

**LOUISIANA WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION
FALL WORKSHOP**

Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013

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**Evolution of Groundwater Management
since 2003**

Gary Snellgrove, Office of Conservation

From 2003 to 2013

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- ❑ **2003 Law Authorizes Conservation to implement a GW Mgmt Program**
 - ❑ Program Staffed
 - ❑ Existing 2002 GW Regulations Amended by Conservation June 2004
- ❑ **Act 225 of 2005 Defines Area of Concern and Critical Area of Concern**
 - ❑ Agency Declares 3 Areas of GW Concern in Sparta Aquifer
- ❑ **Oct. 2007 GW Staff Merged with E&P Waste Mgmt & Legacy Programs**
 - ❑ Improves Program Technical, Administrative & Regulatory Oversight
 - ❑ Well Owner Compliance Auditing and Enforcement
 - ❑ Uniform Well Evaluation Procedure and Documentation
 - ❑ Well Owner Compliance Education and Outreach Campaigns
 - ❑ Administrative Assistance for GWR Commission and Task Force Meetings
 - ❑ Complaint / Inquiry Response and Tracking
 - ❑ Issuance of Regulatory Guidance and Advisories for GW Users

From 2003 to 2013 (cont'd)

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- ❑ **Act 581 of 2008 Strengthens GW Program Enforcement Capacity**
- ❑ **Act 437 of 2009 Transfers DOTD Driller Licensing and Well Registration Program to Conservation**
 - ❑ Provides for Comprehensive Approach to GW Management
 - ❑ From Well Inception, Evaluation, Installation, To Plugging and Abandonment
- ❑ **HCR 1 of 2010 Mandates GWRC to Issue Report to the Gov .and Legis. on GW and SW Resources**
 - ❑ Establishes Current Goals and Objectives
 - ❑ Provides Guidance on Path Forward
- ❑ **Act 471 of 2012 GWRC Becomes WRC with Expanded Membership and Role**
 - ❑ Provides for a Comprehensive, All Inclusive Water Resource Management Approach

Current Program Regulatory Activities

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Including, but not limited to:

- ❑ Water Well Owner Notification
- ❑ Groundwater Use Evaluation
- ❑ Groundwater Use Management (Well Specific)
- ❑ Manage GW Emergencies and Other Aquifer Issues
- ❑ GW Awareness and Regulatory Compliance Public Ed and Outreach
- ❑ Well Construction, Installation, Plugging & Abandonment
- ❑ Notification & Registration Database Management
- ❑ Driller Licensing
- ❑ WRC, Task Force & Driller's Advisory Committee Admin. Assistance

Overview of Groundwater Sustainability Governance

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Office of Conservation

- **Education**
- **Implements Well Regulations**
- **Requires Well Notifications**
- **Performs Well Evaluations**
- **Requires Well Registrations**
- **Manages Data**
- **Orders Restrictions**
 - **Limiting Production**
 - **Establishing Spacing**
 - **Requiring Information**
- **Establishes Areas of Concern and Critical Areas of Concern**
- **Declares Groundwater Emergencies**
- **Issues Civil Penalties for Violations**

Water Resource Commission

(Advisory Role)
(OC Order Appeals)

Water Management Advisory Task Force

(Advisory Role)

- **Sparta Ground Water Conservation District Commission**
- **Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission**

(Regional Aquifer-Specific Management Authorities)

Current Groundwater Management Laws

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- ❑ **2001 Act 446** Established GWRC, GWMATF
- ❑ **2003 Act 49** Placed GWRC, GWMATF under Office of Conservation
- ❑ **2005 Act 225** Established Area of Groundwater Concern and Critical Area of Groundwater Concern
- ❑ **2007 Act 471** Sales tax exemptions for water conservation equipment in the Sparta District
- ❑ **2008 Act 581** Provided for imposition of civil penalties for regulatory violations
- ❑ **2009 Act 437** Transferred water well and well driller program from DOTD to Office of Conservation
- ❑ **2010 HCR 1** Mandated GWRC report on ground and surface water resources
- ❑ **2011 Act 301** Changed quorum requirements for GWMATF
- ❑ **2012 Act 471** GWRC becomes WRC with expanded membership
- ❑ **2013 HCR 150** Requesting study on water well driller availability, demand, and licensure

Office of Conservation Administrative Actions

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- ❑ **Aug. 2005 Order AGC-1-05** Established 3 Areas of Concern in Sparta Dist.
- ❑ **March 2008 GS-01** Clarifies construction of wells may proceed as soon as evaluation is complete, no 60-day wait period
- ❑ **July 2008 GS-02** Transfer of rig supply well to landowner requires notification and evaluation
- ❑ **Aug. 2008 Memo** To oil and gas well operators informing them of use limitations on exempt rig supply wells
- ❑ **Dec. 2008 GS-03** Expedited evaluations of agricultural irrigation wells
- ❑ **Feb. 2009 GS-04** Clarified procedure for registering drought relief wells
- ❑ **Feb. 2009 Order GW001** Established conditions for use of drought relief wells
- ❑ **June 2009** Commissioner issued Ground Water Emergency Response Contingency Plan (revised 2013)
- ❑ **Aug. 2009 Memo** To community public supply well owners on notification requirements and compliance audit

Office of Conservation Administrative Actions, contd.

- ❑ **Oct. 2009 GS-05** Clarified that domestic wells cannot be used for non-domestic purposes
- ❑ **Oct. 2009 WH-1** Required operators to report water sources and volumes used for O&G well development (frac permit)
- ❑ **Nov. 2009 Memo** To non-community public supply well owners on notification requirements and compliance audit
- ❑ **May 2010 GS-06** Clarified procedure to report observance of naturally occurring methane or natural gas
- ❑ **March 2011 Memo** Informed drillers of presence of natural gas releases in Toledo Bend Reservoir
- ❑ **May 2011 Memo** To drillers regarding requirement to include GPS coordinates for all water well location
- ❑ **Aug. 2011 Order GW014** Declaring a Ground Water Emergency for parts of southern Caddo Parish
- ❑ **May 2012 Order GW011** Requiring groundwater current and projected use from certain well owners in parts of Baton Rouge

Office of Conservation Regulatory Amendments

- ❑ **Feb. 2009** Amending regulations on critical areas of concern authorized by R.S. 38:3097.1 et al.
- ❑ **Feb. 2010** Amending definitions in regulations to be consistent with above
- ❑ **Nov. 2010** Provides for oil and gas well produced water to be used for hydraulic fracture stimulation operations
- ❑ **March 2011** Provided typo. changes necessary as result of Act 437 (DOTD transfer) and required drillers to include coordinates on registration forms
- ❑ **Aug. 2011** Driller registration can satisfy requirement of owner notification for domestic or rig supply wells
- ❑ **Dec. 2011** Requires corner posts around certain rig supply wells and provides for wells in storm surge areas
- ❑ **Nov. 2012** Driller confirms owner compliance with well installation notice