

**Saltwater Encroachment Public Meeting  
March 8, 2012**

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<p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE OF CONSERVATION STATE OF LOUISIANA DOCKET NO: ENV 2012-01 SALTWATER ENCROACHMENT PUBLIC MEETING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***** TRANSCRIPT OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2012, REPORTED BY RUTH E. FORET, CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA *****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">REPORTED AT: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE OF CONSERVATION ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION LABELLE ROOM 617 NORTH 3RD STREET BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMMENCING AT 6:02 P.M. ON MARCH 8TH, 2012</p>	<p>1 MS. GLORIA CONLIN, CITIZEN 11411 WESLEY ROAD 2 ABBEVILLE, LA 70510 3 MR. EUGENE H. OWEN, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN BATON ROUGE WATER WORKS COMPANY 4 BATON ROUGE, LA 5 MR. WILLIE FONTENOT, CITIZEN BATON ROUGE, LA 6 7 MR. HAYS TOWN BATON ROUGE, LA 8 MR. HENRY GRAHAM, VICE PRESIDENT ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS 9 LA CHEMICAL ASSOCIATION BATON ROUGE, LA 10 11 MS. KATHY WASCOM LEAN 1255 ABERDEEN 12 BATON ROUGE, LA 70808 13 14 NON-SPEAKERS PRESENT: 15 MR. MICHAEL A. SIMMS SENIOR PROJECT GEOLOGIST URS CORPORATION 16 7389 FLORIDA BLVD., SUITE 300 BATON ROUGE, LA 70806 17 18 MR. JAMES H. JENKINS, JR. BATON ROUGE CITIZENS SAVE OUR WATER 19 1913 OLD PLANTATION LANE BATON ROUGE, LA 70806 20 21 MR. BRUCE M. DUHE, DISTRICT MANAGER LAYNE CHRISTENSEN COMPANY P. O. BOX 1652 22 PRAIRIEVILLE, LA 70769 23 24 25</p>

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<p>1 APPEARANCES 2 3 MR. JAMES H. WELSH COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION 4 P. O. BOX 94275 BATON ROUGE, LA 70804 5 6 MR. J. BLAKE CANFIELD, ATTORNEY OFFICE OF CONSERVATION 7 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES P. O. BOX 94275 8 BATON ROUGE, LA 70804 9 10 MR. JOHN W. ADAMS, ATTORNEY OFFICE OF CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 11 P. O. BOX 94275 BATON ROUGE, LA 70804 12 13 SPEAKERS PRESENT: 14 MR. ANTHONY DUPLICHIN, DIRECTOR CAPITAL AREA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION 15 DISTRICT 3535 SOUTH SHERWOOD FOREST, SUITE 129 16 BATON ROUGE, LA 17 MR. JOHN LOVELACE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LOUISIANA WATER SCIENCE CENTER 18 3535 SOUTH SHERWOOD FOREST, SUITE 120 BATON ROUGE, LA 19 20 MS. NARA CROWLEY, PRESIDENT SAVE LAKE PEIGNEUR, INC. P. O. BOX 645 21 ERATH, LA 70533 22 MR. WILLIAM B DANIEL, IV, DIRECTOR PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION 23 BATON ROUGE CITY-PARISH BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 24 25</p>	<p>1 MR. JIM WELSH: 2 My name is Jim Welsh, and I'm the 3 Commissioner of Conservation. I want 4 to begin this meeting by saying that 5 while tonight's meeting is not a 6 public hearing, it is meant as a time 7 for us to come together to listen and 8 learn what it is that our community 9 and our elected decision makers 10 collectively have to say on this 11 important issue of our state's ground 12 work. 13 I am pleased to see so many 14 people here tonight that wish to 15 express their thoughts. Please know 16 that I do and this office does take 17 the health and sustainability of the 18 Southern Hills aquifer very 19 seriously. We understand the 20 critical importance of the aquifer to 21 the State, to the Capital area, East 22 Baton Rouge Parish and her citizens. 23 That is why I want to assure each of 24 you here tonight that my office is 25 committed to making sure that the</p>

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1 saltwater encroachment in the 1500-  
2 foot and the 2,000-foot sands of the  
3 Southern Hills Aquifer is stopped and  
4 possibly reversed.

5 The measures we will take need to  
6 be appropriate and allowable under  
7 the authority we have been entrusted  
8 with. I hope to hear from you  
9 tonight and at our public hearing  
10 again on April the 12th in this same  
11 room, so that a rock-solid record can  
12 be created to provide the legal and  
13 technical basis for it in support of  
14 any necessary orders or future  
15 actions this office may undertake.

16 So thank you again for coming and  
17 participating in tonight's meeting.  
18 At this time, I'd like to turn it  
19 over to Mr. Blake Canfield who is the  
20 Senior Attorney with the Office of  
21 Conservation who will be the chair  
22 for the meeting tonight.

23 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:

24 Thank you, Commissioner, and good  
25 evening as well, and welcome to

1 consideration. Following the  
2 statement by Mr. Adams and a  
3 representative of the Capital Area  
4 Groundwater Conservation Commission,  
5 as well as a representative from the  
6 United States Geological Survey, I  
7 will open the meeting for public  
8 comments.

9 This public meeting is being held  
10 at the request of the Capital  
11 Regional Legislative Delegation and  
12 the East Baton Rouge Parish Metro  
13 Council. The purpose of tonight's  
14 meeting is two-fold; one is to  
15 provide the information on the issue  
16 of saltwater encroachment, and the  
17 other is to provide an opportunity  
18 for stakeholders, interested parties,  
19 and the general public to deliver  
20 information on this issue for the  
21 Office of Conservation and other  
22 governing authorities to consider as  
23 we proceed with evaluating,  
24 determining and implementing the next  
25 steps to take toward managing

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1 tonight's meeting about the saltwater  
2 encroachment in the 1,500 and 2,000-  
3 foot sands in the Southern Hills  
4 Aquifer System in the Baton Rouge  
5 area.

6 As the Commissioner has stated, I  
7 am Blake Canfield, an attorney with  
8 the Office of Conservation. With me  
9 tonight is Mr. John Adams, who is the  
10 attorney with the Environmental  
11 Division of the Office of  
12 Conservation, and he will begin  
13 tonight's meeting with some general  
14 information regarding saltwater  
15 encroachment in the Baton Rouge area  
16 and the role of the Office of  
17 Conservation in groundwater  
18 management.

19 Tonight's meeting will be  
20 transcribed, and my role for  
21 tonight's hearing is to make sure  
22 that an accurate record of this  
23 meeting is made and that everyone who  
24 wishes to speak is given the  
25 opportunity to provide comments for

1 sustainability in the Baton Rouge  
2 area surrounding -- excuse me --  
3 surrounding the Baton Rouge area  
4 involving saltwater encroachment.

5 Keeping in mind the need to have  
6 an accurate record of tonight's  
7 meeting, please do not disrupt the  
8 comments of anybody else. If you  
9 have a pager or a cell phone, I ask  
10 that you turn it off at this time and  
11 for the remainder of the meeting.

