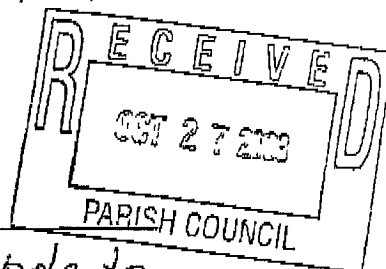


Council (person's name to the Council; spw (Luling oxidation pond)  
PETITION TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

2003-0366

St. Charles Parish Council Chairman  
P. O. Box 302  
Hahnville, LA 70057  
(985) 783-5000

Today's Date: 10/27/03



Dear Chairman:

Please place my name to address the Council on:

DATE: November 3, 2003

SPECIFIC TOPIC: Luling Oxidation Pond - contents  
one subject only  
(\*see specific  
guidelines on  
reverse and  
refer to  
Parish Charter-  
Article VII., Sec. I.)  
of campaign letter on this topic

DOCUMENTS, IF ANY: YES NO

NAME: Gwen Dufrane  
ADDRESS: 3551 Hwy. 306  
Bayou Lauther  
PHONE: (985) 758-7510  
SIGNATURE: Gwen Dufrane

Dear Constituent:

Thank you for your active participation. Your views and comments will be considered by the Council in making our decisions. The Council has a considerable amount of business to conduct in a limited amount of time, therefore; please note the following items that are expected of you:

- > The Home Rule Charter provides for citizens to address the Council. It makes no provision for initiating debate, discussion, or question and answer sessions with Councilmembers or Administration Officials. Your right is also guaranteed to examine public documents as you prepare your presentation. Should you have any questions for Councilmembers and/or Department Heads as you prepare, please forward such inquiries to the Council Office to insure a timely response. Should you wish to speak to any Official or Department personally, a complete list of contact information will be furnished at your request.
- > Please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject matter on which you have requested to address the Council.
- > Please forward supporting documents to the Council Secretary for distribution to the Parish Council before your scheduled appearance in order for the Council to prepare themselves, if necessary.
- > Upon completion of your allotted time to address the Council, please respect the time given to Councilmembers to respond to your comments by not interrupting or interjecting remarks.
- > Slanderous remarks and comments will not be tolerated. If slanderous remarks or comments are made, your opportunity to address the Council will end, regardless of the remaining time left to address the Council.
- > Repetitious comments and subject matter will be strictly limited.

A confirmation letter will follow when your name is placed on the agenda.

Sincerely,  
  
LANCE MARINO  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

(OVER)

**Chris A. Tregre**  
**Candidate for Parish President**  
**of St. Charles Parish**

P.O. Box 65 • Luling, LA 70070



**SEWERAGE RATES TOO HIGH? THIS MAY BE WHY**

As your parish president, I addressed a major problem in our wastewater treatment system. With the threat of fines from EPA and DEQ, a regionalization plan was developed to address our treatment deficiencies. The Luling Oxidation Pond represented a crucial part of that plan as a low cost treatment alternative to conventional treatment. Prior to leaving office, we began the process to obtain a wetlands discharge permit for the oxidation pond. Preliminary surveys had been completed and a letter of intent was signed by the adjoining landowners agreeing to enter into a flow easement agreement. A full analysis of the surrounding wetland to verify their acceptability for wetlands discharge was to be conducted by the Corps. The new administration was fully advised of our direction.

I was shocked to learn that a project to abandon the oxidation pond and send all wastewater to the new Hahnville treatment plant had been proposed and awarded at a cost of over three million dollars! Questioning some council members, it was their understanding that the EPA had ordered the abandonment of the oxidation pond, and the wetlands discharge permitting process study had been cancelled by the parish.

**Those assumptions will prove to be untrue.**

Sending all of the west bank wastewater to Hahnville concerned me greatly for several reasons. The Hahnville Treatment Plant was designed to accept anticipated growth from the area it served for the next twenty to twenty-five years, providing long term use without the need for expensive upgrades. Sending all wastewater to Hahnville will use up virtually all of the future growth capacity at the Hahnville plant causing a need for major upgrades in the near future costing millions. Oxidation ponds offer the lowest cost treatment known to man. The wetlands discharge would allow the pond to provide low cost treatment for many years.

The three million dollars presently being spent will only be the beginning of a much more costly process to address other problems sending all wastewater to Hahnville will cause.

Comite Resources, Inc. on behalf of St. Charles Parish recently completed and delivered a study that I feel fully backs my position. I can now verify that the parish's present plan is only a costly mistake.

The study reports, and I quote, "We believe that wetlands, when integrated into a well designed treatment system, can result in St. Charles Parish achieving its water quality objective at a considerable cost savings".

The study further states that due to pending new EPA regulations, conventional treatment will soon become more costly. Further quoting, "Wetlands wastewater management systems offer a long-term cost effective means of meeting water treatment needs while benefiting the environment". The study further concludes that the wetland areas near the Luling Oxidation Pond are excellent candidates for wetlands discharge treatment and recommend continuing the permitting process.

It is my opinion, based on my review of this study, the present plan to send all wastewater to Hahnville needs to be stopped before more money is wasted. It is further my opinion that the present plan was nothing more than a politically motivated project to provide some politically connected friends engineering fees and the sale of pipes, pumps and wet wells at our expense. They charge us through the nose while creating needless projects for self-gain.

This is no surprise to me, however. Knowing some of the same individuals involved in the design and construction of the treatment facilities, which required forty-one million dollars to fix, are presently advising us on our future needs in wastewater. Should we expect anything different?

I feel, as well as you should, that those persons advising us to abandon the Luling Oxidation Pond prior to receiving the conclusion of the study they asked for represents negligence on their part. They should be held liable for and made to fully reimburse all cost associated with their plan to send all wastewater to Hahnville.

**I hope this information makes you as mad as it has made me.**

When elected your parish president, these types of unjustified expenditures will be halted and those responsible will be made to pay.

To verify my findings, you can view the cover letter as well as the conclusion section of the study on my website at [www.christietregre.com](http://www.christietregre.com).

For a full review of the study, you should contact Greg Bush, Director of Public Works and Wastewater for St. Charles Parish. You should request a copy of the Luling Wetland Wastewater Assimilation Use Attainability Analysis St. Charles Parish, Louisiana that was prepared by Comite Resources, Inc., 11643 Frick Port Hudson Road, Zachary, Louisiana 70791.

You may also contact Representative of Thibodaux, Breau Bridge, Amelia, and St. Bernard. These areas presently have wetland discharge permits issued by EPA and DEQ.

Sincerely,

Chris A. Tregre

For more information about my campaign, or anyone willing to help, please contact (985) 785-8574 or (985) 785-6324.

**HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP**

PAID FOR BY CHRIS A. TREGRE CAMPAIGN FUND