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State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

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JAMES H. WELSH
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

TO: ALL OPERATORS OF OIL AND GAS FACILITIES LOCATED IN LOUISIANA
FROM: JAMES H. WELSH, COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION
DATE: September 6, 2011
RE: FIRE THREAT ADVISORY

ADVISORY

The recent wildfires in Northern Caddo Parish serve as a reminder of the potential risks and threats fire can pose to oil and gas operations. The potential for wildfires is increased in a time of drought such as is currently being experienced in several areas of the State.¹ In light of these current conditions, the Louisiana Office of Conservation issues the following advisory.

Oil and Gas Facility² Operators ("Operators") should remain vigilant for any wildfires and other fire-related threats that have the potential to impact their operations. Operators should keep up to date with the latest governmental and news reports. The U.S. Government provides both a Current Fire Danger Rating Map and a Current Large Fire Incident Location Map that are accessible through the following websites, <http://www.wfas.net/maps/> and http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php.

Operators should take all appropriate steps to prevent fire from coming into contact with, active oil and gas wells; in-use flow-lines, gathering-lines and pipelines; oil stock on-site; or any other potential fuel source for fire.

Section 115 of Statewide Order No. 29-B (LAC 43:XIX.115.E) requires all Operators to remove all combustible vegetation, trash and debris to a distance of at least one hundred (100') feet away from storage tanks, production equipment, wellheads, and earthen impoundments.

This section goes onto state that all Operators shall conduct operations in a manner which minimizes the danger of explosion or fire, and consequent waste (LAC 43:XIX.115.F).

Additionally, the following steps may be appropriate for Operators to undertake when a facility they operate is under threat from fire:

- reduce or remove crude oil and/or condensate stocks in storage tanks (if necessary based on conditions); and;
- shut-in and secure wells, production/disposal facilities, and flowlines/pipelines (if necessary based on conditions).

The Office of Conservation appreciates your efforts to respond appropriately to this advisory.

¹ Drought conditions are monitored by the National Drought Mitigation Center and may be tracked by members of the oil and gas community at the following website, <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>.

² Oil and Gas Facility, for purpose of this advisory, includes oil and gas wells, storage tanks, flowlines, pipelines, disposal facilities, storage facilities and any other oil and gas exploration and production facility regulated by the Commissioner of Conservation pursuant to his authority found at La. R.S. 30:4, et seq.