12 During tonight's meeting, you may  
13 make oral statements or submit  
14 written comments. In order to obtain  
15 a record of your attendance and to  
16 give everyone an opportunity to make  
17 comments for the record, we would  
18 like to ask you to fill out one of  
19 the blue cards at the front of this  
20 table in front of me. On that card,  
21 please indicate whether or not you  
22 wish to make a statement. After you  
23 have filled out the card, please  
24 bring them up to the court reporter  
25 or to anyone of us. Due to the large

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9	<p>1 number of people here tonight, your 2 time to comment tonight will 3 initially be limited to five (5) 4 minutes. And if there is time 5 available after everyone has had an 6 opportunity to speak, we will gladly 7 invite you back up to complete your 8 statements. You may also submit 9 written comments for consideration, 10 and please give any written comments 11 to the court reporter before the 12 hearing adjourns, or you may even 13 mail them to the Office of 14 Conservation's Environmental Division 15 which is the mailing address located 16 at 617 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, 17 Louisiana 70802. All written 18 comments will receive the same level 19 of consideration as any oral 20 statements. 21 At this time, I will ask John 22 Adams to present general information 23 concerning saltwater encroachment in 24 the Baton Rouge area. John. 25 MR. JOHN ADAMS:</p>	11
10	<p>1 Thank you. According to the 2 scientific publications from the 3 United States Geological Survey 4 (USGS), two (2) major groundwater 5 supply aquifers of the Baton Rouge 6 area, namely the 1,500 and 2,000-foot 7 sands of the Southern Hills Aquifer 8 System, have undergone historic high 9 water use dating back to the 1940s, 10 and continue to be relied upon to 11 provide large volumes of water 12 supply. Historical observation well 13 data indicates that water levels have 14 declined as much as 175-feet in the 15 1,500-foot sand, approximately 150- 16 feet from 1945 to 1975, and an 17 additional 25-feet from 1975 to the 18 present. More recent well data 19 indicates that water levels continue 20 to decline, and a large cone of 21 depression in the 1,500-foot sand is 22 centered over the Lula Street, 23 central Baton Rouge public supply 24 pumping station consisting of six (6) 25 1,500-foot sand wells. Historic</p>	12

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1 members including representatives  
2 from state government, district  
3 parishes and groundwater users and  
4 stakeholders. The law provided the  
5 Commission broad authority to manage  
6 groundwater resource sustainability  
7 in the District which includes among  
8 other things specific provisions to  
9 address saltwater intrusion.

10 In 2003, the Capital Area  
11 Groundwater Conservation Commission  
12 law was amended to recognize the  
13 newly established statewide governing  
14 authority granted to the Office of  
15 Conservation for groundwater  
16 resources management. Thus, since  
17 2003, the Capital Area Commission  
18 continues to hold all previous  
19 authority to manage groundwater  
20 sustainability issues within their  
21 district, with the added measure that  
22 they broadly shall work with the  
23 Office of Conservation as it  
24 exercises its groundwater management  
25 authority within the District, and

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1 more specifically, shall have the  
2 authority to manage groundwater  
3 resources within their District in  
4 conjunction with the Commissioner of  
5 Conservation.

6 From its inception in 1974 to  
7 present, the Capital Area Groundwater  
8 Conservation Commission has developed  
9 and implemented strategies to address  
10 groundwater issues within its  
11 District including the issues of  
12 water level decline and saltwater  
13 encroachment in the 1,500 and 2,000-  
14 foot sands in the Baton Rouge area.  
15 The latest effort will be delivery of  
16 a regional groundwater flow and  
17 solute-transport model to simulate  
18 past, current and a variety of  
19 possible future conditions in the  
20 2,000-foot sand in the Baton Rouge  
21 area, with similar evaluation  
22 capabilities for the 1,500-foot sand.  
23 The model and simulation results are  
24 expected to be delivered and  
25 available to the public within nine

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1 (9) months, with a target delivery  
2 date of October of 2012.

3 Here with us this evening is Mr.  
4 Tony Duplechin, Director of the  
5 Capital Area Groundwater Commission,  
6 who has volunteered to participate  
7 with Conservation this evening. The  
8 Capital Area Commission previously  
9 provided Conservation a list of  
10 actions taken by the Commission on  
11 the issue of saltwater encroachment  
12 in the Baton Rouge area from 1974 to  
13 present. Mr. Duplechin will provide  
14 that information to you now.

15 Mr. Duplechin.  
16 MR. TONY DUPLÉCHIN:  
17 Thank you, Mr. Adams. I kind of  
18 feel like a caller on one of those  
19 radio shows where the caller before  
20 you said everything that you were  
21 going to say, so I ask y'all to  
22 please bare with me because some of  
23 the things that Johnny said, I will  
24 be repeating.  
25 My name is Anthony Duplechin, and

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1 I am the Director of the Capital Area  
2 Groundwater Conservation District.

3 The District and Commission were  
4 created by Act 678 in the 1974  
5 Regular Session of the Louisiana  
6 Legislature and can be found at  
7 Louisiana Revised Statute 38:3071 (et  
8 seq), and became effective on January  
9 1st, 1975. The Capital Area includes  
10 the parishes of East Baton Rouge,  
11 West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana,  
12 West Feliciana and Pointe Coupee.  
13 The Commission consists of fifteen  
14 (15) members, one (1) member from  
15 each of the parishes composing the  
16 district, three (3) members  
17 representing the industrial users in  
18 the district, three (3) members  
19 representing private or public water  
20 supply for rural or municipal use in  
21 the district, with the condition that  
22 at least one (1) of said three (3)  
23 members shall always be from the  
24 nominees of privately owned users  
25 furnishing a municipal water supply,

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17	<p>1 one (1) member representing the 2 office of Public Works of the 3 Louisiana Department of 4 Transportation and Development, one 5 (1) member representing the Louisiana 6 Farm Bureau of Federation and the 7 Louisiana Cattlemen's Association, 8 one (1) member representing the 9 Louisiana Department of Environmental 10 Quality and one (1) member being a 11 nominee of the rest of the board. 12 Current members of the Commission 13 are: 14 Mr. Melvin Argrave who represents 15 public supply and works for Baton 16 Rouge Water Company; 17 Mr. Jody Burleson who represents 18 industry and works for Exxon; 19 Mr. Bo Bolourchi of DOTD; 20 Mr. Jay Causey who is our chairman 21 and who works for the Louisiana 22 Department of Health and Hospitals 23 and who represents public supply; 24 Mr. Brian Chustz represents industry 25 and works for Entergy;</p>	19	<p>1 dropping. The Louisiana Legislature 2 established a Louisiana Water 3 Resources Study Commission in 1936, 4 but they had only met a few times and 5 did not take much action. 6 In 1964, a U.S. Geological Survey 7 Report titled "Saltwater Encroachment 8 in Aquifers of the Baton Rouge Area" 9 was published, in conjunction with 10 the Louisiana Office of Public Works, 11 recommending a drilling and 12 monitoring program be implemented. 13 Later that year, a water commission 14 was proposed to then Mayor Woody 15 Dumas by Leo Bankston and others. 16 East Baton Rouge Parish Resolution 17 53:24 established a special Water 18 Conservation Commission to study 19 groundwater conditions, with 20 particular interest in saltwater 21 encroachment, and to make 22 recommendations for remedial action. 23 In 1965, the Louisiana Water 24 Resources Research Institute proposed 25 a study of possible solutions to the</p>
18	<p>1 Mr. Philip Crochet represents East 2 Feliciana Parish; 3 Mr. John Hashagen represents West 4 Feliciana Parish; 5 Mr. Joey Hebert represents industry 6 and works for Georgia-Pacific; 7 Mr. John Jennings is the 8 representative from the Louisiana 9 Department of Environmental Quality; 10 Dr. John Westra is the representative 11 for East Baton Rouge City-Parish; 12 Dennis McGehee is a public supplier 13 representative and works for the 14 Baton Rouge Water Company; 15 James Rills is our representative 16 from West Baton Rouge Parish; 17 Jens Rummier represents Pointe Coupee 18 Parish; 19 Mr. Mark Walton is the Commission 20 Nominee; and 21 Mr. Harold Kirby represents the Farm 22 Bureau and Cattlemen's Association. 23 As early as the 1930s, it was 24 realized that water levels in 25 Baton Rouge's city supply wells were</p>	20	<p>1 saltwater encroachment threat. 2 In 1970, an act of the 3 Legislature, number 682, allowed for 4 the establishment of the Greater 5 Baton Rouge Water Conservation 6 District, and a twenty (20) member 7 Board of Commissioners was appointed 8 to administer district affairs. This 9 Commission gathered enough 10 information to determine the need for 11 control legislation. Such 12 legislation was presented to the 13 Louisiana Legislature, but failed to 14 pass. 15 In 1974, a similar bill was 16 introduced that expanded the District 17 to include the five (5) parishes in 18 the capital area. The bill passed. 19 It created the Capital Area 20 Groundwater Conservation District and 21 a Board of Commissioners to 22 administer the affairs of the 23 District. An organizational meeting 24 was held on January 14th, 1975. 25 Since its creation, the Capital</p>

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1 Area Groundwater Conservation  
 2 District has been involved in the  
 3 efficient administration,  
 4 conservation, orderly development and  
 5 supplementation of groundwater  
 6 resources in the five-parish area.  
 7 The Capital Area Groundwater  
 8 Conservation Commission has driven  
 9 investigative efforts and policy  
 10 changes and fostered an atmosphere of  
 11 cooperation to promote the  
 12 responsible development of the  
 13 groundwater resources in the Baton  
 14 Rouge area, and to protect the  
 15 quality of these resources. Numerous  
 16 actions have been taken by the  
 17 Commission to study, assess and  
 18 address the matters of subsidence,  
 19 saltwater encroachment and water  
 20 level decline in the district,  
 21 including:  
 22 In November of 1975, we requested  
 23 industry to reserve the 1,000, 1,500,  
 24 and 1,700-foot sands for public  
 25 supply wells.

