



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

HAROLD LEGGETT, Ph.D.
SECRETARY

For Immediate Release
July 16, 2009

Contact: Jean Kelly
Telephone: 225-219-3966

DEQ to conduct water survey on Ponchitolawa Creek near Covington.

BATON ROUGE - - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will be installing electronic monitoring equipment in conjunction with a water sampling survey on Ponchitolawa Creek in St. Tammany Parish. The equipment will be installed July 20 to 24. The units will be located near Covington.

The survey is being conducted to gather water quality information that will be used to restore and protect the waterbody. The data gathered from the survey will be used to identify suspected pollutants in the creek that may cause or contribute to low oxygen levels in the water.

Citizens are asked not to tamper with the equipment that will be mounted on rebar, fence posts, white PVC poles or buoys. 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, which 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.

For further information about the TMDL program and the watershed sampling survey, please contact David Greenwood with DEQ at (225) 219-3618 or visit the website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/130/Default.aspx>

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

: PO BOX 4301, BATON ROUGE, LA 70821-4301
P:225-219-3953 F:225-219-3971
WWW.DEQ.LOUISIANA.GOV