



CLINT COINTMENT
Parish President

Parish of Ascension

OFFICE of COMMUNICATIONS



AURELIA S. GIACOMETTO
LDEQ Secretary

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Ascension Parish Government and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) Address Red Dirt Issue

BURNSIDE, LA — The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), in collaboration with the Ascension Parish Government and facility owner LAlumina LLC, is committed to resolving the longstanding red dirt problem affecting residents in the vicinity.

Dry red dirt blowing onto nearby homes, causing disturbance and property discoloration, has been a concern for the community. Recognizing the urgency of the matter, LDEQ Secretary Aurelia Giacometto recently met with Ascension Parish President Clint Cointment to discuss potential solutions. Subsequently, Secretary Giacometto conducted an initial site visit to assess the situation firsthand.

In a proactive move, Secretary Giacometto authorized the deployment of a surveillance drone to survey the more than 400-acre project site. This comprehensive assessment will play a crucial role in identifying the extent of the issue, informing cost estimates, and determining the necessary next steps.

"As the leading authority on the health of Louisiana's environment, LDEQ recognizes that this longstanding issue will require cooperation amongst all parties to be resolved expeditiously to alleviate the impact on the community's residents and environment," stated Secretary Giacometto.

President Clint Cointment appreciated the response and commitment from LDEQ and all involved parties. He emphasized the importance of finding a resolution that prioritizes the community's well-being. "Mitigating this issue requires a well-thought-out plan and approach," he stressed. "We appreciate the swift response and collaborative efforts from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Addressing this issue promptly is crucial for the well-being of our community, and we look forward to working together towards a resolution."

Secretary Giacometto, President Clint Cointment, and LAlumina representative Aaron Templet were on-site for the surveillance launch. Secretary Giacometto is the first cabinet-level official of the current administration to visit the area and she is appreciative of the support Senators Eddie Lambert and Ed Price, as well as Representative Jeff Wiley, have shown as the parties work to improve conditions and hold LAlumina accountable.

For further updates on the progress of this collaborative effort, please stay tuned for additional announcements from Ascension Parish Government and LDEQ.

Link to raw footage shot by Ascension 21 TV by password protected download and/or YouTube link:

<http://apg-storage.quickconnect.to/d/s/xc61lhji3yDkuenCmgKANL6hQcBYOiH8/jRyjKi25UzXMaiM2f13mpWtwl0-Pjl8q-67FAj1ARMws> Password: Password: AP21

<https://youtu.be/f-U1gdruR5g>

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