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1 In July of 1988, the above was  
 2 re-affirmed and called attention to  
 3 the fact that the 1,500-foot sand  
 4 south of the Baton Rouge fault in  
 5 West Baton Rouge Parish is included.  
 6 In October of 1991, the  
 7 Commission adopted the following  
 8 conservation policy for the 2,000-  
 9 foot sand in the Baton Rouge area.  
 10 This policy would apply to the area  
 11 bounded by Chippewa Street, the  
 12 Mississippi River, Irene Road-Heck  
 13 Young Road extended east, and Plank  
 14 Road. This is called -- was known as  
 15 the industrial area.  
 16 1. Requested a moratorium on  
 17 installation of new industrial  
 18 wells in the 2,000-foot sand in  
 19 the above defined area, except  
 20 for replacement wells or as  
 21 approved by Capital Area  
 22 Groundwater Conservation  
 23 Commission.  
 24 2. Establish a limit for the annual  
 25 pumping rate in the 2,000-foot

23

1 sand in the area defined above of  
 2 26 million gallons per day.  
 3 3. Proposed a maximum water level  
 4 for the 2,000-foot sand in the  
 5 defined area of 320-feet below  
 6 land surface.  
 7 4. Encouraged development of  
 8 alternate aquifers or surface  
 9 water sources as sources of  
 10 supply.  
 11 5. Encouraged use of shallow  
 12 aquifers or the Mississippi River  
 13 for cooling water and deeper  
 14 aquifers for process, boiler feed  
 15 and drinking water.  
 16 In April of 1992, Capital Area  
 17 Groundwater Conservation Commission  
 18 advised Senator John Breaux on the  
 19 saltwater problems in Baton Rouge and  
 20 the commission's concerns for  
 21 protecting the area water supply and  
 22 requesting funding support for  
 23 planning and implementing remedial  
 24 measures.  
 25 In July of 1992, the Commission

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1 passed a resolution accepting, in  
 2 principle, Baton Rouge Water  
 3 Company's proposed construction and  
 4 lease back of saltwater remediation  
 5 facilities; also authorized the  
 6 Director to send a letter to all  
 7 pumpage users informing them of the  
 8 details of this remediation project.  
 9 In October of 1992, the  
 10 Commission authorized to proceed with  
 11 the Baton Rouge Water Company's  
 12 proposal, when approved, to install  
 13 1-3 scavenger wells in the 2,000-foot  
 14 sand. Unfortunately, this project  
 15 was cancelled due to insufficient  
 16 funding.  
 17 In June of 1994, the District  
 18 Director briefed the Capital Area  
 19 Groundwater Commission on a proposal  
 20 to obtain an EPA grant under Section  
 21 319(h) of the Clean Water Act aimed  
 22 at controlling saltwater encroachment  
 23 using the recharge effect of  
 24 connector wells.  
 25 In January of 1998, a successful

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25	<p>1 bid was received for the connector 2 well construction. 3 In April of 1999, the connector 4 well was placed into operation. 5 In December of 1999, Capital Area 6 Groundwater Conservation Commission 7 received the National Groundwater 8 Association's 1999 Outstanding 9 Groundwater Project Commendation for 10 the connector well project. 11 In June of 2002, the Technical 12 Committee asked the Commission to 13 consider alternative sources and 14 recommended a feasibility study be 15 undertaken to document the potential 16 costs versus benefits. 17 In December of 2002, Capital Area 18 Groundwater Conservation Commission 19 approved a proposal by URS 20 Corporation to conduct a feasibility 21 study for alternative water supply 22 sources, with funding to be split 23 50/50 between the Capital Area 24 Groundwater Conservation Commission 25 and East Baton Rouge Parish.</p>	27	<p>1 City of Baton Rouge and East Baton 2 Rouge Parish cooperative agreements, 3 and Commission and USGS cooperative 4 agreements. 5 In June of 2010, the Commission 6 approved entering into an agreement 7 with the Baton Rouge Water Company to 8 fund research by Dr. Frank Tsai 9 entitled "Scavenger Well Operation 10 Model to Assist Baton Rouge Water 11 Company to Identify Cost-Effective 12 Approaches to Stop Saltwater 13 Intrusion towards the Baton Rouge 14 Water Company Wells in the 1,500-foot 15 Sand of the Baton Rouge Area". 16 In June of 2011, the Commission 17 approved sending a Letter of 18 Recommendation to the Louisiana Board 19 of Regents for a proposed study by 20 Drs. Frank Tsai and Jeffrey Hanor 21 called "Unconventional Hydraulic 22 Control Deep-Aquifer Saltwater 23 Intrusion Mitigation Under 24 Uncertainty", in which they would 25 study the feasibility of using</p>
26	<p>1 In December of 2003, URS 2 Corporation reported to Capital Area 3 Groundwater Conservation Commission 4 the results of the study for 5 alternative water supply sources for 6 industrial users, stating that the 7 use of reclaimed treated effluent is 8 technically feasible, but would 9 require economic and financial 10 incentives, or strong political and 11 legislative initiatives. 12 In March of 2004, Capital Area 13 Groundwater Conservation Commission 14 approved URS study. 15 In March of 2007, the Capital 16 Area Groundwater Conservation 17 Commission approved moving forward 18 with the U.S. Geological Survey 19 project entitled "Simulation of 20 Groundwater Flow in the 1,500-foot 21 and 2,000-foot Sands and Movement of 22 Saltwater in the 2,000-foot Sand in 23 the Baton Rouge Area", to be funded 24 in part by joint Capital Area 25 Groundwater Conservation Commission,</p>	28	<p>1 horizontal wells as saltwater 2 scavenger wells. 3 As you can see, saltwater 4 intrusion into the 1,500-foot and 5 2,000-foot sands has been 6 specifically addressed by the Capital 7 Area Groundwater Conservation 8 Commission. The "connector-well" to 9 recharge the 1,500-foot sand and 10 create a pressure barrier was placed 11 in operation in 1999, resulting in 12 partial mitigation of saltwater 13 movement toward the Baton Rouge Water 14 Company's 1,500-foot sands at their 15 Government Street pumping station. 16 Thank you for affording the 17 Capital Area Groundwater Conservation 18 Commission the opportunity to present 19 these facts to the Office of 20 Conservation. 21 MR. ADAMS: 22 Thank you, Mr. Duplechin. Now, 23 also participating with us this 24 evening is Mr. John Lovelace with the 25 U.S. Geological Survey, who has</p>

