

**STATE OF LOUISIANA  
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**

**FIRST AMENDMENT TO ORDER NO. ENV 2011-GW014**

June 30, 2014

An Amendment to Order No. ENV 2011-GW014, in accordance with LSA R.S. 38:3097.3.C(8), suspending certain provisions of the temporary ground water emergency order that implemented water conservation measures and limited use of Carrizo-Wilcox and Upland Terrace aquifer system ground water withdrawn from industrial, irrigation, domestic and public supply water wells located in certain areas in southern Caddo Parish, Louisiana, during extended extraordinary drought conditions.

\*\*\*\*\*

Pursuant to power delegated under the laws of the State of Louisiana, and particularly LSA-R.S. 38:3097.1, et seq., the following Amendment to Order No. ENV 2011-GW014 is issued and promulgated by the Commissioner of Conservation as being reasonably necessary to assure the most advantageous use of the State's ground water resources consistent with their protection, conservation and replenishment. This Amendment is issued pursuant to Act 49 of the 2003 Louisiana Legislature, as amended and using the intent and language provided therein.

**DEFINITIONS**

“Community public supply water well” shall, for the purposes of this Order, mean a public supply well which serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents. A community public supply well may be owned by a municipality or community, a water district, a corporation, a private individual or by a local, state or federal governmental agency.

“Domestic purpose” shall, in the context of water use and for the purposes of this Order, mean water used exclusively to supply the household needs of the owner lessee or his family. Uses may include drinking, cooking, washing, sanitary purposes, garden watering and caring for pets. Uses shall also include water used on private farms and ranches for the feeding and caring of pets.

“Domestic well” shall, for the purpose of this Order, mean a well used exclusively to supply the household needs of the owner lessee or his family. Uses may include drinking, cooking, washing, sanitary purposes, lawn and garden watering and caring for pets. Domestic wells shall also include wells used on private farms and ranches for the feeding and caring of pets and watering of lawns, excluding livestock, crops, and ponds.

“Industrial well” shall, for the purposes of this Order, mean a well used to supply water for plants that manufacture, process or fabricate a product. The water may or may not be incorporated into the product being manufactured. The water is usually used to cool machinery, to provide sanitary facilities for employees, to air condition the plant, and water grounds at the plant. Well water used for mining, processing, exploration, development or production of natural resources shall be included in the industrial category.

“Irrigation well” shall, for the purposes of this Order, mean a well used for irrigating cultivated plants, for watering stock, for crawfish and catfish farming, and for similar agricultural activities. Most irrigation wells supply water for farm corps, but this category also includes wells that are used for watering parks, golf courses, cemeteries and wells which are used exclusively for watering lawns in urban areas.

“Non-community public supply well” shall, for the purposes of this Order, mean a public supply water well which serves either fewer than 15 service connections or fewer than 25 year-round residents or no year-round residents. Examples of the former case are small public water supplies for mobile home parks, subdivisions, etc. which fall below the 15 connections/25 persons criteria for community water supplies. The latter case includes public water supplies which serve no year-round residents, such as bars and lounges, motels, camps, office buildings, restaurants, rest stops, service stations, recreational facilities, schools, commercial establishments, etc.

“Public supply well” shall, for the purposes of this Order, mean a well which provides water for drinking, cooking or washing use by the public, or transients, or by persons other than the immediate family of the owner of the supply. A public supply water well may be either a community water well or non-community water well.

“Replacement well” shall, for the purposes of this Order, mean a well located within 1,000 feet of the original well and within the same property boundary as the original well, installed within the same aquifer over an equivalent interval with an equivalent pumping rate, and used for the same purpose as the original well.

## **FINDINGS**

The commissioner finds that:

