



# QUICK TAKE – COMMENT PERIOD FOR LDEQ’S VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE AUDIT PROGRAM STUDY CLOSES OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>

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The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is currently accepting written comments on its study of the establishment of a voluntary compliance audit program for regulated industries. LDEQ will continue to accept written comments until the close of business (4:30 p.m. CT) on Monday, October 21, 2019.

LDEQ initiated this study in response to House Resolution 231. HR231, which was passed on June 5, 2019, urges LDEQ to study the establishment of a voluntary compliance audit program and to provide a written report of the study to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment by no later than February 1, 2020. According to HR231, the written report is to contain: a discussion of the elements of a proposed audit program; recommendations for necessary legislation; a discussion of whether such a program is needed; and other information developed through the study that might provide further insights.

LDEQ responded to HR231 by conducting a series of informational sessions for the public and issuing a public notice of its intent to accept written comments in connection with the study. The informational sessions included a discussion of the following topics: current federal and State voluntary audit and disclosure programs and policies; the concepts of privilege and confidentiality; the concept of immunity; and State resources that would be necessary to implement a voluntary compliance audit program.

Additional information on LDEQ’s study can be found by going to the following link for its webpage on the study: <https://deq.louisiana.gov/news/informational-materials-from-ldeq-listening-session-on-hr-231voluntary-compliance-audit-program-study>. A copy of LDEQ’s public notice, which contains instructions for the submission of written comments, can be found by going to the following link:

[https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/Informational\\_Materials/PublicNotice\\_HR231\\_Comments.pdf](https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/Informational_Materials/PublicNotice_HR231_Comments.pdf)

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