

Tip Sheet – “Chemical Corridor Tour “
Society of Environmental Journalists Conference
September 4, 2014

Tour leaders: Amy Wold: woldeamy@gmail.com (225 236-6425)
Baton Rouge Advocate, environmental reporter
Lizzie Grossman: lizziegrossman@mac.com (503-704-5637)
freelance, Portland,OR

Itinerary – annotated

Leave Hilton Riverside, New Orleans 7:30 a.m.

Drive to Air Liquide, Geismar, LA – approximately 1 hour’s drive

We’ll head west on I-10 toward Baton Rouge, passing Lake Pontchartrain to the north (on our right), the Maurepas Swamp will also be to the north. We’ll cross the Blind River and the Conway Bayou. The Mississippi R is to the south.

-- Speakers on the bus:

- **Dan Borné** (pronounced Bornay), *President Louisiana Chemical Association and Louisiana Chemical Industry Alliance*, who will give us an overview of the petrochemical industry in Louisiana
<http://www.lca.org/about/staff/borne>

Dan Borné is president of the Louisiana Chemical Association, which represents the interests of over 60 chemical manufacturing companies that operate at more than 100 locations in the state.

He is also President of the Louisiana Chemical Industry Alliance, a partnership of Louisiana’s chemical plants and hundreds of their suppliers, contractors and vendors.

Before joining the LCA 25 years ago, Borné was a Vice President of Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation.

He has also worked for a state senator; a congressman; three United States Senators and a governor, and has anchored television news and sports and done radio play-by-play.

He has a bachelor’s from Nicholls State and a master’s from LSU, where he is an occasional member of the adjunct faculty. His hobby is following LSU athletics. He has been the public address announcer at Tiger Stadium and for 28 years and at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center for 26 years.

- **Dan Rocznik** (pronounced Roz-niak), *Senior Director, Responsible Care, American Chemistry Council*, based in Washington, DC, who will give us an overview of ACC’s Responsible Care program within the context of the expansion of chemical manufacturing the availability of new domestic oil and gas supplies

Daniel Roczniak is currently, Senior Director, Responsible Care[®] with the American Chemistry Council (ACC) in Washington, DC. During his 20 years with ACC, Mr. Roczniak has assisted ACC member and Partner companies in the implementation of the Responsible Care initiative in their operations. Currently, he manages ACC's Responsible Care third-party certification process. Prior to joining the ACC in 1993, Mr. Roczniak worked for several public policy consulting firms in the Washington DC area assisting clients to better understand the workings of public interest groups active on issues such as environmental protection; consumer rights; biotechnology and genetic engineering; shareholder activism and animal welfare.

Mr. Roczniak is a graduate of The George Washington University in Washington DC and lives in Virginia with his wife and two sons.

<http://responsiblecare.americanchemistry.com>

For additional background: Here are two studies done by Loren Scott, a Louisiana economist, looking at the economic size of the oil and gas and chemical industries on Louisiana. Although both studies were funded by state industry groups – Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (LMOGA) and Louisiana Chemical Association (LCA) – it represents the latest major in-state attempts to get a handle on the impact, according to Gary Perilloux, communications director with Louisiana Economic Development.

LMOGA study : <http://www.lmoga.com/issues-initiatives/economic-impact/>

Highlights from the report include:

- Oil and gas industry's direct and indirect impact on the state is about \$73.8 billion.
- Oil and gas industry paid \$1.5 billion in state taxes in 2013 which is about 14 percent of the total taxes collected by the state.
- Another \$1.4 billion in taxes was collected indirectly through household earnings.
- Scott estimated that each industry job supports four other jobs within the state.
- 64,669 workers were employed in the extraction, pipeline and refining industries in 2013 --- A number approximately equal to the 2012 population of Acadia Parish, the 18th most populous parish in the state.
- Nearly \$5.9 Billion in wages paid for Louisiana households in 2013 --- 7.2 percent of the total covered wages in the state that year.

LCA study:

<http://lca.org/resources/news/economic-impact-of-louisiana-chemical-industry>

This study was paid for through a donation from Louisiana Manufacturers Political Action Committee to the Louisiana Foundation for Excellence in Science, Technology and Education. Report was released in December 2012.

Highlights from the report:

- In 2010, the total value of chemical shipments from Louisiana facilities totaled \$58.2 billion (3rd in the country behind Texas and California).
- Most of this chemical production involves basic chemicals which are moved up the line to be used in making other items.
- Industry is concentrated in Lake Charles and from Baton Rouge to New Orleans along the Mississippi River. However, 53 of the state's 64 parishes have at least some employment involved in the chemical industry, according to the report.
- Estimated that in 2010, the chemical industry paid \$641 million in taxes and fees for the state as well as \$533.7 million in taxes and fees for local government.

