Greetings from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal Management.

Friday, February 21, 2014

Permits/Mitigation Division Updates

- The State of Louisiana, Division of Administration will be shutting down the state Data Center for power maintenance this weekend. As a result, DNR will be shutting down ALL SYSTEMS starting at 6 PM Friday February 21, 2014. All systems are anticipated to be fully functional by early morning Monday, February 24, 2014. No information will be available for access during this down time.

- OCM would like to remind applicants to identify the datum used for Lat/Long coordinates. Oil & Gas wells require coordinates in State Plane, NAD 27, and NAD 83 coordinates. All other types of projects can use any datum available as long as the datum is identified.

- Please be advised that if pipelines are to be removed via the pulling method, the applicant should present a contingency plan for removing the line if it breaks during pulling. The details for this contingency plan should be included in the JPA and the plats

- Amendments to the Rules and Procedures for Mitigation (LAC, Title 43, Part I, Chapter 7, Subchapter C, Section 724), promulgated in 1995 to require compensatory mitigation for impacts to vegetated wetlands and coastal resources in the Louisiana Coastal Zone have been completed. As of January 20, 2014, all amendments to the Mitigation Rules and Procedures are complete and have become Final Rule and can be accessed through the online publication of the Louisiana Administrative Code at: http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/lac/43v01/43v01-05.doc (pages 32-43).

One amendment that will affect applicants can be found in the amended Subsection J (pages 39-40 of the Louisiana Administrative Code referenced above). This amendment requires that applicants be responsible for the notification to Landowners of mitigation options available to them when unavoidable anticipated net losses of or impacts to coastal resources on their property is one acre or greater. All landowner options shall be discussed and coordinated between the applicant and the landowner(s) and it shall be the applicant's responsibility to provide all documentation of landowner mitigation intent and mitigation proposals to OCM. A template letter will be provided for applicants by the OCM in the near future and will be available on the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' website for applicant use when notifying the appropriate landowner(s).

- OCM is pleased to introduce one new members of the Permits and Mitigation staff. Please join us in welcoming Mark Hogan to the Permit Section.

Coast-It Notes is a publication of the Office of Coastal Management to inform permit applicants, the public and others of events and items that may impact them or their interaction with our office. This e-document is intended to improve customer service and awareness of OCM works and functions and includes announcements from all OCM divisions as issues arise.