



CEDRIC B. GLOVER  
MAYOR

ROD RICHARDSON  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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September 4, 2014

### City poised to seek Federal help to shutdown Harrelson landfill

Mayor Cedric Glover says the City will seek Federal assistance in its ongoing fight to permanently close a landfill that for years has blanketed a historic Shreveport neighborhood with smoke and fumes.

About 50 citizens attended a public meeting sponsored by Mayor Glover to address concerns about the state's latest attempt to direct Harrelson Materials Management, Inc., to put out the underground fires that have spewed smoke and flames for years from its Russell Road location.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality last month ordered Harrelson to extinguish the fire. However, that order placed no limit on how long that would actually take but said Harrelson had to start the process within 180 days. The landfill does not have to close until the fire is extinguished. Mayor Glover, fire department officials and the Louisiana Fire Marshal all pointed out major flaws in the company's state-approved fire mitigation plan but those observations were initially ignored.

The continued pressure from the Mayor and MLK community advocates, however, paid dividends today when LDEQ issued a directive to Michael Harrelson to let him know that his company has not allocated sufficient personnel, resources and equipment to properly implement the approved plan. The amended declaration orders HMM to hire a third party firm to implement the plan.

Mayor Glover said he and his staff will meet in Shreveport next week with Environmental Protection Agency representatives from its Region VI office in Dallas. The purpose of that meeting is to solicit the EPA's expertise and authority to help close the landfill sooner, rather than later.

“When you end up with government officials failing to take action at the local and state levels, then at that point, you reach out to the Federal level,” Glover said. “But my goal is not to find a way for Harrelson to close the landfill in two months, or six months or another year. My goal is to get it closed right now.”

The city is also exploring legal options to close the landfill and Mayor Glover is encouraging residents to provide information on any health-related issues they believe might have resulted from extended exposure to the landfill.

CITY OF SHREVEPORT



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BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

**Office of Louisiana State Fire Marshal**  
Code Enforcement and Building Safety

Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

September 2, 2014

Mrs. Peggy Hatch, Secretary  
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
602 North Fifth St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**Ref. Harrelson Materials Management Inc.**  
**1101 Russell Road**  
**Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana**

Secretary Hatch,

Being consistent with our role to provide advice to DEQ in matters of fire protection as it relates to this incident, I want to convey to you and your staff our office's observations from the August 25, stake-holder meeting, in reference to the execution of the fire mitigation plan.

Please see attached Chief Wallis's correspondence and issues raised. I agree with his concerns and hope that we have a follow-up meeting soon to see improvements in the plan.

Sincerely,

Chief H. "Butch" Browning  
State Fire Marshal

CC: Col. Edmonson  
Chief Wolverton  
Chief Wallis  
Ron Crouch



BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

**Office of Louisiana State Fire Marshal**  
Code Enforcement and Building Safety

Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

**Departmental Correspondence**

**To:** Chief Browning

**From:** Deputy Chief Wallis

**Date:** August 28, 2014

**Ref:** Harrelson meeting

Chief,

As instructed, I attended a meeting on August 25, 2014, with representatives from DEQ, City of Shreveport, Harrelson Materials Management and PPM Consultants regarding the mitigation plan for the landfill fire in Shreveport.

I certainly have an increased concern following the meeting for several reasons:

- Utilization of only 1 person and 1 air monitor for entire site
- Lack of experience of landfill fire mitigation by PPM and Harrelson
- Lack of engagement in producing pre-incident emergency response plan with local authorities.
- Lack of staffing for safe and effective mitigation efforts. (As I understood there would be only 3 HMM employees, as well as the owner, to serve both as mitigation team, Safety Officer, as well as regular staffing to continue regular operation of the landfill.)
- PPM stated that there would be one representative on site for the first few weeks then they would scale down to one person 2-3 days per week.

Is Yours Working?

Smoke Detectors Save Lives! [Savealife@la.gov](mailto:Savealife@la.gov)

**OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
8181 INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LA 70806  
(225) 925-4911 1-800-256-5452 Fax (225) 925-4593



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GOVERNOR

**Office of Louisiana State Fire Marshal**  
Code Enforcement and Building Safety

Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Chief, I know that this situation needs immediate attention; however, I think there should be more attention given to the tools, manpower, and expertise that will be utilized to mitigate this situation.

Is Yours Working?

Smoke Detectors Save Lives! [Savealife@la.gov](mailto:Savealife@la.gov)

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BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR



PEGGY M. HATCH  
SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

September 4, 2014

**CERTIFIED MAIL 7012 3460 0001 0423 3147**  
**Return Receipt Requested**

Mr. Michael D. Harrelson  
Harrelson Materials Management, Inc.  
1101 Russell Road  
Shreveport, LA 71107

Re: Harrelson Materials Management Landfill/D-017-2688  
Order to Close OC-0378  
Agency Interest No.: 28118

Dear Mr. Harrelson:

On August 7, 2014, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued Harrelson Materials Management, Inc. (HMM) an Order to Close the HMM Landfill. This Order also required implementation of the Revised Alternative Subsurface Fire Mitigation Plan ("the Plan") approved by the DEQ in coordination with the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The Plan required a pre-meeting with various stakeholders, which was conducted on Monday, August 25, 2014. Representatives from the City of Shreveport, the Shreveport Fire Department, HMM, PPM (consultant to HMM), DEQ and the Office of the State Fire Marshal attended this meeting. Later that day, DEQ Assistant Secretary Cheryl Nolan was briefed by DEQ staff regarding the meeting and concerns with the implementation of the plan.

On August 26, 2014, DEQ representatives, including Secretary Peggy Hatch, visited the landfill to observe current conditions and progress made implementing the Order.

On September 2, 2014, the Office of the State Fire Marshal forwarded to DEQ a list of concerns arising from the pre-meeting conducted on August 25, 2014. On September 4, 2014, our Offices discussed our respective findings and concerns.

Based on the above, the DEQ and the Office of the State Fire Marshal find that HMM has not allocated sufficient personnel, resources and/or equipment to properly implement the approved Plan. Therefore, in accordance with the Amended Emergency Declaration and Administrative Order issued by DEQ on August 7, 2014, HMM must provide, within 10 days of receipt of this letter, third party personnel, resources and/or equipment sufficient to implement the approved

Harrelson Materials Management, Inc.

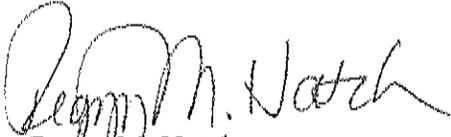
AI No.: 28118

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Plan. Please submit documentation of such third party personnel, resources and/or equipment to both our Offices within the specified time period.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Nolan with DEQ at (225) 219-3710 or Dan Wallis with the Office of the State Fire Marshal at (225) 925-3623.

Sincerely,



Peggy M. Hatch  
Secretary  
Department of Environmental Quality



Chief H. "Butch" Browning  
State Fire Marshal  
Office of the State Fire Marshal

c: Mayor Cedric B. Glover, City of Shreveport  
Senator Gregory Tarver  
Representative Patrick C. Williams  
Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal  
Ron Curry, Regional Administrator EPA Region 6