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State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

SCOTT A. ANGELLE
SECRETARY

JAMES H. WELSH
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

MEMORANDUM

To: Louisiana Licensed Water Well, Geotechnical Borehole and Groundwater Monitoring Well Drillers

From: James H. Welsh
Commissioner of Conservation

Date: March 24, 2011

Subject: Presence of Natural Gas Surface Releases
Toledo Bend Reservoir Area, Sabine Parish, Louisiana

Dear Drillers:

The Office of Conservation received notice of natural gas releases (bubbling) occurring in the Toledo Bend Reservoir located in Sabine parish in three (3) locations in an area approximately 11 miles Southwest of the town of Zwolle, Louisiana. Specifically, natural gas releases have been detected at 31° 36' 37.8"N, 93° 49' 2.3" W; 31° 35' 3.3"N, 93° 47' 14.9" W and 31° 35' 2.9"N, 93° 47' 44.4" W. The source of these natural gas releases has been analytically determined to be biogenic, i.e., not originating from a former or currently active natural gas producing formation. Note that the exact subsurface lithologic depth and lateral extent of the biogenic source of these natural gas releases are unknown at this time. Although this office is not aware of the presence of any current or past natural gas releases occurring at any Louisiana land surface areas located in the near vicinity of these water locations, caution when drilling in the area is advised. Therefore, notice is hereby being provided to remind you of the attached Guidance Statement (ENV-GS-06) previously distributed to licensed drillers informing of proper procedure to report the observance of naturally occurring methane or natural gas during well construction and to advise that if drilling near the these locations, please take all measures necessary to minimize health and safety hazards. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 225-342-8244.

Attachment (copied on reserve side of this memo)

Cc: Jim Pratt, SRA
Anna Dearmon, DNR