



Coast-It Notes

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Thursday, March 22, 2012

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

Permit Section Updates

• The Office of Coastal Management has been working with its advisory panel and a group of key stakeholders to revise its Needs, Alternatives and Justification requirements that are a routine part of Coastal Use Permit application processing. It was recognized that the example packet that were being used had become outdated and required further clarification to improve the quality of NAJ submittals and thereby reduce the time and effort necessary for OCM to obtain a submittal that was acceptable. OCM requires Alternatives and Justification Analyses for developments that have the potential to adversely impact coastal resources and/or users. In the past we have provided the "Subdivision Packet" as a generic guide to developing these analyses. This packet was designed for subdivisions but was adjusted and used for other types of uses in a "one size fits all" manner. Unfortunately, the "Packet" does not "fit all" nor does it provide the assistance needed to identify and report the information OCM requires to fully evaluate the adverse impacts and public benefits of a proposed development.

In an effort to provide a more helpful and meaningful guide to our users, OCM is developing a new Alternatives and Justification guide designed to provide clear information needs, reasons for those needs and sources for the information. The introduction provides general information, explains why OCM performs this review and identifies seven categories of coastal uses. The guide provides use-specific guidance for more easily identifying the information needed, how that information should be presented and where the information may be obtained. Likewise, the guide is no longer a "one size fits all" guide and outlines the level of detail needed based on the complexity of the development and amount of potential adverse impacts associated with the development.

The use categories for which specific guides have been or will be developed are

- Residential Developments
- Industrial Facilities
- Marinas
- Port Facilities
- Pipelines
- Commercial Facilities
- Oil & Gas Facilities
- Drainage and Coastal Hazards Analyses
- Municipal Activities - including Utilities, Levees, Transportation, Recreational Facilities (Parks, Playgrounds, Ball Fields), & Drainage Projects

Key stakeholder groups who routinely work on projects for these uses are being

identified to assist OCM and its Advisory Panel in the development of these guides.

We have completed a General Introduction and the Residential Development Guide and would like to take this opportunity to introduce the guide to the public. Please click [here](#) to view the guide. This guide is now being used by OCM staff for all residential developments in the Coastal Zone. As always, we welcome any comments or suggestions for improvement to these guides as we continue to work to improve our processes.

- OCM would like to remind you that we are hosting an Interagency Workshop entitled "Regulatory and Commenting Agency Permitting Roles in the Louisiana Coastal Zone" on March 28, 2012 in the Conference Room at NOAA's Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries Center in Lafayette, LA at 646 Cajundome Blvd, Lafayette. The seminar is free but space is limited so we are requesting pre-registration in order to get a headcount. Please contact our office at OCMInfo@la.gov or 225-342-7953 to reserve your spot. If demand for the seminars exceeds available space, additional seminars will be scheduled. Click [here](#) to view the agenda.

- OCM encourages potential permit applicants to take photos whenever site visits are done during initial development/siting/staking of a project. These photos do not need to be submitted with an application, but can be useful for explanation purposes of the condition of the site pre-development. They also can be used as pre-construction photographs which are required in several types of coastal uses (pipelines repair sites, pipeline waterway crossings, beneficial use of dredged material, and others)

Interagency Affairs Updates

Attached for your enjoyment is the March 2012 edition of [The Local Coastal Program's Outlook](#). The Local Coastal Program Outlook is a newsletter focusing on Louisiana parish coastal management concerns and other coastal management issues and recent initiatives undertaken by the LDNR's Office of Coastal Management. The newsletter is published bi-annually. OCM sees this newsletter as an enhancement of our ability to communicate among ourselves and to get recent news out regarding coastal management matters to our LCP partners and other resource agency folks. We intend to use this as our "in-house" LCP newsletter. Please send in any question or comments or information you would like to see in future editions to OCMInfo@la.gov.

Coastit 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.

Department of Natural Resources
617 North Third Street | LaSalle Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
(225) 342-0556
www.dnr.louisiana.gov



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