Honorable Mitch Landrieu, Mayor
City of New Orleans, Louisiana

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).

Contact: Isaac Chen, (214) 665-7364; Silvia Bogdan, (214) 665-2749; and Kay Schwab, (214) 665-6635, EPA, Region 6

Issue: Residents in and near Colfax, Louisiana residents are concerned about Clean Harbors, LLC's operation of an open burn facility in their community.

Message:

- Among the residents' concerns is the status of a lagoon which provides storage for runoff from the facility's burn pad. When the lagoon has reached its capacity due to high rainfall events, the lagoon has discharged toxic contaminants into waters of the US.

- Region 6 representatives of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act programs joined Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality officials to participate a community meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, on November 17, 2016, in response to citizen concerns from the Central Louisiana Coalition for a Clean and Healthy Environment (CLCCHE).

Background/Status: Clean Harbors Colfax operates a hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility for the thermal treatment of reactive/explosive waste. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) issued an Order to this facility on October 27, 2016, which in part, required the facility to immediately cease discharges from Outfall 001.

Contact: Richard Wooster, 665-6473; Brad Crawford, 665-7255; Kay Schwab, 665-6635, EPA Region 6