



Parish of Ascension

Department of Communications

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Ascension Parish Government to Begin Work on Red Dirt Test Site Following LDEQ Approval

Gonzales, LA - After months of coordination and collaboration with state partners, Ascension Parish Government has received final approval from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to begin work on a four-acre test site as part of the partial closure effort at the LAlumina, LLC facility. Work began this week on Monday, April 7, 2025. This initiative is part of a long-term plan to mitigate the impacts of particulate matter, commonly referred to as “red dirt,” affecting residents living near the site.

Timeline of Events:

August 19, 2024 – Ascension Parish Government signed a Cooperative Agreement with the State of Louisiana through the Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). This agreement established a joint commitment to addressing the issue and provided a funding mechanism for partial closure.

November 25, 2024 – Ascension Parish Government submitted a partial closure proposal to LDEQ, requesting approval for a test site to evaluate closure methods.

December 12, 2024 – The Ascension Parish Council approved the Cooperative Agreement.

April 1, 2025 – The Cooperative Agreement between the State of Louisiana, LDEQ, LAlumina, LLC, and Ascension Parish Government was fully executed.

April 2, 2025 – LDEQ officially approved Ascension Parish Government’s partial closure proposal.

April 7, 2025 – Work begins on the 4-acre test site.

“This marks a critical step forward in our efforts to protect our residents and begin the process to mitigate this area,” said Parish President Clint Cointment. “Our administration has been relentlessly pushing for action, and I’m proud of our progress in partnership with the State of Louisiana and LDEQ. We are committed to seeing this project through until we bring lasting relief to the communities affected.”

While this Cooperative Agreement does not outline the specific technical methods of partial closure, it establishes the framework for collaboration between the Ascension Parish Government, the State, and the facility operator to develop and implement those solutions.

Ascension Parish Government continues to take the lead in this effort, advocating on behalf of residents and pushing for environmental accountability and progress.