GNO, Inc. [Greater New Orleans Economic Development <http://gnoinc.org>] *study* – Study also done by Loren Scott, of Loren C. Scott & Associates but for GNO, Inc. Funded by Chevron. Came out in 2014.

- Part of the executive summary:

http://gnoinc.org/uploads/Future_of_Energy_FINAL.pdf

"Many people have been using the word “renaissance” recently when referring to the Gulf Coast economies generally and to Louisiana’s energy economy, specifically. While this seems out of sync with the strained budgets of both the State and the many municipalities, most energy economists see a strong performance since the 2008 recession and a relatively bright future for the state and the region."

- *Information from the Louisiana Workforce Commission:*

Industry sector Employment Projections through 2022, statewide:

http://www.laworks.net/LaborMarketInfo/LMI_OccIndustryProj.asp?years=20122022

Click on “Statewide” or any Regional Labor Market Area (not to be confused with MSA – RMLAs include all the surrounding rural parishes too) to open or download the corresponding Excel files with the forecast data.

- A study conducted by the *Workforce Investment Council* (appointed panel of business, government and labor leaders) who guide policy and priorities for the agency. The study defines what demand will be in the short term for the

construction trades (primarily because of massive industrial projects), and then lays out the plan for how the state's workforce system will boost training and workforce capacity in order to meet the demand

<http://www.laworks.net/Downloads/PR/WIC/CraftWorkforceDevelopmentPlan20130617.pdf>

- *Louisiana Workforce Commission Information Review for 2011-2012*

http://www.laworks.net/Downloads/LMI/WorkforceInfoReview_2011-2012.pdf

“Compared to other states in the U.S., Louisiana's peak unemployment rate following the recent recession was relatively modest at 7.9 percent (Figure 3). Many states reached double digit unemployment during this period and three states remain above 10% today. Compared to surrounding states (Figure 4), Louisiana experienced the second lowest peak unemployment rate and in March 2012 has the third lowest rate.”

-- Arrive at **Air Liquide America Corp.** in Geismar, approximately 8:30 a.m.

Among those meeting us there will be:

Michael Rosen, Vice President, Corporate Communications & Public Affairs Air Liquide USA 713 624 8023 Office 713 302 3348, michael.rosen@airliquide.com

Heather Browne, Director, Corporate Communications, Air Liquide USA LLC +1.713.624.8021 office, +1.713.422.3963 cell, heather.browne@airliquide.com

Christine George, Air Liquide VP and site manager who is also responsible for the company's regional pipeline system, christine.george@airliquide.com

Air Liquide: <http://www.us.airliquide.com>

For specifics on Air Liquide's chemical and petrochemical activities:

<http://www.gaz-industriels.airliquide.com/en/your-activity/petrochemicals-chemicals.html>

Some bullet points from the company website:

Facts about American Air Liquide

American Air Liquide offers industrial gases and related services to a variety of customers including those in large industry, industrial manufacturing, electronics and healthcare marketplaces.

■ More than 5,000 U.S. employees ■ More than 200 U.S. locations, including more than 140 industrial gas plants ■ 2,000+ miles of pipeline ■ Americas headquarters in Houston, Texas

■ **Large Industries – Tonnage and Pipeline Distribution:** Air Liquide Large Industries U.S. LP is the subsidiary of American Air Liquide Holdings, Inc. responsible for serving large industry in the U.S. In the U.S., this business serves the refining, natural gas, chemical and metals industries. It operates an extensive pipeline system along the Gulf Coast and the Mississippi River as well as providing its customers with on-site gas production units. Air Liquide Industrial U.S. LP is the subsidiary of American Air Liquide Holdings, Inc. responsible for providing bulk gases and related services to a very diverse base of customers in the U.S. including those in the automotive, chemical, food, pharmaceutical and metals industries.

Air Liquide offers pure gases and specialty gas mixtures to a wide array of industries, in a variety of packages including cylinders, bulk containers and generators. Major applications for these gases are in the analytical and laboratory markets and include qualitative and quantitative analysis, on-line process analysis and control, pollution and emissions monitoring, secondary electronics applications and as raw material for chemical reaction/catalysis. Key specialty gas products include pure, calibration, high-purity chemical, rare and electronic grade gases as well as related high-purity equipment.

