

STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

ORDER NO. ENV 2012-GW011

May 23, 2012

Order Concerning Management Planning Strategy and Agency Actions to Address Sustainability of the Southern Hills Aquifer System Underlying the City of Baton Rouge and Surrounding Areas

Pursuant to power delegated under the laws of the State of Louisiana, and particularly LSA-R.S. 38:3094 and 3097.3, the following Order is issued and promulgated by the Commissioner of Conservation as being reasonably necessary to assure the most advantageous use of the State's groundwater resources consistent with their protection, conservation and replenishment. This Order is issued pursuant to Act 49 of the 2003 Louisiana Legislature, as amended and using the intent and language provided therein.

Findings of Fact

1. A public hearing was held on April 12, 2012 to take testimony, receive evidence and hear public comments in order to determine if the water table under East Baton Rouge Parish is being lowered because of excessive pumping of groundwater, and whether the lowering of the water table is causing the acceleration of the intrusion of saltwater in the "1500" and "2000" foot sands of the Southern Hills aquifer system from south of the Baton Rouge Fault into freshwater north of the Baton Rouge Fault.
2. Public comments were provided prior to, during and after the public hearing; all filed into the agency's public record under Office of Conservation Public Hearing Docket No. ENV 2012-02.
3. Aquifer sustainability is defined by Louisiana Ground Water Management law and regulations as "the development and use of ground water in a manner that can be maintained for the present and future time without causing unacceptable environmental, economic, social, or health consequences."
4. Most recent published information from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) indicates that saltwater continues to encroach into the "1500" and "2000" freshwater sands further away from the Baton Rouge fault toward respective pumping centers at a rate that threatens to compromise long-term sustainability of the aquifer system in the Baton Rouge area.
5. Based on USGS research, although there is an extensive thick clay layer between the "1200" foot and "1500" foot sands in the Baton Rouge area, it is expected that water withdrawal from one sand could have a measurable impact on the other sand. It is also expected that water withdrawal from the "1500" foot and "1700" foot sands could also have a measurable impact on each other.
6. USGS will be completing development of a solute transport and groundwater flow model for the "1500" and "2000" foot sands of the Southern Hills aquifer system underlying the Baton Rouge area to be complete and available for use in predicting saltwater encroachment in the area during the Fall of 2012.
7. The Baton Rouge area is generally lacking an aggressive groundwater conservation and water resource sustainability public education, awareness and outreach effort.
8. In consideration of all facts and testimony obtained and reviewed prior to, during and after the public hearing on the matter of saltwater encroachment in the Southern Hills aquifer system underlying the Baton Rouge area, the Office of Conservation has determined that additional water sourcing information from groundwater well owners in the area is essential to fully understand current, projected near-term, and long-term groundwater demand in order to formulate and implement a sound and objective long-term groundwater sustainability management strategy.

Order

Therefore, the Commissioner of Conservation hereby orders that groundwater well owners in the Baton Rouge area with wells located in the "1200", "1500", "1700" and "2000" foot sands listed in Exhibit A shall provide to the Office of Conservation on or before September 28, 2012 a written report of its company's current annual groundwater withdrawal volume per water well, projected near-term (within 5 years) annual groundwater withdrawal volume per existing and new well(s), projected long-term (5 to 30 years) annual groundwater withdrawal volume per existing and new well(s) and current, near-term and long-term plans for reducing groundwater withdrawal or preventing further migration of saltwater toward its well(s).

Interim Agency Actions

The Office of Conservation will develop a groundwater conservation and aquifer awareness public education initiative on the matter of saltwater encroachment in the Baton Rouge area aquifer system with intentions to implement said initiative shortly thereafter. All major groundwater well owners, stakeholders and interested parties are encouraged to assist the agency with development and implementation of this effort.

It is anticipated that groundwater information derived from groundwater well owners in the area and the USGS solute-transport and groundwater flow model will provide the necessary sound and objective data to more comprehensively understand and confidently predict aquifer conditions in the Baton Rouge area for further developing and implementing near-term and long-term aquifer sustainability strategies for the Baton Rouge area.

This Order shall be supplemented or amended as deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Conservation.

Issued and Effective MAY 23, 2012


James H. Welsh, Commissioner
AR Office of Conservation

Exhibit A

DNR Well ID No.	Water Well Owner*	Well Use	Aquifer
1368	AIR PRODUCTS	Industrial	1200'
1369		Industrial	1200'
413	BATON ROUGE WATER COMPANY	Public Supply	1500'
771		Public Supply	1500'
938		Public Supply	1500'
939		Public Supply	1500'
510		Public Supply	1500'
726		Public Supply	1500'
657		Public Supply	1500'
658		Public Supply	1500'
927		Public Supply	1500'
774		Public Supply	2000'
630		Public Supply	2000'
874		Public Supply	2000'
1150		Public Supply	2000'
814		Public Supply	2000'
733		Public Supply	2000/2400'
151	Public Supply	2000/2400'	
1253	Public Supply	2000/2400'	
1230	LION COPOLYMER, LLC	Industrial	1200'
737		Industrial	2000'
656		Industrial	2000'
1030		Industrial	2000'
1304	ENTERGY	Power Generation	1200'
522		Power Generation	1200'
1317		Power Generation	2000'
1309		Power Generation	2000'
788		Power Generation	2000'
1151		Power Generation	2000'
1227		Industrial	2000'
1323		Power Generation	2000'
1313		Power Generation	2000'
398	EXXON/MOBIL	Industrial	1000/1200'
403		Industrial	1200'
557		Industrial	1200'
649		Industrial	1200'
567		Industrial	1200'
722		Industrial	2000'
856		Industrial	2000'
962		Industrial	2000'
580		Industrial	1200'
884		Industrial	2000'
855		Industrial	2000'
810		Industrial	2000'
851		Industrial	2000'
587		Industrial	2000'
576	Industrial	1200'	
1273	FORMOSA PLASTICS	Industrial	1200'
784	HONEYWELL	Industrial	1200'
1301		Industrial	1200'
544	UOP, LLC (FORMERLY KAISER ALUMINUM)	Industrial	2000'
785	UOP, LLC	Industrial	2000'

Water wells listed above include all active and inactive non-domestic wells registered in accordance with LAC 56:Part I and entered into the state's water well registration database as having been installed to withdraw groundwater from either the 1200, 1500, 1700 or 2000 foot aquifers located within respective pumping centers in the Baton Rouge area or southward toward the Baton Rouge Fault as depicted in Exhibit B.

*Water Well Owner company names listed in table are cross-referenced and consistent with current well owner company information provided by the Capitol Area Ground Water Conservation Commission.

Exhibit B

