



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO

GOVERNOR

MIKE D. McDANIEL, Ph.D.

SECRETARY

For Immediate Release

Sept. 15, 2006

Contact: Rodney Mallett

Telephone: 225.219.3964

DEQ to conduct water survey on Grays Creek near Denham Springs

BATON ROUGE - - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will be installing electronic monitoring equipment on Sept. 19 in Grays Creek in Livingston Parish. This equipment will be used in conjunction with a water sampling survey on the creek located near Denham Springs from the headwaters at Hwy. 1026 to its confluence with the Amite River near Port Vincent. The survey is being conducted to gather water quality information that will be used to restore and protect the waterbody. The survey will end Sept. 22.

The equipment will be mounted on rebar, fence posts, white PVC poles, or buoys. Citizens are asked not to tamper with the equipment. During the survey, a bright red, non-toxic dye will be injected into the water. Citizens who notice the red coloration of the water should not be alarmed. The waterbody will return to its normal state and color by the end of the day. The dye is used to determine flow and distribution patterns of the bayou. These patterns are used to establish sampling points for the survey and to aid in the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load.

A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant that can be released into a waterbody without causing it to become impaired and/or violate state water quality standards. TMDLs are used as a basis for establishing wastewater discharge limits. The data gathered from the survey will be used to identify suspected pollutants in the bayou that may cause or contribute to low oxygen levels in the water.

For further information about the TMDL program and the watershed sampling survey, please contact Kirk Manuel with DEQ at (225) 219-3513 or visit www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/130/Default.aspx.

--30--

DEQ COMMUNICATIONS
WWW.DEQ.LOUISIANA.GOV