-- **Some context and background for Geismar and vicinity:**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/13/us-chemicals-fire-idUSBRE95C0P120130613>
<http://www.csb.gov/chemical-safety-board-deploying-to-accident-at-williams-olefins-plant-in-geismar-louisiana/>
<http://www.foreffectivegov.org/louisiana-chemical-plant-explosion-is-latest-in-string-of-chemical-accidents>
<http://www.yellowpages.com/geismar-la/chemical-plants>

-- **After our tour at Air Liquide we will head to a location on the Bonnet Carre spillway about 15 minutes east (we will be at Air Liquide for about an hour)**

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/BonnetCarreSpillway.aspx>
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Portals/56/docs/Recreation/BCS/Brochures/BCspillwaybooklet.pdf>

There we will hear from:

- Mary Lee Orr – Executive director, **Louisiana Environmental Action Network Louisiana DEQ**

Marylee Orr has led LEAN for most of its twenty eight years. Marylee didn't intend to work for the environment. In fact, her background was quite eclectic: she worked with Head Start, in real estate, and later owned an art gallery. Her life changed when her son was born with a respiratory illness that makes it incredibly hard for him to breathe. Marylee found inspiration in her son, and wanted to help people who were less prepared to advocate for themselves and the environment around them.

Orr is one of the co-founders of LEAN, which was formed in 1986. Marylee's work has garnered many accolades and awards over her career including: 2005 Gary L. Groesch Award for Citizen Activist, 2008 OMB Watch Public Interest Hall of Fame Inductee, 2009 Louisiana Association of Justice Award, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's 2009 Environmental Leadership Award as the Individual of the Year for Environmental Advocacy and Community Outreach, and 2012 Jane Bagley Lehman Award from the Tides Foundation.

And have **lunch** (box lunches will be provided)

Speakers during lunch will be:

- **Celena Cage**, enforcement division administrator with the *Louisiana state Department of Environmental Quality*. Cage received her Bachelor of Science degree in health science from Alcorn State University. She has worked the DEQ for more than 19 years in air and water enforcement, as well as water permitting. Prior to joining LDEQ, she worked in the environmental laboratory field. She was named administrator of the Enforcement Division in September 2010.
- **Bryan Johnston**, senior environmental scientist in the *Louisiana DEQ* air permits division. They will talk about enforcement and permitting in Louisiana. Johnston is a 1996 graduate of Louisiana State University. He has worked at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for 17½ years and is currently the Sr. Environmental Scientist in the Air Permits Division. He has drafted and reviewed Title V & NSR (new source review) permits for numerous sources in a variety of source categories.
- For background: The state Department of Environmental Quality has a great resource called Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) which is an online filing system that is kept very up to date on every permitted facility in the state. With an Agency Identification number (which you can look up on the site by having the facilities name or address) you can find enforcement action, pictures, addresses, phone numbers, inspection reports and more.

DEQ's website here <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/>

EDMS link is here <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2604/Default.aspx>

Pretty sure this will be redundant for just about everyone, but there's always EPA's TRI database for all kinds of chemical emissions, release and waste transfer information:

Toxic Release Inventory: <http://www2.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>

Louisiana's 2012 state summary:

http://iaspub.epa.gov/triexplorer/tri_factsheet.factsheet_forstate?pstate=LA&pyear=2012

- Louisiana accounts for 4.06 percent of total TRI releases/transfers in the United States
- Louisiana ranks 5 out of 56 states/territories nationwide based on pounds release/transferred (Rank 1 = highest releases)

Louisiana DEQ Enforcement:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement.aspx>

The page includes links to enforcement actions by month back to July 2011 and then by quarter back to December 2003. It also links to Beneficial Environmental Projects, settlement agreements and more. However, if you're looking for the history of a particular facility, the EDMS is the better place to search.

- Some information about the **Bonnet Carré Spillway**:

The Bonnet Carré Spillway is about 33 river miles above New Orleans and was chosen as a place to build a flood control structure to release extra water from the Mississippi River during high flows because it's a location where the river historically wanted to break through.

“Between 1849 and 1882, four major crevasses had occurred at this location. In fact, during the flood of 1849, a 7,000-foot-wide crevasse at Bonnet Carré flowed for more than six months,” according to this Corps of Engineers site.

Flood aspects of the spillway:

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/MississippiRiverFloodControl/BonnetCarreSpillwayOverview.aspx>

Some interesting facts and figures about when and how much the spillway has been opened in some of the more recent high water events in 1011, 2008 and 1997.

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/MississippiRiverFloodControl/BonnetCarreSpillwayOverview/SpillwayOperationInformation.aspx>

Recreational aspects of the spillway

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/BonnetCarreSpillway.aspx>

An estimated 400,000 visitors use the spillway each year for all kinds of activities including fishing, crawfishing, hunting, dog training, camping, wildlife watching, biking, horseback riding and boating.

