Honorable Mitch Landrieu, Mayor
City of New Orleans, Louisiana

Issue: Devastating flooding across the State of Louisiana

Message:

The Nation is aware of the recent devastating flood events across the State of Louisiana and that 56 of the 64 parishes were declared national disasters. In Louisiana, excessive flooding occurs throughout the State on a fairly frequent basis. It is critical that communities enact the tenets of sustainability in their rebuilding and resiliency efforts.

EPA provided a Sustainability Advisor to support FEMA's recovery efforts. This position works to bring EPA resources, technical assistance, and training to communities impacted by flooding. The Sustainability Advisor integrates across FEMA's six Recovery Support Functions: Community Planning and Capacity Building (FEMA), Economic Recovery (DOC), Health and Social Services (HHS), Housing (HUD), Infrastructure (COE), and Cultural and Natural Resources (DOI).

Background/Status:

In 2016, the State of Louisiana endured two great flood events: FEMA-DR-4263-LA and FEMA-DR-4277-LA, flooding 56 of the 64 parishes across watersheds. The State's proposed flood recovery plan is now available at: http://restore.la.gov/flood-recovery-action-plan-available/. EPA works to bring resources, technical assistance, and training to communities to build capacity for sustainable development and redevelopment.

Contact: William Honker 214 665-3187

Issue: Additional monitoring requirements for brine discharges from Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP),

Message:

LOOP discharges brine into a subsegment of the Gulf of Mexico which is not meting one of its designated uses of fish and wildlife propagation. Highly concentrated brine discharges (approximate total dissolved solids (TDS)concentration of 318,500 mg/l) potentially impact the designated uses of the waterbody. Seawater typically has a TDS of approximately 35,000 mg/l.

On September 22, 2016, EPA proposed an option to LDEQ to provide flexibility in gathering information regarding potential toxicity concerns for brine discharges.

Background/Status:

In connection with its process of retrieving oil stored in underground salt dome caverns, the LOOP facility discharges concentrated brine into a segment of the Gulf of Mexico which is not meeting its designated fishing use.

The existing wastewater permit expired September 30, 2013. LDEQ developed a draft permit for reissuance and the facility opposed the inclusion of biomonitoring requirements.

The inclusion of appropriate monitoring requirements in the permit is needed in order to support one of the receiving water's designated uses of fish and wildlife propagation (fishing).

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