

STATE OF LOUISIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

BATON ROUGE

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EWE 92 - 93

WHEREAS: from 1990 to 1992, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) undertook a comparative risk evaluation initiative to identify the environmental issues that pose the greatest risk to Louisiana citizens' health and quality of life, as well as this state's ecosystem; known as the Louisiana Environmental Action Plan or LEAP to 2000 project; and

WHEREAS: this Project has been conducted in a precedent setting, collaborative fashion, designed to build a broad-based consensus to identify and help resolve Louisiana's environmental issues; and

WHEREAS: in conducting this Project, the DEQ invited 11 other Departments to participate in both the Project Technical and the Steering Committees, and these Departments actively participated; and

WHEREAS: a Public Advisory Committee (PAC) was also organized, consisting of representatives of the full range of constituencies impacted by the decisions made on environmental matters in Louisiana. Business and industry (including chemical, oil and gas, pulp and paper and waster management), local and federal government agencies and private citizens were represented on this PAC; and

WHEREAS: the Public Advisory and Steering Committees (collectively referred to as the PASC) have studied the work of the Technical Committee, prepared a list of Louisiana's environmental problems, ranked in order of priority; and

WHEREAS: representatives of the PASC have met jointly and developed a positive working relationship; and

WHEREAS: the PASC has worked cooperatively to review and ratify the LEAP to 2000 Project Report, that includes: a Vision Statement describing their environmental goals for Louisiana for the year 2000; a prioritized ranking of Louisiana's most pressing environmental issues; a summary of perceived obstacles to reducing risks to the environment; and, themes to guide the implementation of LEAP; and

WHEREAS: in order to complete the LEAP to 2000 Project, it is appropriate and necessary that the existence of the Public Advisory Committee be perpetuated to enable citizens from the full range of interests to participate in the implementation of the action strategies, and to ensure that the state Departments who have been involved in this Project continue the spirit of collaboration, and to assist

the Departments in developing and adopting long-term action plan which respond to the high priority issues the Committees identified.

NOW THEREFORE I, EDWIN W. EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct that the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) already established under the LEAP to 2000 Project be officially recognized and authorized to carry out the duties and responsibilities listed below.

SECTION 1: STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A. The PAC's first task under this Order will be to appoint two co-chairs, who will schedule and facilitate meetings. The two co-chairs' responsibility shall be to continue the cooperative, collaborative spirit which has characterized this group's interactions to date. The PAC will select individuals to serve as co-chairs based on the ability these individuals have demonstrated in prior meetings to work in a constructive, conciliatory manner and to ensure a fair exchange of information.

B. The co-chairs' goal will be to continue improving relationships among PAC members and the interest groups they represent, to enhance the trust between them they have already established, and to enable the PAC to continue its work using a consensual decision-making process. To achieve this goal, the first task of the co-chairs will be to convene the PAC to develop a set of ground rules by which the PAC will function.

C. The co-chairs will be responsible for the basic functions needed to carry out the work of the PAC, including scheduling of meetings, working with Project support staff to prepare project reports, and in consultation with the PAC, replacement of any member or constituency who can no longer participate.

D. The PAC already formed under the Project consists of representatives from: 3 parish governments, 5 representatives of the chemical industry, the oil and gas industry, the waste management industry, the paper industry, 2 civic organizations, a medical professional, a professor, the U. S. Minerals Management Service, the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, 6 local environmental groups, 4 state environmental groups, a state sporting organization, a national governmental group, a labor/union organization, and 3 citizens.

E. Each existing member of the PAC will have the opportunity to decide whether they are interested in continuing to participate. If so, these individuals will be given preference to represent their constituency. The PAC will identify a Membership Subcommittee of itself to review the make-up of the PAC after the members have had an opportunity to continue their participation. The Membership Subcommittee will review the PAC make-up after individuals have decided whether to continue their participation. The Membership Subcommittee will determine whether the PAC needs additional

members to maintain its geographic representatives, diversity, and balance. If so, the Membership Subcommittee will work the PAC and LEAP support personnel to identify potential replacements. The membership of the new PAC shall be decided upon no later than October 31, 1992.