— We will then drive about 5-7 minutes to Norco, LA

There we will hear from:

- **EPA Region 6: David Gray**, director of external and government affairs with EPA Region 6 based in Dallas. Region 6 which includes arkansas louisiana new mexico oklahoma texas and 66 tribal nations.

See: EPA Region 6: <http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-6-south-central>
EPA in Louisiana, page includes links to recent projects and press releases:
<http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-6-south-central>

- **United Steelworkers**, Health, Safety and Environment specialist **Kim Nibarger**

Kim Nibarger is a member of the United Steelworkers (USW) International Union Health, Safety and Environment Department. He worked as a chief operator for Shell Oil Products, US, at the Puget Sound Refinery in Anacortes, Washington prior to taking a leave of absence in 2004 to work for the former PACE Health and Safety Department as a Triangle of Prevention (TOP) program coordinator.

Mr. Nibarger has 17 years in refinery operations and served as a member and co-chair of the Joint Health and Safety Committee for 8 years. While at the Shell refinery, he was the Union's lead investigator on the team investigating a November 1998 accident that resulted in the loss of life for six workers. Mr. Nibarger has testified at House and Senate committee hearings as well as the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board on issues pertaining to refinery safety.

In addition to regular assignments, he serves as an accident investigator for the USW Emergency Response Team. He was the USW investigator for the BP Texas City accident of March 2005. He has also conducted health and safety training classes internationally.

USW represents workers in chemical, oil, energy and utilities among other industries (see: <http://www.usw.org/union/mission/industries>)

<http://www.csb.gov/UserFiles/file/KIM%20NIBARGER.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ-YVAucxJM>

<http://www.usw.org>

USW health and safety backgrounder:

http://assets.usw.org/resources/hse/Resources/health_safety_in_the_usw.pdf

And here' a link to the latest issue available online of the USW publication, "The Oil Worker" <http://www.usw.org/news/publications/oilworker/the-oil-worker-issue-21>

- **Louisiana Bucket Brigade** founding director, **Anne Rolfes**

Anne began her organizing career in West Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer in Togo. It was there that she first witnessed the destruction of oil production. After six years of working on Nigerian issues, Anne returned to Louisiana in 1999 to protect her home state

from petrochemical pollution. Anne was born and raised in Lafayette, Louisiana where many people made their fortunes from the oil industry. She has seen the wealth and the poverty created by oil production and seeks to make the industry more equitable. In October 2007 Anne was recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as a Community Health Leader. Read her testimony to the U.S. House Committee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife from June 10, 2010 [here](#). You can also watch Anne on a panel discussion about the oil industry at the 2011 Rising Tide Conference -- [see the video here](#).

LABB was founded in 2000, and has worked with community groups throughout the state, including Concerned Citizens of Norco, Concerned Citizens of New Sarpy, Community Empowerment for Change in Baton Rouge, Residents for Air Neutralization in Shreveport, St. Bernard Citizens for Environmental Quality, Concerned Citizens Around Murphy and groups in Lake Charles, Algiers and Reserve, among others. For a timeline of the organization's work, see:

<http://www.labucketbrigade.org/article.php?list=type&type=137>

Projects include the Oil Spill Crisis Map launched in 2010 in response to the BP Oil Disaster, the first-ever use of crowd sourcing and crisis mapping for humanitarian purposes in the United States. LABB also collected 954 health and economic impact surveys in Louisiana towns affected by the spill. This remains the largest face-to-face survey of post-disaster health impacts.

For additional background on LABB's monitoring of oil industry accidents see:

Refinery Efficiency Initiative This is our program to reduce chemical exposure by reducing oil refinery accidents. [Click here to read more](#).

Accidents in the Gulf of Mexico The oil industry can get away with accidents in the Gulf, largely because they are offshore, where many cannot see them. Some of these accidents are logged via the [National Response Center](#).

The Water Keeper Alliance issued a report in 2011 detailing spills in the Gulf since the BP Disaster: [State of the Gulf: A Status Report in the Wake of the BP Oil Disaster](#).

NOAA released a report Dec. 19, 2011 that found air pollution levels from the Deepwater Horizon spill were similar to a large urban area. This was an issue LABB [voiced concern about](#) during the spill. [Read more about NOAA's report here](#).