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1 volunteered to provide a summary of  
2 the groundwater flow and solute-  
3 transport model that Mr. Duplechin  
4 and I previously mentioned. Mr.  
5 Lovelace.  
6 MR. JOHN LOVELACE:  
7 Thank you, my name is John  
8 Lovelace. I am the Assistant  
9 Director of the Louisiana Water  
10 Science Center of the U.S. Geological  
11 Survey.  
12 As previously stated, we are in  
13 the process of creating a computer  
14 model to simulate groundwater flow in  
15 the 1,500 and 2,000-foot sands of the  
16 Baton Rouge area, and saltwater  
17 movement in the 2,000-foot sand.  
18 One of the primary missions of  
19 the USGS is to provide reliable  
20 scientific information to describe  
21 and understand our nation's water  
22 resources. The Louisiana Water  
23 Science Center has actively monitored  
24 groundwater conditions in Baton Rouge  
25 since the 1940s through cooperative

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1 programs with the Louisiana  
2 Department of Transportation and  
3 Development, Capital Area Groundwater  
4 Conservation Commission and East  
5 Baton Rouge City-Parish.  
6 There are ten (10) named aquifers  
7 beneath Baton Rouge that provide  
8 freshwater for public supplies and  
9 industries, which are the main uses  
10 of water in the area. An east-west  
11 trending fault that runs through  
12 south Baton Rouge is a leaky barrier  
13 saltwater encroachment into the  
14 aquifers. In general, the aquifers  
15 contain freshwater north of the fault  
16 and saltwater south of the fault.  
17 The term "saltwater" here, when I use  
18 that, I'm referring to water with a  
19 chloride concentration above 250  
20 milligrams per liter, which is an EPA  
21 secondary drinking water standard  
22 that was set for aesthetic purposes,  
23 actually for taste rather than health  
24 risks.  
25 Pumping north of the fault has

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1 caused saltwater to move across the  
2 fault into the freshwater aquifers.  
3 Saltwater encroachment into  
4 freshwater sands in the Baton Rouge  
5 area was first detected in 1948, when  
6 a municipal well in the City Park  
7 area had to be abandoned because of  
8 rising salinity. There has been an  
9 ongoing concern since that time and  
10 as mentioned, numerous reports have  
11 been written by the USGS and others  
12 to document the encroachment and  
13 suggest possible control strategies.  
14 A recent investigation of saltwater  
15 encroachment conducted during 2004  
16 and 2005 indicated that saltwater was  
17 present in one (1) or more wells in  
18 the Baton Rouge fault in eight (8) of  
19 the ten (10) sands, and chloride  
20 concentrations, an indicator of  
21 saltwater, are increasing at one (1)  
22 or more wells in seven (7) of the  
23 sands, which could indicate that  
24 saltwater additional encroachment is  
25 occurring.

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1 In most of the sands, the  
2 saltwater is occurring in very small  
3 areas immediately adjacent to the  
4 fault. Chloride concentrations at  
5 wells in affected areas generally are  
6 less than 250 milligrams per liter,  
7 but have reached as high as 10,000  
8 milligrams per liter in at least one  
9 (1) well. Previous monitoring also  
10 indicates that the rate of saltwater  
11 movement in the freshwater aquifers  
12 north of the fault is generally very  
13 slow, on the order of a few tens or  
14 hundreds of feet per year, but the  
15 rate varies from aquifer to aquifer  
16 and depends on a number of factors.  
17 The most recent saltwater  
18 encroachment as mentioned -- or the  
19 most notable encroachment has been in  
20 the 1,500 and 2,000-foot sands, which  
21 are important sources of freshwater  
22 to public supply and industry. In  
23 2007, the USGS, in cooperation with  
24 Capital Area Groundwater, DOTD and  
25 East Baton Rouge City-Parish began to



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33	<p>1 develop a computer model to simulate 2 groundwater flow in the 1,500 and 3 2,000-foot sands and saltwater 4 movement in the 2,000-foot sands. 5 The completed model can be used to 6 investigate the impacts of various 7 future pumping scenarios and 8 saltwater mitigation strategy on 9 groundwater flow and saltwater 10 movement in these sands. 11 The planned completion date for 12 the model is September 30th of this 13 year. The completed model and 14 software needed to run the model will 15 be available to water managers and 16 any interested parties free of 17 charge. 18 Thank you very much. 19 MR. ADAMS: 20 Thank you, Mr. Lovelace. 21 The Office of Conservation has 22 and will continue to work with the 23 Capital Area Commission providing the 24 necessary guidance, governance and 25 action as needed within our statutory</p>	35	<p>1 public comments in order to determine 2 if the water table under East Baton 3 Rouge Parish is being lowered because 4 of excessive pumping of groundwater, 5 and whether the lowering of the water 6 table is causing the acceleration of 7 the intrusion of saltwater in the 8 1,500 and 2,000-foot sands of the 9 Southern Hills Aquifer System from 10 south of Baton Rouge fault into the 11 freshwater north of the Baton Rouge 12 fault. 13 Relevant findings from that 14 hearing will be considered by the 15 Commissioner in determining what 16 future actions may be necessary to 17 address saltwater encroachment and 18 sustainability of the 1,500 and 19 2,000-foot sands of the Southern 20 Hills Aquifer System. Blake. 21 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD: 22 Thank you, Mr. Adams. We would 23 like to recognize Senator Dan Claitor 24 who has shown up, and thank you for 25 attending tonight. If you would like</p>
34	<p>1 authority to maintain the 2 sustainability of the aquifer in the 3 Baton Rouge area. The information 4 that you provide this evening will 5 assist both the Capital Area 6 Commission and Conservation as we 7 continue to evaluate, develop and 8 implement sound and objective 9 strategies to manage this vital 10 resource. 11 The next step in creating a 12 record for consideration by the 13 Commissioner of Conservation in 14 determining what action should be 15 undertaken to manage the 16 sustainability of the Southern Hills 17 Aquifer System, particularly as it 18 concerns saltwater encroachment in 19 the 1,500 and 2,000-foot sands in the 20 Baton Rouge area, is the opening of a 21 Docket Number ENV 2012-02, and the 22 public hearing scheduled for April 23 12th, 2012 in this room. At that 24 hearing, the Commissioner will take 25 testimony, receive evidence and hear</p>	36	<p>1 to speak, we will provide that 2 opportunity to you now. 3 SENATOR DAN CLAITOR: 4 I appreciate it. I'm here to 5 listen. 6 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD: 7 Okay. Thank you very much. 8 We will now begin receiving 9 public comments. When I call your 10 name, please come up to the front and 11 sit in this chair, if you will. It 12 helps ourselves and the court 13 reporter get an accurate record. 14 Make sure to speak into the 15 microphone. State your name and who 16 you represent, if it's anyone other 17 than yourself. 18 There are a fairly large number 19 of people wishing to make comments 20 tonight. In order to allow everyone 21 time to speak, I am going to 22 initially limit the time of each 23 speaker to five (5) minutes. If, 24 however, at the end of everyone 25 having the opportunity to speak,</p>

