



Bucket Bulletin

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REFINERY EFFICIENCY INITIATIVE

Our Refinery Efficiency Initiative focuses on the state's 17 oil refineries. If you've ever driven to Baton Rouge and seen the flames from the refineries as you cross the lake, you've probably seen an accident in progress.

Some of these accidents are preventable. That's why we sued ExxonMobil in Chalmette. The refinery was found guilty of violating the Clean Air Act over 2,500 times. Our Refinery Efficiency Initiative applies this successful methodology – a focus on accidents – to refineries statewide.

We all know that the price of oil has skyrocketed and that refineries can make more money than ever. But we

also know that it's in everyone's best interest – including the refineries – to be more careful. Accidents are bad for our health, the environment, and the refinery loses valuable product that it could sell.

As you think of ways that you can conserve energy, consider how industry can play its part. As individuals we have a responsibility. As refineries, they do, too.

The Refinery Efficiency Initiative is just one of the programs that we have developed this spring. Our programs, as always, are designed to help the communities next to industry. Those are the neighbors we call Fenceline Neighbors.

**Have you noticed the bump at the pump?
Are you doing anything to conserve gas?**

**As gas prices soar higher and higher, we think that the state's oil refineries should make sure that precious product is not wasted. How can this be done?
By eliminating the number of refinery accidents that occur each year.**

Bucket Brigade spotlight

Fishy statements by Marvin Odum, Shell's new CEO

The *Times Picayune* recently featured Shell's new CEO in its business section. In the article, Mr. Odum opined that "we didn't spill a drop of oil" during Katrina and Rita. ??? Without the advantage of being face to face with Mr. Odum, it is hard to understand what



he means. In a report to Congress, the US Coast Guard documented massive amounts of oil spilled by Shell during the storms, documented on p. 5 of its report http://www.uscg.mil/npfc/docs/PDFs/osltf_report_hurricanes.pdf:

- ◆ Shell's Nairn facility in Port Sulphur, LA, where 140,000 gallons leaked from a ruptured pipeline
- ◆ Shell's Pilot Town facility in Pilot Town, LA, where 1.1 million gallons spewed from a breached pipeline.

It's a refrain we repeat constantly. We have to admit these problems exist so that we can solve them. In the mad rush to increase offshore drilling, we must face the facts, not muddy the truth.

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE LOWER 9TH WARD

We continue our close relationship with the Lower Ninth Ward's Center for Sustainable Engagement (CSED) by supporting the neighborhood's green building projects. Our staff member Pam Dashiell facilitates resident collaboration on projects with big institutions such as Global Green, Make it Right, and the Episcopal Church. Through the CSED we also continue to help individual homeowners to use



green materials in their rebuilding. This is our example of positive development to show this state that petrochemical production is not the only way.

- ◆ Facilitated installation of radiant barrier insulation in 72 homes
- ◆ Recruited and deployed more than 500 volunteers to assist in installation of sustainable building materials and upgrade of Holy Cross and Lower 9th Ward homes
- ◆ Ongoing work on communal alternative technology initiatives including solar, alternative sewer systems, geothermal, and gasification
- ◆ Constructed a trail, platform and bridge from Florida Avenue to Bayou Bienvenue to aid in the restoration of the cypress tupelo wetland which forms the northern border of the Lower Ninth Ward

Environmental Justice Corps



Howard University Students, Spring Break 2008

Louisiana's environmental health and justice movement can always use new energy. Our new Environmental Justice Corps targets students at the region's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. In the summer of 2009 the LABB will host 15 HBCU students, each of whom will specialize in a track: Media, Organizing, Public Health, Law, Fundraising, Sustainable Energy, or African-American History.

We want to bring more people into this field, to help them understand the possibilities of environmental justice work and the pathways to a profession in the field.

Save the Date!
Come join the fun!

Fall Fundraiser
Costume Party:
Environmental Heroes and
Villains

Friday, October 17th

Location in the Marigny /
Bywater to be announced
9 PM 'til

Annual Holiday Party and
Auction

Thursday, December 4th
6 – 9 PM

And coming up, in 2009

Saturday, April 22nd
Sixth Annual Crawfish Boil
and Earth Day Festival!

FENCELINE NEIGHBORS NETWORK

Our Fenceline Neighbors Network links communities that are facing similar challenges throughout the state. After our experiences working closely with one community at a time – like Norco and Chalmette - our Fenceline Neighbors Network realizes a bigger picture in which lots of communities are linked together to help each other. Our program increases communication between Fenceline Neighbors, allowing them to learn from others’ experiences and swap strategies. Our tools include:

- Monthly Lunch Club for community members to share experiences and strategies
- Fenceline Neighbors Network Calendar so all will be aware of important events and how they can support each other
- fencelineneighbors.com, a website that provides community contact information in order to increase neighbors’ direct contact with external partners such as funders, journalists, and other health and environmental organizations.