<http://www.labucketbrigade.org>

<http://www.labucketbrigade.org/article.php?id=417>

<http://www.louisianarefineryaccidentdatabase.org>

<http://map.labucketbrigade.org>

-- Norco and nearby town community members, names TK

Some background for **Norco**:

Norco could not be more literally a “fence line” community. As you’ll see the town quite literally sits along the fence line of Shell’s refinery there (see: <http://www.labucketbrigade.org/section.php?id=23>). As Shell writes in its capsule history, “In 1916, the New Orleans Refining Company purchased 366 acres of cane field from the Good Hope Plantation to establish a marine petroleum supply terminal. That land sale began Shell’s presence in the community. Four years after the initial purchase, the company entered the oil refining business several years later and on May 8, 1920; the first process unit began operations.” We’ll be gathering in a park located on Good Hope Street in Norco.

From Shell to give you a sense of their operations at the site: “About Norco Shell Chemicals' Norco facility is located in St. Charles Parish. The facility has over 600 full-time employees, more than 160 contractors, and generates an annual payroll of \$50 million. The company pays more than \$16 million in state and local taxes and \$6M in property taxes that help fund public education as well as police and fire departments.” Products produced at the complex include ethylene, propylene and butadiene.

A history of Norco from St. Charles Parish:
<http://www.stcharlesgov.net/index.aspx?page=1092>

Of note: Norco was the site of the 1811 rebellion of Trepagnier Plantation slaves, considered the largest slave rebellion in US history

A detail from this history that offers some context for what you’ll see there today:

“Shell Chemical opened its “West Side” plant at Diamond Subdivision in 1955, taking down the old Diamond Plantation house, former home of Col. Sellers. Nearby was Bethune High School, opened at the same time in 1952 as Carver High School in Hahnville, for the segregated education of African-American children, named for Mary McCloud Bethune, a prominent educator. It endured to the desegregation of the high schools in 1967. Today, only a few slabs remain of Bethune High School.

Claytonia was built by Dr. John Earle Clayton, originally the company doctor for the Lyons Lumber Company in Garyville. After the 1928 fire which nearly wiped Garyville, he moved to the Sellers in 1932, established a medical practice, and built his two-story mansion on the north side of Airline Highway. In 1965, Hurricane Betsy destroyed it. Clayton himself served as parish coroner for 25 years before his retirement in 1968.

The catalytic cracker unit explosion on May 5, 1988, rocked the town of Norco, and many tales are told of doors blasted into houses and scores of injuries across town. After the massive rebuilding effort, Norco survives and even thrives. New houses and businesses continue to be built and the partnership of town and industry endures. The River Road Museum opened in 1998 on the Shell plant and presents centuries of history of the region, history of plan and of Norco itself.”

An explosion at the Shell refinery in 1973 killed two Norco residents, a 16 year old boy and an elderly woman. That event and the 1988 explosion, quite literally sparked the community's activism and demands that Shell pay to relocate the community.

Here's LABB's profile of Norco: <http://www.labucketbrigade.org/section.php?id=23>

And it's report on the community's engagement with Shell concerning the Diamond community of Noco: <http://www.labucketbrigade.org/downloads/shellgames.pdf>

LABB website has links to additional press materials, audio clips and other documents about Norco community's engagement with Shell.

Some additional background references:

August 3, 2014 diesel plant explosion and fire and Diamond Green Diesel plant
http://www.nola.com/traffic/index.ssf/2014/08/tank_fire_extinguished_at_st_c.html

Story about Margie Richard's activism in Norco:
<http://www.alleghenyfront.org/story/how-one-woman-took-shell-save-her-la-town>

For this work she was awarded a 2004 Goldman Environmental Prize:

<http://www.goldmanprize.org/2004/northamerica>

Interview by Michelle Nijhuis: <http://grist.org/article/nijhuis-richard/>

Documentary

"Fenceline: A Town Divided" (2002)

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/fenceline/>

<http://www.logtv.com/films/fenceline/video.htm>

Book: "Night Fire" by Ronnie Greene:

<http://www.amazon.com/Night-Fire-Poison-Margie-Richards/dp/B0035G02VS>

Norco:

<http://www.shell.us/aboutshell/projects-locations/norco.html>

<http://www.valero.com/ourbusiness/ourlocations/refineries/pages/stcharles.aspx>

http://www.marathonpetroleum.com/Careers/Why_MPC/Locations_Across_the_United_States/Garyville_Louisiana/

<http://www.yellowpages.com/norco-la/chemical-plants>

Our last stop for the day will be an overlook at a spot where the Bonnet Carre Spillway and the levee along the Mississippi River intersect. It offers an excellent snapshot of the location and the petrochemical industry's proximity to Mississippi River transportation

From there we will head back to New Orleans beginning our route back to the hotel

via Highway 48 or River Road that, as its name suggests, runs along the river and gives a good view of both industrial and residential communities and a sense of some of the history of the area.

Expected return to the hotel: 4:00-4:30 p.m.