



Office of the Mayor-President

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Parish of East Baton Rouge

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MELVIN L. "KIP" HOLDEN
Mayor-President

July 8, 2015

Peggy Hatch
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
602 N. Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

In Re: Tubal Cain Marine Barge Washing Facility

Dear Secretary Hatch:

As Mayor-President of the City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge, I am making an urgent request on behalf of the citizens of Baton Rouge and numerous other entities that you delay a hearing on this matter for at least 30 to 60 days.

The number of entities and people that could be impacted both health wise and economically is astronomical. Granting a permit to this company has dire consequences, many of them not known at this time.

We need to know if there have been modifications to the original permit application to allow additional chemicals to be handled in this proposed cleaning process. What does Bryan Johnston, senior environmental scientist in the air permit division, mean when he says, "[A]s to what kinds of chemicals the facility will handle will depend on what they can take in to meet their permit requirements"? How can he say (Mr. Johnston) "this company is not involved in a process that lends itself to some really nasty incident, whether it be a shelter in place or something like that"?

The unanswered questions and lives of people do not dictate an urgency on the part of DEQ to grant this permit. Based on the magnitude of one event, we can find ourselves in a situation that no one can ever recover from. Common sense and not politics must rule in this case. As was stated in the "Alsen vs. Rollins Environmental Services" case, once hazardous always hazardous.

I await your response and am available should you have any questions or need any further information. I can be reached either at my office at (225) 389-5102 or on my cell at (225) 284-9912.

Sincerely,

Melvin L. "Kip" Holden
Mayor-President