr. Willie Fontenot.

12 MR. WILLIE FONTENOT:

13 Thank you. As you know, my name
14 is Willie Fontenot, and I live at 632
15 Drury Avenue in Baton Rouge, and I've
16 been living in Baton Rouge since 1975
17 at that address.

18 This is a very important meeting.
19 Unfortunately, the Office of
20 Conservation has done a totally
21 inadequate job of notifying the public
22 about this meeting. You should have
23 given the public at least a 60-day
24 notice before holding a meeting like
25 this. At least the public hearing

1 which is scheduled in April has more
2 than a 60-day notice, and that's what
3 you should be looking at. And then
4 you should provide for a least 30-days
5 after the meeting and hearing for
6 public input.

7 The turnout here tonight is really
8 good, but it's pathetic for the
9 potential and real adverse impacts
10 which are happening for the water
11 supply for more than one-half-million
12 people. The causes of those problems
13 are very obvious, but the Office of
14 Conservation and all of the other --
15 the officials in the Office of
16 Conservation and the officials in all
17 of the other State and Local
18 Government Agencies have done a
19 totally inaccurate job of identifying
20 problems and possible solutions.

21 For instance, you should have with
22 you representatives from the Louisiana
23 Department of Health and Hospital, the
24 Department of Natural Resources, the
25 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,

1 the Department of Agriculture and
2 numerous other agencies, and certainly
3 the various water companies in the
4 area should be here. There should be
5 more officials in this room than the
6 number of people in the room today.
7 And unless you do a better job of
8 notifying the public when meetings
9 like this are taking place, and you
10 can do it, I know you can do it --
11 unless you do an adequate job of
12 notifying the public and getting the
13 people here, you are not going to be
14 able to do what needs to be done.

15 When I first talked to Mr.
16 A. N. Turcan who used to be the chief
17 staff person with the Capital Area
18 Groundwater Commission, he expressed
19 concerns -- and this was back in the
20 1970s. And I think it was in 1985
21 that he told me that when the Georgia-
22 Pacific Paper Mill went on line,
23 within two (2) years there was a
24 measurable drop in the groundwater at
25 Hattiesburg, Mississippi. So this

1 cone of depression is not just
2 something that's happening underneath
3 Baton Rouge. It's a very extensive
4 cone, and it goes out many miles. I
5 mean, Hattiesburg is not across the
6 street. It is more than 60-miles to
7 the east. When the Georgia-Pacific
8 Paper Mill went online, there used to
9 be artesian wells in East Baton Rouge
10 Parish and parishes near East Baton
11 Rouge. All of the artesian wells
12 within 30, 40, 50-miles of Baton Rouge
13 quit flowing within two (2) years of
14 Georgia-Pacific going online. And I
15 think the presenters this evening have
16 done a very good job, but they've not
17 done an accurate job, and you need to
18 provide more information to the public
19 so that the public understands the
20 magnitude of this problem. What they
21 have now is just totally inadequate
22 for people to be able to understand
23 why they need to be involved and how
24 they may be involved. And I think you
25 have some laws that you and the other

1 state and local officials should be
2 using, but you're not using. And I
3 would go to Article 9 of the Louisiana
4 Constitution which was adopted by the
5 people of Louisiana in 1974. Article
6 9 basically deals with natural
7 resources, and it is the primary legal
8 jurisdiction which provides you the
9 ability to deal with natural resources
10 like oil and natural gas. But it's
11 also -- I think you need to look at
12 Article 9, Section 1 of the
13 constitution. And I'll tell you what
14 it sort of says. I won't get it
15 exactly correct, but it says, the
16 Department of Natural Resources of the
17 state, including air and water, and
18 the healthful scenic esthetic and
19 historic qualities of the environment
20 shall be protected, replenished and
21 restored as much as possible
22 consistent with the health, safety and
23 welfare of the people. And then the
24 second sentence it says, the
25 Legislature shall adopt laws to

1 implement this provision. And I
2 believe the Legislature has done a
3 totally inadequate job of making sure
4 that officials like you have the
5 ability to protect, restore and
6 enhance our water resources. And
7 there's a very dramatic and clear
8 connection between surface water and
9 groundwater.

