

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

Friday, June 28, 2013

Permit Section Updates

OCM would like to remind applicants and agents of the January 1, 1998 policy authorized by LAC Title 43, Part 1, Chapter 7, Subchapter C., §723.C.9.a.iv, which requires that applicants for Coastal Use Permits with four our more outstanding requests for compliance to post a surety bond to ensure that required permit obligations are met. The dollar amount of the surety bond will be determined by OCM, based on the particular conditions of the permit and the type and location of activities. If the permit obligations are not met, the proceeds from the bond would be used to contract with private entities to meet the permit conditions and/or provide the requested information. Once all permit obligations are met, any remaining bond proceeds would be returned to the applicant. When the requests for compliance documentation are met, and the applicant has less than four outstanding compliance issues, the requirement for surety bonds would be discontinued. For those permitted projects that require no post-issuance obligations, no surety bond would be required.

Currently, OCM's monitoring database indicates that approximately 25 companies have four or more outstanding compliance issues and would thus be subject to this policy. In the next few weeks, OCM will be contacting each of those companies to provide them a list of their outstanding compliance issues and to give them the opportunity to submit a plan to bring those issues into compliance (getting their total to less than four). If these outreach efforts are not successful in addressing the compliance issues within a reasonable time period, the above-mentioned policy may be fully implemented.

OCM has updated the Coastal Use Permit Transfer Form to include printed name and contact information for the signatory. You can find the updated form on our webpage here. Please disregard all previous forms and begin using the new form effective immediately.

OCM has updated the Coastal User's Guide to include modifications to §723 (permits) and §727 (public hearings and notices) that were enacted in 2013. The new User's Guide can be found on our website here. More updates will be coming in the near future as §724 (mitigation) is updated.

Interagency Affairs Updates

The June 2013 edition of the Local Coastal Programs Newsletter has been released. Click here to view the newsletter.

OCM would like to introduce the newest member of its staff, Ms. Victoria "Tori" Bacheler. Tori will be working in the Western Enforcement Section. She can be reached at victoria.bacheler@la.gov or 225-342-3760. Please join us in making Tori feel welcome.

General Information

As the 2013 hurricane season begins, OCM would like to remind everyone that the State of Louisiana has developed the Get a Game Plan Emergency Preparedness Guide to help families and businesses prepare for natural disasters. The guide also provides valuable information on what to do after the event. For more information or a copy of the guide, please visit the Get a Game Plan website.

State offices will be closed July 4 and July 5, 2013 in observance of the Fourth of July Holiday. Normal OCM business operations will resume Monday July 8, 2013.

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.