F. In addition to the existing membership, the following state officials are requested to appoint key staff members as liaisons and observers to work with the PAC:

1. President of the Senate
2. Speaker of the House of Representatives
3. Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Natural Resources
4. Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
5. Chair of the Standing House Committee on Natural Resources

The PAC may, as its discretion, request that additional state officials appoint liaisons to help complete its work. The participation of these liaisons will help ensure that LEAP initiatives requiring Legislative support are understood and carried forward.

SECTION 2: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A. The PAC will identify an Implementation Subcommittee of itself to work the LEAP staff to review the proposed action strategies which have been developed for State Departments' consideration to reduce the risk associated with the high priority issues which the LEAP Project has identified and ranked. This Subcommittee will also work with the LEAP staff to develop the LEAP to 2000 Implementation Report.

B. PAC members will present the proposed action strategies to their constituencies, explaining its purpose and the context of its development. The PAC will also help to identify additional parties to receive the proposed action strategies.

C. The proposed action strategies will be distributed to State Departments for their evaluation and comment. In order for the PAC to assist state government in carrying out initiative associated with the LEAP to 2000 Project, State Departments need to continue to inform the PAC about their ongoing activities. Therefore, within 90 days of receipt of the proposed action strategies, each Department will provide responses to the PAC. The PAC will review each Department's response.

D. The PAC, in collaboration with the state departments involved, will select specific policy options from the proposed action strategies and from each state department response. Next, the PAC and departments will also identify appropriate vehicles for implementation of the selected options. These vehicles may include, but are not limited to, recommendations for legislation or

guidelines, memoranda of understanding, interagency agreements, recommendations for additional departmental budget appropriations, and recommendations for reallocation of existing budget appropriations. These recommendations for implementation will be compiled into the LEAP to 2000 Implementation Report, which will be presented to the Governor's Office by March 31, 1993. This report will also contain the proposed action strategies which were not selected. The reasons for not selecting these proposed strategies will be stated.

E. The same Subcommittee for the PAC will develop procedures to monitor and track the progress of the LEAP initiatives. These procedures will be detailed in the Implementation Report.

SECTION 3: AUTHORITIES OF THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, this Committee has the following authorities:

A. To continue to schedule and hold public meetings.

B. To obtain information from all involved parties, particularly state, regional, and local government employees.

C. To convene meetings with state department heads or their designees and support staff.

SECTION 4: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

The state departments under the direct authority will continue to work in this cooperative effort with the PAC in preparing the LEAP to 2000 Implementation Report. This includes: Economic Development, Education, Environmental Quality, Health and Hospitals, Natural Resources, Transportation and Development, Wildlife and Fisheries, Public Safety and Corrections, and the Division of Administration. Departments will review and respond to the proposed action strategies sent to them by the PAC, within 90 days of receipt of such documents. Department secretaries will make staff available to work on this effort as required and as requested of the secretaries by the PAC. State department secretaries, or their designees, shall meet with the PAC, so PAC members gain an understanding of each department's abilities and limitations.

SECTION 5: INVITATION TO STATE ADMINISTRATORS AND COMMISSIONERS

The Attorney General, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Lieutenant Governor are invited and encouraged to continue the participation of their departments on the Project Steering Committee. The success of this Project to date has largely been due to its collaborative and inclusive nature. The continued participation of these departments is critical to the Project's success.

SECTION 6: RESPONSIBILITY FOR STAFFING AND BUDGET

The Department of Environmental Quality shall be responsible for coordinating the first PAC meeting following this Executive Order and will provide assistance as requested by the PAC. The Department of Environmental Quality shall be responsible for administrative support for the Project including staff. The departments working on initiatives related to this Project shall provide staff to support this work. Additional resources which need to be provided can be made available through the Governor's Office at his discretion.

SECTION 7: The provisions of this Executive Order are effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until amended, modified, or rescinded by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 4th day of December, 1992.

Edwin Edwards
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR**

Joseph S. Keithley
SECRETARY OF STATE