According to the Energy Information Administration, Louisiana refineries process 2.7 million barrels of oil a day, accounting for 15 % of all oil refined in the United States. Our burden will grow, as Marathon, Murphy and other refineries complete expansions in the next few years.

Name	Location	# of barrels per day
ExxonMobil	Baton Rouge	494,000 bpd
CITGO Petroleum	Lake Charles	320,000 bpd
St. Charles Refinery (Valero)	Norco	260,000 bpd
Convent Refinery (Motiva Enterprises, LLC)	Convent	255,000 bpd
Belle Chasse Refinery (ConocoPhillips)	Belle Chasse	247,000 bpd
Westlake Refinery (ConocoPhillips)	Lake Charles	247,000 bpd
Marathon Ashland Petroleum	Garyville	245,000 bpd
Norco Refinery (Motiva Enterprises, LLC)	Norco	242,000 bpd
Chalmette Refining, LLC	Chalmette	183,000 bpd
Murphy Oil	Meraux	125,000 bpd
Krotz Springs Refinery (Valero)	Krotz Springs	85,000 bpd
St. Rose Refining (Shell)	St. Rose	55,000 bpd
Placid Refining Co., LLC	Port Allen	48,500 bpd
Shreveport Refinery (Calumet Lubricants 8)	Shreveport	35,000 bpd
Calcasieu Refining	Lake Charles	22,000 bpd
Princeton Refinery (Calumet Lubricants 1)	Princeton (Bossier City)	8,300 bpd
Cotton Valley Refinery (Calumet Lubricants)	Cotton Valley	8,000 bpd

Summer Interns

Interns and volunteers help us with their time and skills. We also think it’s a good idea to expose the students to issues of pollution, corporate accountability and neighborhood work. Thanks to Nina Handojo, Scott Branta, and Sarah Cobb for spending their summer with us! Also thanks to volunteers Erin Healan and Julia Fleuret.

Current Collaborations - Committee to Incorporate Garyville

Long term thinking

Did you see the headlines about Garyville and St. John Parish? Tired of allowing St. John Parish to control decisions affecting their community, the people of Garyville decided to campaign for incorporation of their area into a new town. Headed by local lawyer Geri Broussard Baloney, the campaign quickly began this past spring when organizers collected 1300 signatures to get a special incorporation referendum on the ballot. With incorporation, the new town of Garyville would be able to be in command of industrial zoning issues occurring in their own backyard.



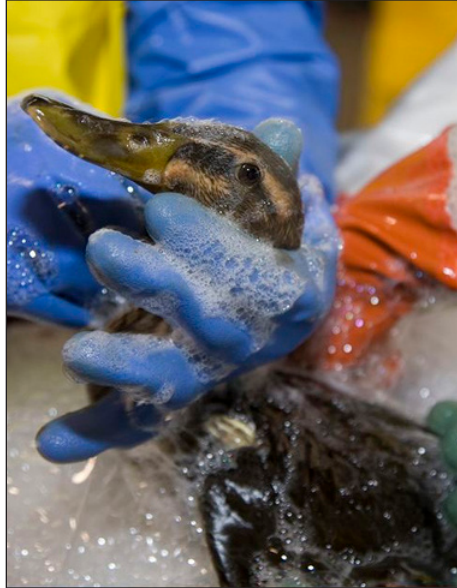
With the town’s exciting possibility to finally have a say in environmental issues like pollution from the local facilities, the Louisiana Bucket Brigade fully supported the campaign for incorporation. Although the recent special election on July 19th failed, it is only the beginning of the process. More importantly, it sets a tone along the Mississippi River: we are finding proactive solutions to the problems facing fenceline neighbors. We commend Garyville’s Incorporation Committee for its positive example of a proactive rather than reactive answer to sustainability and justice issues.

IN THE NEWS: OIL SPILL

If you've been in New Orleans, you know about the oil spill in the Mississippi River: 283,000 gallons and counting. We've heard the usual reply from Mayor Nagin and the powers that be. Their responses have either been that everything is fine, or, in reply to questions about water quality in Algiers, an incoherent answer that does not really tell residents how to protect themselves.

This is the typical pattern in such accidents. Since we have begun this work in 1999, we have never heard officials say that there is a health harm from a petrochemical accident. Not during the largest tank fire in U.S. history, not even after the million gallon Murphy oil spill.

You have to educate yourself to know what questions to ask. See our



2003 report "No Harmful Chemicals Released." When the state and the mayor tell you there's no problem (or minimize the one that does exist), this pamphlet will provide you with the questions to ask.



Chalmette's ExxonMobil is the target of an EPA consent decree, meaning the refinery is legally obligated to install new units and improve performance. With record profits reported again in July - \$11.7 billion dollars for the quarter - they ought to be able to clean up the place! We are monitoring the consent decree.

Louisiana Bucket Brigade *Clean Air. Justice. Sustainability.*

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