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37	<p>1 there's additional time, we'll allow 2 you to come back up and finish any 3 comments or statements that you may 4 wish. Any unsaid comments or if you 5 don't feel like waiting until the end 6 of the hearing, feel free to provide 7 us with any written comments, and you 8 can do that either in person today or 9 by submitting them to our office at 10 anytime after the hearing. Again, 11 it's in this building on the 9th 12 Floor, and for mailing purposes it's 13 617 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, 14 Louisiana 70802. And I will now 15 begin calling the speakers. The 16 first card I have is for Ms. Nara 17 Crowley. Oh, I'm sorry. 18 <b>SENATOR DAN CLAITOR:</b> 19 That's alright. I just wanted to 20 say I appreciate what y'all are doing 21 in having this hearing here today, 22 but I have an obligation to be 23 elsewhere to discuss some education 24 matters. I don't want my leaving the 25 meeting to be interpreted as a lack</p>	39	<p>1 consumption. Recycled water should 2 be the last option for human use. 3 Alternatively, the primary source 4 of water for industry should be 5 recycled water. Industry is vital to 6 society but industry and human life 7 should not be in competition for 8 drinking water. The highest 9 standards for protecting and 10 preserving drinking water for human 11 life should be paramount, including 12 contaminant discharge that may flow 13 into the aquifer. 14 We have the opportunity to 15 prevent calamity that already exists 16 in Third World Nations. The public 17 should not be pleading to protect 18 their water; this should be the Gold 19 Standard. We call this the great 20 State of Louisiana! We want economic 21 growth, better education and an 22 exemplary state. 23 This goal can be accomplished but 24 we cannot forget the basics in our 25 path. Texas, our neighboring state,</p>
38	<p>1 of interest. So I appreciate it. I 2 see that you are going to have a good 3 record that I can examine at a later 4 date. Thank you. 5 <b>MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:</b> 6 Thank you, Senator. The first 7 speaker I have is Ms. Nara Crowley. 8 Ms. Crowley. And I'm sorry, Ms. 9 Crowley. If you could sit here. I 10 don't mean to cause any confusion. 11 <b>MS. NARA CROWLEY:</b> 12 Thank you. I would like to make 13 one (1) statement. Baton Rouge 14 residents are not alone. Save Lake 15 Peigneur, Incorporated, has been 16 committed to protecting and 17 preserving the Chicot Aquifer from 18 saltwater intrusion and contamination 19 for numerous years. 20 I know this is about Baton Rouge, 21 but I want to express that. 22 Life cannot be sustained without 23 water. There should be no question 24 that naturally pure, aquifer drinking 25 water should be for human</p>	40	<p>1 is suffering from a severe loss of 2 drinking water throughout the state. 3 We don't have to be the next one. 4 That's it. 5 <b>MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:</b> 6 Thank you. Next I have a card 7 from Mr. William Daniel. 8 <b>MR. WILLIAM DANIEL:</b> 9 Thank you, Mr. Commissioner and 10 members of the committee. I am here 11 representing Mayor-President Holden 12 on this issue. The Mayor wished he 13 could be here tonight, but he had 14 another engagement, so he asked me to 15 come. 16 The Mayor-President is obviously 17 extremely concerned about the future 18 of the water supply in Baton Rouge. 19 In that regard, he is very much in 20 favor of, I think what we passed in 21 2003, about using good management 22 practices and sound science to make a 23 very informed decision about what's 24 going on. So he asked me to come 25 here tonight just to ask that, you</p>

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41	<p>1 know, whatever decisions are made 2 regarding the aquifer, and he has a 3 lot of faith in the ability of the 4 Commission to make those decisions, 5 he just would like sound science and 6 good management practices to rule the 7 day. Thank you. 8 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD: 9 Thank you. The next card I have 10 is for Ms. Gloria Conlin. 11 MS. GLORIA CONLIN: 12 My name is Gloria Conlin. I'm 13 not with any organization. On 14 February the 13th, the Baton Rouge 15 Advocate had an article about 16 concerns of the Baton Rouge Metro 17 Council and Eugene Owen, Executive 18 Chairman of the Baton Rouge Water 19 Company, regarding saltwater 20 intrusion into an important drinking 21 aquifer. 22 At first, the Louisiana Office of 23 Conservation Commissioner planned to 24 wait until at least late this year to 25 decide on the request for a hearing</p>	43	<p>1 was concerned enough about the Chicot 2 Aquifer to have a meeting with our 3 group, the AGL Resources, the DNR, 4 and the Office of Conservation. At 5 that time, Mr. Owen stated that 6 increased withdrawal from the Chicot 7 Aquifer proposed expansion well- 8 pumping would accelerate the rate of 9 potential contaminants, arsenic. 10 Steve Langlinais, Vermilion 11 Parish engineer, stated that the 12 expansion would lower the Chicot 13 Aquifer as much as 17 to 75-feet, 14 leading to more saltwater intrusion. 15 We asked for an environmental 16 statement to preclude our concerns, 17 but we have not gotten one. Our 18 concerns at that meeting in May -- 19 our concerns were not addressed by 20 the Office of Conservation. 21 At an August 4th, 2000 meeting in 22 New Iberia, the USGS gave 23 presentations that seemed to suggest 24 that there would be no problems with 25 the use of the Chicot with the</p>
42	<p>1 to address saltwater intrusion. A 2 study from the U.S. Geological Survey 3 on the saltwater intrusion issue was 4 to be completed in October, but 5 thankfully, we are here tonight. 6 Eugene Owen, a Baton Rouge 7 Director/Chairman of Utility 8 Holdings, Baton Rouge Water, parish 9 water, Ascension water, New Iberia 10 water stated that they are running 11 out of time. Mr. Owen is very 12 experienced and even reappointed to 13 the Capital Area Groundwater 14 Conservation District. 15 At first I thought, Mr. Owen and 16 Metro Council, I hope you have better 17 luck getting the Office of 18 Conservation to listen to you than 19 our group from Vermilion and Iberia 20 Parishes, about the use of the Chicot 21 Aquifer for the expansion of AGL 22 Resources' salt dome natural gas 23 storage at Jefferson Island. 24 In May of 2011, the Senate 25 Committee of the DEQ in Baton Rouge</p>	44	<p>1 expansion. The presentation was 2 emailed to the USGS director in 3 Washington, D.C. Director Marcia 4 McNutt answered, "It does not appear 5 that the USGS would have the 6 information to comment on this 7 project one way or another." 8 During Governor Foster's term, 9 the USGS stated, "The saltwater 10 extends inland as a wedge and is 11 overlain by freshwater. As water 12 levels in the aquifer declines, the 13 potential for inland movement of 14 saltwater increases." 15 So please, and he disappeared, 16 Commissioner Welsh, do not ignore 17 Eugene Owen's experience. People are 18 telling you that there are problems 19 with saltwater intrusion. 20 Public outreach meetings about a 21 comprehensive water plan for 22 Louisiana have been held throughout 23 the state this year. A summary of 24 recommendations was printed December 25 of 2011. This is a good start.</p>

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1 Aquifers recharge in geological time.  
 2 That means centuries or millennia,  
 3 instead of months. Today's rainfall  
 4 won't even begin filtering through  
 5 its pathway for more than 500 years.  
 6 This is according to Gary Hanson,  
 7 LSU-E.  
 8 One of our most valuable  
 9 resources is our water. Eugene Owen  
 10 is right saying, "I'm not going to  
 11 say it's been all talk and no action,  
 12 but it's been mostly talk and no  
 13 action. We're just out of talking  
 14 time." Thank you.  
 15 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:  
 16 Thank you, Ms. Conlin. Up next,  
 17 I have Mr. Eugene Owen. That was a  
 18 pretty good setup for you.  
 19 MR. EUGENE OWEN:  
 20 Mr. Canfield and Mr. Adams, I am  
 21 Eugene Owen, Executive Chairman of  
 22 Baton Rouge Water Company. The  
 23 stated purpose of this meeting is for  
 24 the purpose of discussing concerns  
 25 arising out of the potential for

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1 saltwater intrusion into the  
 2 groundwater aquifers supplying East  
 3 Baton Rouge Parish. The following  
 4 comments are offered on behalf of  
 5 Baton Rouge Water Company.  
 6 The Baton Rouge Water Works  
 7 Company is a public utility and has  
 8 functioned as the potable water  
 9 supplier to the general public in  
 10 Baton Rouge since 1888. The Baton  
 11 Rouge Water Works Company presently  
 12 supplies a population in its service  
 13 area of approximately 500,000 people.  
 14 This water, supplied entirely from  
 15 groundwater sources, employs more  
 16 than 81 operating water wells. These  
 17 wells produce water from all ten (10)  
 18 of the known freshwater bearing sands  
 19 underlying the East Baton Rouge  
 20 Parish area. All but two (2) of  
 21 these wells in East Baton Rouge  
 22 Parish are located north of Baton  
 23 Rouge geologic fault. Additionally,  
 24 Baton Rouge Water Works Company,  
 25 through an affiliate, operates

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1 approximately twelve (12) additional  
 2 very shallow freshwater wells located  
 3 in Ascension Parish.  
 4 In supplying the public water  
 5 supply demands of this service  
 6 population, Baton Rouge Water Works  
 7 Company, including the quantities  
 8 supplied to all of its affiliates,  
 9 produced in East Baton Rouge Parish  
 10 68-million gallons per day on the  
 11 average in 2010. Production for 2011  
 12 over 2010 increased by approximately  
 13 three percent (3%). In 2010 though,  
 14 all known groundwater withdrawals  
 15 within East Baton Rouge Parish  
 16 averaged at total of 154-million  
 17 gallons per day. Thus, Baton Rouge  
 18 Water Works withdrawal for all  
 19 potable purposes totaled forty-four  
 20 percent (44%) of the total  
 21 groundwater withdrawals by all users  
 22 in East Baton Rouge Parish.  
 23 Saltwater intrusion has been a  
 24 much discussed potential problem  
 25 since the early '60s. It was about

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1 then that the geologic fought  
 2 significance of the Baton Rouge fault  
 3 became fully understood. Since we  
 4 have wells of all depths, it may be  
 5 useful to discuss the instances where  
 6 we have experienced or now are  
 7 experiencing problems with respect to  
 8 saltwater intrusion.  
 9 Virtually all the groundwater in  
 10 any aquifer contains some small but  
 11 measurable amount of salt, usually  
 12 expressed as a concentration of  
 13 chlorides, and this small quantity is  
 14 what we term "background levels of  
 15 chlorides". It has been our  
 16 experience where a measuring point is  
 17 near the fault that once the level of  
 18 chlorides in the water departs from  
 19 background levels, then this is the  
 20 warning flag for saltwater intrusion.  
 21 In areas very near the fault, once the  
 22 chloride levels rise above background  
 23 levels, the chloride content may rise  
 24 and then recede, but it usually does  
 25 not return to background levels even

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1 during periods of lower pumping.  
 2 Sometimes this rise is relatively  
 3 swift over a period of a very few  
 4 years.  
 5 The chloride standards for potable  
 6 water purposes are a maximum  
 7 concentration of 250 milligrams per  
 8 liter. We have only one (1) well  
 9 located in the far southeast portion  
 10 of East Baton Rouge Parish and  
 11 developed in the 1,000-foot sand,  
 12 which is consistently above the 250  
 13 milligrams per liter limit. This well  
 14 is effectively shut-in for all but  
 15 emergency purposes. We have no other  
 16 active wells that are consistently  
 17 above the 250 milligrams per liter  
 18 secondary limit, although we have a  
 19 few wells scattered among the 1,000-  
 20 foot, 1,700-foot, the 1,500-foot and  
 21 the 2,000-foot sand, located near the  
 22 fault which sometimes approach but do  
 23 not remain above the 250 milligram per  
 24 liter limit.  
 25 We did, however, observe a general

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1 change in chloride content in some of  
 2 our wells as an aftermath of the 1998,  
 3 1999 and 2000 droughts. These were  
 4 each years of accelerated production  
 5 withdrawals by all water users,  
 6 including the Baton Rouge Water Works  
 7 Company. It was then that we observed  
 8 some wells departing from the  
 9 background levels to levels within the  
 10 potable limit, less than 250  
 11 milligrams per liter, but  
 12 nevertheless, representing a  
 13 significant departure from background  
 14 levels.  
 15 The current principal area of  
 16 concern for the Baton Rouge Water  
 17 Works Company is the threat of  
 18 approaching saltwater front moving  
 19 from the Baton Rouge fault north  
 20 toward producing well fields at  
 21 Government Street and Lula pumping  
 22 stations. There we have wells in the  
 23 1,500-foot sand at Lula and 1,500,  
 24 2,000-foot sands at Government Street.  
 25 This threat was different from the

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1 threat posed by departure from  
 2 background levels of chlorides at  
 3 isolated wells near the fault, because  
 4 this threatened a concentration of  
 5 wells located at these pumping  
 6 stations. This concentration of wells  
 7 constitutes an important portion of  
 8 our productive capacity.  
 9 In 1998, as Mr. Duplechin has just  
 10 testified, the Capital Area  
 11 Groundwater Conservation Commission,  
 12 acting through a grant from the  
 13 federal government, installed south of  
 14 Government Street what is termed a  
 15 "connector well". This well, without  
 16 pumping involved, connected the 800-  
 17 foot sand with the 1,500-foot sand.  
 18 The static pressure in the 800-foot  
 19 sand was higher than the pressure in  
 20 the 1,500-foot sand, and so the  
 21 resultant flow of water from the 800-  
 22 foot sand to the 1,500-foot sand  
 23 resulted in a pressure ridge so that  
 24 this hydraulic -- this interrupted the  
 25 flow or prevented the flow of

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1 saltwater, or impeded the flow of  
 2 saltwater as it came across the fault  
 3 towards wells at Government Street at  
 4 least for a time.  
 5 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:  
 6 Mr. Owen, I just wanted to let you  
 7 know that your five (5) minutes is up.  
 8 Do you think you can summarize in  
 9 thirty (30) seconds, or would you like  
 10 to come back after everyone else has  
 11 had a chance.  
 12 MR. EUGENE OWEN:  
 13 I can summarize in one (1) minute  
 14 if you'll grant me that.  
 15 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:  
 16 I'll grant you one (1) minute.  
 17 MR. EUGENE OWEN:  
 18 Unfortunately, we have learned in  
 19 the past two (2) years that the  
 20 saltwater that was effectively blocked  
 21 to the east of the connector well, but  
 22 the saltwater found a route west of  
 23 the connector well and is moving  
 24 toward our six (6) wells in the 1,500-  
 25 foot sand at Lula. Production from

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1 these Lula wells total seventeen  
2 percent (17%) of production from all  
3 wells.  
4 We have found through a study, a  
5 copy of which has previously been  
6 submitted electronically both to the  
7 Capital Area Groundwater Commission  
8 and to the Commission of Conservation.  
9 We have found through these studies  
10 that this exploratory well developed a  
11 procedure in which we can develop some  
12 scavenger wells which would  
13 effectively intercept the saltwater as  
14 its moving toward the 1500-foot well  
15 at Lula at about the rate at which the  
16 saltwater is coming across the fault.  
17 The effect of this would be to extend  
18 or perhaps a period of as long a fifty  
19 (50) years, our vital supplies at  
20 Lula, Government Street and North 45th  
21 Street. We expect to begin  
22 construction of these scavenger wells  
23 within the next four (4) to five (5)  
24 months, and to complete these  
25 scavenger wells within the next year

1 which is scheduled in April has more  
2 than a 60-day notice, and that's what  
3 you should be looking at. And then  
4 you should provide for a least 30-days  
5 after the meeting and hearing for  
6 public input.  
7 The turnout here tonight is really  
8 good, but it's pathetic for the  
9 potential and real adverse impacts  
10 which are happening for the water  
11 supply for more than one-half-million  
12 people. The causes of those problems  
13 are very obvious, but the Office of  
14 Conservation and all of the other --  
15 the officials in the Office of  
16 Conservation and the officials in all  
17 of the other State and Local  
18 Government Agencies have done a  
19 totally inaccurate job of identifying  
20 problems and possible solutions.  
21 For instance, you should have with  
22 you representatives from the Louisiana  
23 Department of Health and Hospital, the  
24 Department of Natural Resources, the  
25 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,

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1 to eighteen (18) months.  
2 In summary, Baton Rouge has always  
3 enjoyed some of the finest, softest  
4 and purest water of any place in the  
5 United States. We hope to keep it  
6 that way, and we hope to continue  
7 supplying this water for generations  
8 to come. Thank you.  
9 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:  
10 Thank you. The next speaker I  
11 have is Mr. Willie Fontenot.  
12 MR. WILLIE FONTENOT:  
13 Thank you. As you know, my name  
14 is Willie Fontenot, and I live at 632  
15 Drury Avenue in Baton Rouge, and I've  
16 been living in Baton Rouge since 1975  
17 at that address.  
18 This is a very important meeting.  
19 Unfortunately, the Office of  
20 Conservation has done a totally  
21 inadequate job of notifying the public  
22 about this meeting. You should have  
23 given the public at least a 60-day  
24 notice before holding a meeting like  
25 this. At least the public hearing

1 the Department of Agriculture and  
2 numerous other agencies, and certainly  
3 the various water companies in the  
4 area should be here. There should be  
5 more officials in this room than the  
6 number of people in the room today.  
7 And unless you do a better job of  
8 notifying the public when meetings  
9 like this are taking place, and you  
10 can do it, I know you can do it --  
11 unless you do an adequate job of  
12 notifying the public and getting the  
13 people here, you are not going to be  
14 able to do what needs to be done.  
15 When I first talked to Mr.  
16 A. N. Turcan who used to be the chief  
17 staff person with the Capital Area  
18 Groundwater Commission, he expressed  
19 concerns -- and this was back in the  
20 1970s. And I think it was in 1985  
21 that he told me that when the Georgia-  
22 Pacific Paper Mill went on line,  
23 within two (2) years there was a  
24 measurable drop in the groundwater at  
25 Hattiesburg, Mississippi. So this

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57	<p>1 cone of depression is not just 2 something that's happening underneath 3 Baton Rouge. It's a very extensive 4 cone, and it goes out many miles. I 5 mean, Hattiesburg is not across the 6 street. It is more than 60-miles to 7 the east. When the Georgia-Pacific 8 Paper Mill went online, there used to 9 be artesian wells in East Baton Rouge 10 Parish and parishes near East Baton 11 Rouge. All of the artesian wells 12 within 30, 40, 50-miles of Baton Rouge 13 quit flowing within two (2) years of 14 Georgia-Pacific going online. And I 15 think the presenters this evening have 16 done a very good job, but they've not 17 done an accurate job, and you need to 18 provide more information to the public 19 so that the public understands the 20 magnitude of this problem. What they 21 have now is just totally inadequate 22 for people to be able to understand 23 why they need to be involved and how 24 they may be involved. And I think you 25 have some laws that you and the other</p>	59	<p>1 implement this provision. And I 2 believe the Legislature has done a 3 totally inadequate job of making sure 4 that officials like you have the 5 ability to protect, restore and 6 enhance our water resources. And 7 there's a very dramatic and clear 8 connection between surface water and 9 groundwater. 10 The industries in this area have 11 caused some major changes in water 12 quality. There have been past 13 reports, nothing in the discussions 14 that you're dealing with the 15 groundwater here, have dealt with the 16 very serious contaminations, 17 industries like Ethel Corporation, 18 which have serious groundwater 19 contamination hundreds of feet below 20 the surface. The first reports that 21 came out of the Capital Area 22 Groundwater Conservation Commission 23 and the Department of Natural 24 Resources about groundwater 25 contamination from industry was back</p>
58	<p>1 state and local officials should be 2 using, but you're not using. And I 3 would go to Article 9 of the Louisiana 4 Constitution which was adopted by the 5 people of Louisiana in 1974. Article 6 9 basically deals with natural 7 resources, and it is the primary legal 8 jurisdiction which provides you the 9 ability to deal with natural resources 10 like oil and natural gas. But it's 11 also -- I think you need to look at 12 Article 9, Section 1 of the 13 constitution. And I'll tell you what 14 it sort of says. I won't get it 15 exactly correct, but it says, the 16 Department of Natural Resources of the 17 state, including air and water, and 18 the healthful scenic esthetic and 19 historic qualities of the environment 20 shall be protected, replenished and 21 restored as much as possible 22 consistent with the health, safety and 23 welfare of the people. And then the 24 second sentence it says, the 25 Legislature shall adopt laws to</p>	60	<p>1 in 1983, and that was an accident more 2 than a responsible action by the 3 agencies or the industries. So I 4 think -- I would really appreciate you 5 doing a better job with involving the 6 other state agencies, or officials 7 from the other state agencies, that 8 need to be at these meetings and 9 hearings. This meeting and the 10 hearing you're planning on having 11 should have been held thirty (30) or 12 forty (40) years ago. You're way 13 behind the ball. Thank you. 14 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD: 15 Thank you, Mr. Fontenot. The next 16 speaker is Mr. Hays Town. 17 MR. HAYS TOWN: 18 Thank you. My name is Hays Town 19 from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and I 20 represent Baton Rouge Citizens to Save 21 Our Water. I was very pleased with 22 the Commissioner's statement that 23 started the meeting where he said he 24 was going to stop the saltwater 25 intrusion and refresh it. That would</p>

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1 really be a wonderful thing if he  
2 could do it. And I was pleased with  
3 Mr. Adams recognizing the situation  
4 where the water table and the  
5 hydraulic head had gone down 200 to  
6 300-feet in some these locations.  
7 And also, Mr. John Lovelace said  
8 that eight (8) of the nine (9) areas  
9 where they tested sands had saltwater  
10 intrusion that was increasing. So my  
11 question is why are we just doing the  
12 1,500-foot and the 2,000-foot sand,  
13 when we easily could take the whole  
14 area and make some changes and help  
15 save it for future generations? Mr.  
16 Duplechin read you a whole litany of  
17 things that had been done starting in  
18 1964, I believe, or before. And if  
19 you go through that litany, nothing  
20 has ever happened to stop the  
21 saltwater intrusion. And I think the  
22 people of Baton Rouge are very  
23 concerned that this intrusion be  
24 stopped or reduced to a minimum.  
25 And I'll say the thing that nobody

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1 has said so far. I believe that  
2 industries ought to go to river water  
3 and let the deep well water be for the  
4 general public. That's the only way  
5 that we can gain sustainability. I  
6 also believe that the people of Baton  
7 Rouge ought to use less water along  
8 with that. Some people might not like  
9 that idea, but that's what I believe.  
10 And I believe it's incumbent upon the  
11 Commission of Conservation to secure  
12 sustainability for the drinking water  
13 for the people in this area. Thank  
14 you very much.  
15 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:  
16 Thank you, Mr. Town. The next  
17 card I have is for Mr. Henry Graham.  
18 MR. HENRY GRAHAM:  
19 Good evening. My name is Henry  
20 Graham with the Louisiana Chemical  
21 Association.  
22 Certainly as representing an  
23 industry that is vital to the State of  
24 Louisiana and to the economy of the  
25 Baton Rouge area, we certainly support

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1 the Office of Conservation's efforts  
2 here. We have been for many years  
3 working with the Department and also  
4 with the Capital Area Groundwater  
5 Conservation District to reduce usage  
6 to minimize our impact on the aquifer  
7 system. We support the comprehensive  
8 modeling studies that are being  
9 performed by the U.S. Geological  
10 Survey, and we certainly feel that  
11 some of this model consumption  
12 information will be very valuable in  
13 putting more accurate picture as it  
14 terms of the usage of the aquifer, and  
15 what potential sources that could  
16 alleviate the intrusion or restrict  
17 the future intrusion of the aquifer  
18 for saltwater purposes.  
19 I point out to you a couple items,  
20 and then I'll ask a couple of  
21 questions. This item has been talked  
22 about and discussed for many years.  
23 That's what's pointed out in the  
24 history of the Commission and  
25 groundwater management wall. A more

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1 recent study that was prepared in  
2 2002, the Statewide Water Management  
3 Plan, identified some situations here,  
4 more particularly in the Baton Rouge  
5 area. That may be something you want  
6 to look at in a more greater detail.  
7 I point out on Figure 4-42 of  
8 there, on that particular map they do  
9 show a simplicity view of the  
10 saltwater encroachment. And that  
11 saltwater encroachment is approaching,  
12 or was at that point in time,  
13 approaching the Government Street and  
14 the wells that are owned by the Baton  
15 Rouge Water Company. I am under the  
16 impression that Baton Rouge Water  
17 Company actually is a private company  
18 that supply and for profit water, not  
19 only for public supply, but for  
20 commercial and industrial use as well.  
21 So a question that comes to our mind  
22 in terms of usage of the aquifer for  
23 the future, when we ask ourselves what  
24 the future of our children and  
25 grandchildren, is it correct to allow



