

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 160 JBE 2023

***THREAT OF SUBSIDENCE, SUBSURFACE INSTABILITY,
AND PRESENCE OF HYDROCARBONS IN
SULPHUR MINES SALT DOME AREA***

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this state will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;

WHEREAS, local, state, and federal agencies began monitoring subsurface seismic activity occurring in the vicinity of the Sulphur Mines salt dome in Calcasieu Parish in December of 2021, with a true seismic monitoring array being ordered by the Office of Conservation, which came online in January of 2023;

WHEREAS, the Office of Conservation began investigating unexplained hydrocarbon bubbling within the area of concern in January of 2023, as well as monitoring seismicity, and the rate of subsidence in the area of concern;

WHEREAS, on Wednesday September 20, 2023, in response to this subsidence and seepage, Commissioner of Conservation, Monique M. Edwards made a declaration of emergency under the authority of Louisiana Revised Statutes 30:1 *et seq.*, ordering the operator of the salt cavern underneath the area of subsidence to undertake all necessary activities to evaluate and abate any deterioration of the cavern's integrity;

WHEREAS, the State anticipates that further assistance may be needed to assist Calcasieu Parish in their response to this continuing threat; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to declare a state of emergency due to the existence of emergency/disaster conditions as above indicated.

NOW THEREFORE I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist in the Parish of Calcasieu, as a result of seismic activity, lost cavern integrity, increased hydrocarbon bubbling, and accelerated

subsidence, that collectively indicate a potential for structural failure that could potentially threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

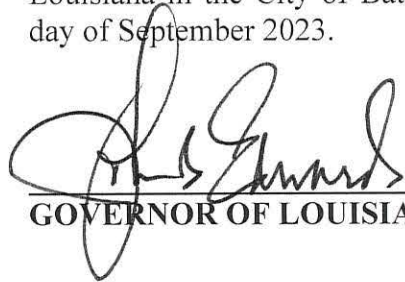
SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies, and officers of the State or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions, the State may take in response to this incident.

SECTION 4: This state of emergency extends from Wednesday, September 20, 2023, to Thursday, October 19, 2023, unless terminated sooner.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 20th day of September 2023.



GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE**

SECRETARY OF STATE