10 The industries in this area have
11 caused some major changes in water
12 quality. There have been past
13 reports, nothing in the discussions
14 that you're dealing with the
15 groundwater here, have dealt with the
16 very serious contaminations,
17 industries like Ethel Corporation,
18 which have serious groundwater
19 contamination hundreds of feet below
20 the surface. The first reports that
21 came out of the Capital Area
22 Groundwater Conservation Commission
23 and the Department of Natural
24 Resources about groundwater
25 contamination from industry was back

1 in 1983, and that was an accident more
2 than a responsible action by the
3 agencies or the industries. So I
4 think -- I would really appreciate you
5 doing a better job with involving the
6 other state agencies, or officials
7 from the other state agencies, that
8 need to be at these meetings and
9 hearings. This meeting and the
10 hearing you're planning on having
11 should have been held thirty (30) or
12 forty (40) years ago. You're way
13 behind the ball. Thank you.

14 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

15 Thank you, Mr. Fontenot. The next
16 speaker is Mr. Hays Town.

17 MR. HAYS TOWN:

18 Thank you. My name is Hays Town
19 from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and I
20 represent Baton Rouge Citizens to Save
21 Our Water. I was very pleased with
22 the Commissioner's statement that
23 started the meeting where he said he
24 was going to stop the saltwater
25 intrusion and refresh it. That would

1 really be a wonderful thing if he
2 could do it. And I was pleased with
3 Mr. Adams recognizing the situation
4 where the water table and the
5 hydraulic head had gone down 200 to
6 300-feet in some these locations.

7 And also, Mr. John Lovelace said
8 that eight (8) of the nine (9) areas
9 where they tested sands had saltwater
10 intrusion that was increasing. So my
11 question is why are we just doing the
12 1,500-foot and the 2,000-foot sand,
13 when we easily could take the whole
14 area and make some changes and help
15 save it for future generations? Mr.
16 Duplechin read you a whole litany of
17 things that had been done starting in
18 1964, I believe, or before. And if
19 you go through that litany, nothing
20 has ever happened to stop the
21 saltwater intrusion. And I think the
22 people of Baton Rouge are very
23 concerned that this intrusion be
24 stopped or reduced to a minimum.

25 And I'll say the thing that nobody

1 has said so far. I believe that
2 industries ought to go to river water
3 and let the deep well water be for the
4 general public. That's the only way
5 that we can gain sustainability. I
6 also believe that the people of Baton
7 Rouge ought to use less water along
8 with that. Some people might not like
9 that idea, but that's what I believe.
10 And I believe it's incumbent upon the
11 Commission of Conservation to secure
12 sustainability for the drinking water
13 for the people in this area. Thank
14 you very much.

15 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

16 Thank you, Mr. Town. The next
17 card I have is for Mr. Henry Graham.

18 MR. HENRY GRAHAM:

19 Good evening. My name is Henry
20 Graham with the Louisiana Chemical
21 Association.

22 Certainly as representing an
23 industry that is vital to the State of
24 Louisiana and to the economy of the
25 Baton Rouge area, we certainly support

1 the Office of Conservation's efforts
2 here. We have been for many years
3 working with the Department and also
4 with the Capital Area Groundwater
5 Conservation District to reduce usage
6 to minimize our impact on the aquifer
7 system. We support the comprehensive
8 modeling studies that are being
9 performed by the U.S. Geological
10 Survey, and we certainly feel that
11 some of this model consumption
12 information will be very valuable in
13 putting more accurate picture as it
14 terms of the usage of the aquifer, and
15 what potential sources that could
16 alleviate the intrusion or restrict
17 the future intrusion of the aquifer
18 for saltwater purposes.

19 I point out to you a couple items,
20 and then I'll ask a couple of
21 questions. This item has been talked
22 about and discussed for many years.
23 That's what's pointed out in the
24 history of the Commission and
25 groundwater management wall. A more

1 recent study that was prepared in
2 2002, the Statewide Water Management
3 Plan, identified some situations here,
4 more particularly in the Baton Rouge
5 area. That may be something you want
6 to look at in a more greater detail.

