

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
November 13, 2012

Two Projects, Three States and \$9 Million: BP Spill Restoration Projects Get Tentative OK for Florida, Alabama and Mississippi

BP and the federal/state Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) trustees have agreed to move ahead with two projects to restore nesting habitat for sea turtles and shore birds in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi at a total cost of \$9 million. The funds for the projects will come from the \$1 billion early NRDA fund created by BP following the Deep Water Horizon spill in 2010. BP styled these latest "early NRDA" projects as part of BP's "unprecedented commitment to contribute" to early restoration. Louisiana's lead trustee commended the project but noted that at the rate the projects were being approved it would take 29 years to fund Louisiana's \$500 million restoration project list. The projects will now be subject to a 30 day public comment period hearing. The project plans can be found at www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov.
http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/11/two_more_bp_spill_early_restor.html#

Corps Study finds Post-Katrina Levee Systems are not to Blame for Hurricane Isaac's High Surge

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently published their post-storm study evaluating the effects of the post-Katrina levee system. During last Friday's news conference, Col. Ed Fleming, commander of the Corps' New Orleans office, said the surge heights from Hurricane Isaac were greater than what is generally expected with a category 1 hurricane. However, the [report](#) shows the levee system was not the cause of the water surges. Other factors such as rain falling in amounts of 8 to 20 inches, the slow speed of the storm, and the location of the storm's landfall were the primary contributors to record levels for surge heights. The study shows that although the structures did affect surge levels, it was an additional average of an inch and therefore not the primary force behind the surge damage.

[Blame Hurricane Isaac, not post-Katrina levee system, for high surge, corps study says, Mark Shleifstein, The Times-Picayune, November 9, 2012.](#)

Crumbling Sewerage and Water Infrastructure Straining City Budgets Across the Country

Hundred-year-old pipes and pumps are leaking water and sewage and cities must find a balance between salvaging infrastructure as it falls apart one water-main break at a time and an expensive revamp of an entire system. Meanwhile users will be seeing rising costs one way or the other: paying for the wasted resources and inconsistent service or big-ticket system-wide renovation.

[Sewage Backups, Water Leaks Threaten Municipal Budgets, Joe Richter, Bloomberg, Nov. 8, 2012](#)

The Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and stewardship of water.

Coming up:

[December 6, 2012](#)

America's Wetland Foundation
"Big River Lives"
St. Louis, MO

[January 17, 2013](#)

America's Wetland Foundation
"Big River Provides"
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

[February 22-23, 2013](#)

18th Annual Tulane Environmental Summit

[February 27-28, 2013](#)

America's Wetland Foundation
"Big River Moves"
Chicago, IL

Job Opportunities:

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Freshwater Institute



Assistant-Associate Professor
Assistant Dir Water Policy Center Position



Research Manager
Water Policy Center F

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Louisiana Water Resources Commission Sets First Meeting.

The first meeting of the new Louisiana Water Resources Commission will be held on Wednesday, December 5, at 11:00 a.m. in the LaBelle Room of the LaSalle Building located at 617 North 3rd Street in Baton Rouge, LA. This commission was fashioned out of the Ground Water Resources Commission by the Legislature in its 2012 regular session. This meeting had originally been scheduled to be held on September 19 but was postponed. No agenda or Commission roster is available at this time. For more information go to: <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=66>

Baton Rouge Ground Water Update: LA Department of Conservation Announces "Water-Wise in BR" Public Education Program

The Louisiana Commissioner of Conservation has kicked off a program to promote better public understanding of the Southern Hills aquifer the main source of water for Baton Rouge. That aquifer has been under great stress from salt water intrusion. The program is a pilot program for an anticipated state wide effort to enhance public understanding of the importance of conserving groundwater throughout the state. The news release is available at www.dnr.louisiana.gov.

New Orleans Mayor Announces Plans to Change Sewerage and Water Board

Providing water and sewer service in New Orleans has never been easy but years of deferred maintenance, a shrunken rate base, and paralyzing politics have stretched the system to if not past the breaking point. The need for new revenues to mend the system and chart a new course has put the water management of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board and the City of New Orleans on the table. Responding to that need and to recommendations by a number of civic organizations (including a special task force that included Institute Director Mark Davis) Mayor Mitch Landrieu has proposed amending the laws governing the Sewerage and Water Board to reduce its size, composition and the term of Board members. He also has called for closer coordination with other City agencies and more transparent contracting and public service procedures. http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/11/mayor_mitch_landrieu_proposes_2.html