1. The facts established and enumerated in Order No. ENV 2011-GW014 as the basis for the agency's declaration of a Temporary Ground Water Emergency on August 19, 2011, for parts of Southern Caddo Parish, particularly in the vicinity of Keithville, Louisiana (Keithville) and the Ellerbe Road area south of Shreveport, Louisiana (Ellerbe Road) remain relevant and are hereby accepted as the foundation for this Amendment.
2. Since declaration of a Temporary Ground Water Emergency for the Keithville and Ellerbe Road Areas of Interest on August 19, 2011, ground water levels in water wells monitored by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Red River Watershed Management Institute (LSU-Shreveport) have continued to improve within a discernable, cyclical pattern. Measurements reported to the agency from these sources show water level declines during the warmer, drier months of late spring and summer, when water use tends to be high, and elevated levels in the cooler, wetter months of fall and winter when demands on local ground water sources tend to be low. The water level data provided supports an overall trend towards improvement back to pre-drought levels.
3. Despite enduring in the late summer of 2013 a period of "Extreme Drought," as classified by the National Drought Mitigation Center's U.S. Drought Monitor, recent measurements reported to the agency by the USGS and Red River Watershed Management Institute indicate a return of local ground water levels back to or above the levels recorded for spring 2012 and for spring 2013.
4. In a letter to the Commissioner dated June 16, 2014, the director of the Red River Watershed Management Institute stated that "we are back to near the levels observed prior to the drought [of 2010-2011]" and recommended that "we should consider lifting or amending the water crisis order designation." He cautioned that such a status change should be made with a clear understanding that "it may be necessary to implement restrictions again in the future if conditions warrant it."
5. Initial and ongoing public outreach and awareness efforts have reached large numbers of local citizens in the Keithville and Ellerbe Road areas with a water conservation and compliance message that has helped raise understanding about local ground water resources and their limitations.
6. Continued ground water level monitoring is both warranted and necessary to evaluate the impacts of ground water withdrawals on the Carrizo-Wilcox and Upland Terrace aquifer system while water use restrictions remain suspended and while the Temporary Ground Water Emergency Order remains effective.

## **ORDER**

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The above Findings are hereby adopted and ordered.
2. The water use restrictions of the Temporary Ground Water Emergency Order (Order No. ENV 2011-GW014) of August 19, 2011, except as noted elsewhere in this Amendment, are hereby suspended for the Keithville and Ellerbe Road Areas of Interests. This includes a suspension of the restrictions found in the "Order" section, specifically items No. 4, No. 5, and No. 6.
  - A. Keithville Area of Interest (Exhibit "A" of Order No. ENV 2011-GW014)
    - a. Sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36, T16N, R15W
    - b. Sections 1, 2, and 3, T 15N, R15W
    - c. Sections 29, 30, 31, and 32, T16N, R14W
    - d. Sections 5 and 6, T15N, R14W
  - B. Ellerbe Road Area of Interest (Exhibit "B" of Order No. ENV 2011-GW014)
    - a. Sections 12, 13, and 24 of T16N R14W
    - b. Sections 7-9, 16-22, and 26-36 of T16N R13W
    - c. Portions of Section 38 T18N R13W as depicted on Exhibit "B"
3. All persons in the above Areas of Interest shall continue to implement judicious use of ground water withdrawn from Carrizo-Wilcox and Upland Terrace aquifer system water wells by practicing sound water conservation measures. Information and guidance on such measures can be obtained by contacting Office of Conservation staff at 225-342-8244 or by visiting the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation on-line at: [http://dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/OC/env\\_div/gw\\_res/SOUTH\\_CADDO/BasicWaterConservation.pdf](http://dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/OC/env_div/gw_res/SOUTH_CADDO/BasicWaterConservation.pdf).

4. No person shall install a new water well in the Keithville or Ellerbe Road Areas of Interest to produce water from the Carrizo-Wilcox or Upland Terrace aquifers for any purpose without advance written approval of the agency except for replacement wells as defined in Order No. ENV 2011-GW014.

5. This Amendment does not terminate the Temporary Ground Water Emergency Order for parts of Southern Caddo Parish, namely the Keithville and Ellerbe Road Areas of Interest, and the original provisions of the Order and this Amendment may be supplemented, re-instituted, further amended, or terminated at any later date as deemed necessary, pursuant to power delegated under the laws of the State of Louisiana, and particularly LSA-R.S. 38:3097.1, et seq., to the Commissioner of Conservation to assure the most advantageous use of the ground water resources subject to this Order consistent with protection, conservation and replenishment thereof.

6. The suspension of water use restrictions by this Amendment shall remain in effect until sound and objective information obtained through the continued monitoring and evaluation of local ground water levels necessitates otherwise.

7. Violations of this Order, Amendment, and any applicable laws or rules, or any other applicable order may subject the well owner to enforcement action(s), including the imposition of civil penalties.

This Order shall be effective on June 30, 2014.

OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James H. Welsh", is written over a horizontal line.

James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation