REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Actions in Louisiana.

DATE: January 14, 2016 CONTACT: Kay Schwab, 6WQ-PO

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: For Information Only, at this time.

DEADLINE DATE: N/A

BACKGROUND: There are three ongoing permit actions that EPA R6 is coordinating with LDEQ: 1) City of Shreveport (North Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant), regarding authorization for wet weather discharges, 2) Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP), (a joint federal and state permit) regarding analytical data needed for the brine discharge, and 3) a proposed General Permit (GP) for the Louisiana Department of Transportation (DOT) and Development, (would be the first GP issued for a DOT in R6), there are challenges in providing clarity and meeting the minimum regulatory requirements using the general permit format..

CURRENT STATUS: Coordination is ongoing between EPA R6 and LDEQ.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS: Coordination of these permit actions will ensure that the final permits include the necessary requirements to make sure that the state's water quality standards are met.

TECHNICAL CONCERNS:

- Shreveport – Concerns with wet weather treatment technology.

LOOP – Challenges modeling offshore subsurface brine discharges.

REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Shreveport – EPA has been sued over wet weather "blending".
- LOOP – Similar facilities with brine discharges have specific permit requirements for their brine discharges so EPA must create a level "playing field."
- La DOT GP – This permit would likely be used as a "model" permit for other R6 state DOTs so EPA HQs has been involved.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS: None at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None at this time.