

# State of Louisiana



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SECRETARY

JAMES H. WELSH  
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: James H. "Jim" Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation 

DATE: August 15, 2005

SUBJECT: Order No. AGC-1-05  
(Sparta Aquifer, Areas of Groundwater Concern)

I have reviewed the Record of the Application filed by the Sparta Ground Water Conservation District within the context of the recently enacted Act 225 of 2005, which became effective June 29, 2005. Information contained in the Record indicates that the sustainability of the Sparta Aquifer is not being maintained and, if not addressed, will lead to serious adverse impacts to the aquifer. Based on this information, I have declared the three below identified areas overlying the Sparta Aquifer to be areas of groundwater concern, pursuant to definition and terminology provided in applicable Louisiana statute. Order No. AGC-1-05 supersedes the previous Order No. CGWA-1-05 dated April 28, 2005 in its entirety.

In the attached Order No. AGC-1-05, I have ordered that three important remedial actions take place immediately:

1. an aggressive water conservation education program shall be conducted,
2. owners of non-domestic Sparta water wells shall submit a monthly water usage report to the Office of Conservation showing static water level measurements when available, and
3. alternative sources of potable water should be vigorously pursued in order to reduce the amount of Sparta Aquifer groundwater usage.

Additionally, this Order recommends that further study be conducted by appropriate parties to investigate reported salt water encroachment within the Sparta Aquifer system. The Order issued today does not mandate any groundwater withdrawal restrictions on new or existing Sparta wells in the three areas of groundwater concern. Any necessary future water usage restrictions will be made on a case by case basis, with groundwater for human consumption and public safety as first priority.

The Order names and identifies the following three areas of ground water concern:

- Monroe-West Monroe Area of Groundwater Concern (Ouachita Parish)
- Ruston Area of Groundwater Concern (Lincoln Parish)
- Jonesboro-Hodge Area of Groundwater Concern ( Jackson and Bienville Parishes)

Act 225 of 2005, along with prior Louisiana groundwater law, authorizes the Commissioner of Conservation to manage, protect, and conserve the State's groundwater resources. For additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Anthony J. Duplechin, Jr., CPG at (225) 342-8244.