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65	<p>1 one (1) company to have a monopoly of 2 the entire groundwater Baton Rouge for 3 their profit purposes, and restrict 4 industries use that provides jobs and 5 allow them to take the water and sell 6 it to commercial and other industries, 7 and to actually sell water outside the 8 Parish of East Baton Rouge. 9 So those are priorities that I 10 think that the citizens of East Baton 11 Rouge would have to address. But what 12 we would like to do is look at the 13 signs. When we examine past data, and 14 that's why we're hopeful that the 15 future data will give us a more 16 accurate representation, we see the 17 greatest influence of the saltwater 18 intruding across this fault coming 19 from the Baton Rouge Water Company's 20 wells, not from the industries' wells. 21 Our wells have problems with 22 (inaudible) like theirs, but the 23 waters -- their wells are so close to 24 the fault, that its pouring saltwater 25 across the fault. And this was</p>	67	<p>1 consumption, but for business and 2 people to have jobs in Baton Rouge, or 3 are we going to allow one (1) company 4 to take this water and use it as they 5 wish for their own customers. And 6 that's the concern that we raise with 7 this. We want to work with the 8 Commission and the Department, and 9 we're certainly hopeful that the 10 information that's provided will be a 11 more scientific approach and the 12 greater expect to what the true 13 concerns are. Because we are 14 concerned about the saltwater 15 intrusion. Some of our processors 16 need good quality water, whether that 17 water comes from the river and is 18 treated, or whether it comes from 19 groundwater. And a lot of our 20 companies now are looking very 21 carefully in which water supply uses 22 we have, to go to surface water where 23 we can. There are some applications 24 and particular products that are 25 better served using the groundwater,</p>
66	<p>1 something that was pointed out in the 2 1984 study and in the 2002 study. It 3 was discussed, okay, that perhaps one 4 of the ways to address this was for 5 this private company to simply move 6 its infrastructure further north away 7 from the fault. They chose not to do 8 that. They chose to continue pumping, 9 and in this case, it did -- because it 10 got so close to the Government Street 11 well, it measures -- well now the 12 major well is at Lula Street and 13 they're pulling the water in that 14 direction. Okay? Well, what has 15 changed since then. The industry 16 reduced our consumption by about ten- 17 percent (10%), even though we've made 18 some major expansions, yet the growth 19 in the Baton Rouge area, it continues 20 to be outside of Baton Rouge, and 21 that's where a lot of the water is 22 being supplied. 23 So the question is, is the 24 groundwater going to be available for 25 the uses, not only for human</p>	68	<p>1 simply because as Mr. Owen pointed 2 out, this is the best groundwater 3 probably in the country. And if this 4 water can be pulled from the ground 5 with very little treatment, then 6 that's one simple reason why Baton 7 Rouge Water Company doesn't move 8 further north, because it may have to 9 treat some of that water. It doesn't 10 use many of the wells south of here 11 because it would have to spend money 12 to treat water. 13 So it's an economic decision that 14 they made to continue to pull water 15 from wells that are very close to this 16 aquifer. And they will have to answer 17 for why they continue to do that when 18 the data suggests that perhaps they 19 could do some things to reduce that 20 water from movement. 21 We in the industry want to do our 22 part, but we want to ask that all 23 potential configures to concerned of 24 saltwater intrusion be examined. And 25 when someone is commercially pulling</p>

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1 water, all of the water they're  
2 pulling is not just for human  
3 consumption. A lot of it is for  
4 commercial use, and when you sell it  
5 to a third party, is that actually  
6 personal use or not.  
7 So those are some concerns that we  
8 raise. We hope that the Commission  
9 will get sufficient information. We  
10 ask the Commission to use caution, to  
11 examine the information and the data  
12 that comes before you.  
13 Thank you.  
14 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:  
15 Thank you. The remainder of the  
16 cards I have actually state that the  
17 persons do not wish to speak. Is  
18 there anybody who has not spoken  
19 tonight and who would like to speak.  
20 Yes.  
21 MS. KATHY WASCOM:  
22 I'm Kathy Wascom representing  
23 Louisiana Action Network --  
24 Environmental Action Network. The  
25 Baton Rouge area groundwater, of

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1 course, is our drinking water. We  
2 prefer to consistently refer to  
3 groundwater, potable water, but we are  
4 most concerned with our drinking water  
5 and how it impacts our health, our  
6 city and mostly our families. And to  
7 correlate the use of groundwater for  
8 making, you know, toilet paper with  
9 drinking water, there has to be some  
10 importance put on drinking water.  
11 It's not one or the other, but it's  
12 the usage of the water for the  
13 community. And I think that we have  
14 to look at the importance of the  
15 drinking water to the whole community.  
16 And it is the Greater Baton Rouge  
17 area, because the Baton Rouge Water  
18 Company has water in Ascension, or has  
19 water in New Iberia or has water in  
20 other parts of the state, does not  
21 diminish in any way the importance of  
22 good drinking water for our community.  
23 And this is essentially what we are  
24 concerned about, is having good  
25 drinking water for the community. And

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1 if the industries can use the surface  
2 water and the river water, even if  
3 they have to treat it. It might be an  
4 extra expense, but nothing really is  
5 more important to the health and  
6 sustainability, not only of the people  
7 here, but of the economics of the city  
8 to have good drinking water for all of  
9 us. Thank you.  
10 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:  
11 Thank you, Ms. Wascom. Would you  
12 mind filling out that blue card before  
13 you leave? Was there anyone else who  
14 did not get a chance to speak, but  
15 would like to speak now.  
16 Well, with being all the comment  
17 cards and not seeing anybody else who  
18 wishes to speak, that's going to  
19 conclude tonight's meeting.  
20 I would like to thank everybody  
21 for attending and participating.  
22 MR. EUGENE OWEN:  
23 Mr. Canfield?  
24 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:  
25 Yes, sir.

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1 MR. EUGENE OWEN:  
2 May I correct a misstatement by  
3 Mr. Graham?  
4 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:  
5 Since I cut you off earlier, I'll  
6 let you.  
7 MR. EUGENE OWEN:  
8 Thank you. Two (2) things that  
9 Mr. Graham might be interested in.  
10 One (1) is that the wells that he  
11 refers to as being too close to the  
12 fault were actually drilled  
13 principally before the significance of  
14 the Baton Rouge geologic fault was  
15 realized. They were in the mid '50s  
16 and early '60s, but most of all there  
17 was one exception of that which was  
18 later than that. And secondly, the  
19 Baton Rouge Water Company does supply  
20 water to commercial customers. We do  
21 not supply, to the best of my  
22 knowledge and belief, any process  
23 water for any industrial customer.  
24 MR. BLAKE CANFIELD:  
25 Thank you. Again, thank you for

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<p>73</p> <p>1 attending, and let me remind everyone 2 that the upcoming hearing scheduled 3 for April 12th, 2012 at 6 p.m. It 4 will take place in this same room, and 5 of course, everyone that is here 6 tonight is invited to that hearing. 7 If you would like to submit any 8 additional comments for consideration, 9 you may do so by mailing or delivering 10 them to the Environmental Division, 11 The Office of Conservation, located on 12 the 11th floor of this building, 617 13 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, 14 Louisiana 70802. Please reference 15 Docket Number ENV 2012-01 in any 16 written statements. 17 And thank you, again, and have a 18 great evening. 19 20 21 THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 7:09 P.M. 22 23 24 25</p>	
<p>74</p> <p>1 C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E 2 3 STATE OF LOUISIANA 4 PARISH OF LAFAYETTE 5 6 I, RUTH E. FORET, Certified Court 7 Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby 8 certify that on the 8th day of March, 9 2012, as aforesaid, I proceeded to 10 report the meeting of the Office of 11 Conservation regarding the saltwater 12 encroachment in the Baton Rouge area 13 and the role of the Office of 14 Conservation in groundwater 15 management. 16 The foregoing seventy-three (73) 17 pages of the transcription has been 18 reported and transcribed to the best 19 of my ability. 20 21 22 23 <u>RUTH E. FORET, CCR -#87131</u> 24 25</p>	