7 I point out on Figure 4-42 of
8 there, on that particular map they do
9 show a simplicity view of the
10 saltwater encroachment. And that
11 saltwater encroachment is approaching,
12 or was at that point in time,
13 approaching the Government Street and
14 the wells that are owned by the Baton
15 Rouge Water Company. I am under the
16 impression that Baton Rouge Water
17 Company actually is a private company
18 that supply and for profit water, not
19 only for public supply, but for
20 commercial and industrial use as well.
21 So a question that comes to our mind
22 in terms of usage of the aquifer for
23 the future, when we ask ourselves what
24 the future of our children and
25 grandchildren, is it correct to allow

1 one (1) company to have a monopoly of
2 the entire groundwater Baton Rouge for
3 their profit purposes, and restrict
4 industries use that provides jobs and
5 allow them to take the water and sell
6 it to commercial and other industries,
7 and to actually sell water outside the
8 Parish of East Baton Rouge.

9 So those are priorities that I
10 think that the citizens of East Baton
11 Rouge would have to address. But what
12 we would like to do is look at the
13 signs. When we examine past data, and
14 that's why we're hopeful that the
15 future data will give us a more
16 accurate representation, we see the
17 greatest influence of the saltwater
18 intruding across this fault coming
19 from the Baton Rouge Water Company's
20 wells, not from the industries' wells.
21 Our wells have problems with
22 (inaudible) like theirs, but the
23 waters -- their wells are so close to
24 the fault, that its pouring saltwater
25 across the fault. And this was

1 something that was pointed out in the
2 1984 study and in the 2002 study. It
3 was discussed, okay, that perhaps one
4 of the ways to address this was for
5 this private company to simply move
6 its infrastructure further north away
7 from the fault. They chose not to do
8 that. They chose to continue pumping,
9 and in this case, it did -- because it
10 got so close to the Government Street
11 well, it measures -- well now the
12 major well is at Lula Street and
13 they're pulling the water in that
14 direction. Okay? Well, what has
15 changed since then. The industry
16 reduced our consumption by about ten-
17 percent (10%), even though we've made
18 some major expansions, yet the growth
19 in the Baton Rouge area, it continues
20 to be outside of Baton Rouge, and
21 that's where a lot of the water is
22 being supplied.

23 So the question is, is the
24 groundwater going to be available for
25 the uses, not only for human

1 consumption, but for business and
2 people to have jobs in Baton Rouge, or
3 are we going to allow one (1) company
4 to take this water and use it as they
5 wish for their own customers. And
6 that's the concern that we raise with
7 this. We want to work with the
8 Commission and the Department, and
9 we're certainly hopeful that the
10 information that's provided will be a
11 more scientific approach and the
12 greater expect to what the true
13 concerns are. Because we are
14 concerned about the saltwater
15 intrusion. Some of our processors
16 need good quality water, whether that
17 water comes from the river and is
18 treated, or whether it comes from
19 groundwater. And a lot of our
20 companies now are looking very
21 carefully in which water supply uses
22 we have, to go to surface water where
23 we can. There are some applications
24 and particular products that are
25 better served using the groundwater,

1 simply because as Mr. Owen pointed
2 out, this is the best groundwater
3 probably in the country. And if this
4 water can be pulled from the ground
5 with very little treatment, then
6 that's one simple reason why Baton
7 Rouge Water Company doesn't move
8 further north, because it may have to
9 treat some of that water. It doesn't
10 use many of the wells south of here
11 because it would have to spend money
12 to treat water.

13 So it's an economic decision that
14 they made to continue to pull water
15 from wells that are very close to this
16 aquifer. And they will have to answer
17 for why they continue to do that when
18 the data suggests that perhaps they
19 could do some things to reduce that
20 water from movement.

21 We in the industry want to do our
22 part, but we want to ask that all
23 potential configures to concerned of
24 saltwater intrusion be examined. And
25 when someone is commercially pulling

1 water, all of the water they're
2 pulling is not just for human
3 consumption. A lot of it is for
4 commercial use, and when you sell it
5 to a third party, is that actually
6 personal use or not.

7 So those are some concerns that we
8 raise. We hope that the Commission
9 will get sufficient information. We
10 ask the Commission to use caution, to
11 examine the information and the data
12 that comes before you.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

15 Thank you. The remainder of the
16 cards I have actually state that the
17 persons do not wish to speak. Is
18 there anybody who has not spoken
19 tonight and who would like to speak.
20 Yes.

21 MS. KATHY WASCOM:

22 I'm Kathy Wascom representing
23 Louisiana Action Network --
24 Environmental Action Network. The
25 Baton Rouge area groundwater, of

1 course, is our drinking water. We
2 prefer to consistently refer to
3 groundwater, potable water, but we are
4 most concerned with our drinking water
5 and how it impacts our health, our
6 city and mostly our families. And to
7 correlate the use of groundwater for
8 making, you know, toilet paper with
9 drinking water, there has to be some
10 importance put on drinking water.
11 It's not one or the other, but it's
12 the usage of the water for the
13 community. And I think that we have
14 to look at the importance of the
15 drinking water to the whole community.
16 And it is the Greater Baton Rouge
17 area, because the Baton Rouge Water
18 Company has water in Ascension, or has
19 water in New Iberia or has water in
20 other parts of the state, does not
21 diminish in any way the importance of
22 good drinking water for our community.
23 And this is essentially what we are
24 concerned about, is having good
25 drinking water for the community. And

1 if the industries can use the surface
2 water and the river water, even if
3 they have to treat it. It might be an
4 extra expense, but nothing really is
5 more important to the health and
6 sustainability, not only of the people
7 here, but of the economics of the city
8 to have good drinking water for all of
9 us. Thank you.

10 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

11 Thank you, Ms. Wascom. Would you
12 mind filling out that blue card before
13 you leave? Was there anyone else who
14 did not get a chance to speak, but
15 would like to speak now.

16 Well, with being all the comment
17 cards and not seeing anybody else who
18 wishes to speak, that's going to
19 conclude tonight's meeting.

20 I would like to thank everybody
21 for attending and participating.

22 MR. EUGENE OWEN:

23 Mr. Canfield?

24 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

25 Yes, sir.

1 MR. EUGENE OWEN:

2 May I correct a misstatement by
3 Mr. Graham?

4 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

5 Since I cut you off earlier, I'll
6 let you.

7 MR. EUGENE OWEN:

8 Thank you. Two (2) things that
9 Mr. Graham might be interested in.
10 One (1) is that the wells that he
11 refers to as being too close to the
12 fault were actually drilled
13 principally before the significance of
14 the Baton Rouge geologic fault was
15 realized. They were in the mid '50s
16 and early '60s, but most of all there
17 was one exception of that which was
18 later than that. And secondly, the
19 Baton Rouge Water Company does supply
20 water to commercial customers. We do
21 not supply, to the best of my
22 knowledge and belief, any process
23 water for any industrial customer.

24 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

25 Thank you. Again, thank you for

1 attending, and let me remind everyone
2 that the upcoming hearing scheduled
3 for April 12th, 2012 at 6 p.m. It
4 will take place in this same room, and
5 of course, everyone that is here
6 tonight is invited to that hearing.

7 If you would like to submit any
8 additional comments for consideration,
9 you may do so by mailing or delivering
10 them to the Environmental Division,
11 The Office of Conservation, located on
12 the 11th floor of this building, 617
13 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge,
14 Louisiana 70802. Please reference
15 Docket Number ENV 2012-01 in any
16 written statements.

17 And thank you, again, and have a
18 great evening.

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21 THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 7:09 P.M.
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C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF LAFAYETTE

I, RUTH E. FORET, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby certify that on the 8th day of March, 2012, as aforesaid, I proceeded to report the meeting of the Office of Conservation regarding the saltwater encroachment in the Baton Rouge area and the role of the Office of Conservation in groundwater management.

The foregoing seventy-three (73) pages of the transcription has been reported and transcribed to the best of my ability.

RUTH E. FORET, CCR -#87131