



LOUISIANA'S IDLE IRON PROGRAM!

On the coast of Louisiana, over a thousand oil and gas platforms are rotting in place. The vast majority of these structures do not serve active energy production, but sit abandoned. At best they obstruct other uses like coastal restoration projects, and at worst, they emit dangerous methane gas and obstruct navigation.

But the State of Louisiana can force the removal of these relics and create jobs and prosperity in the process. We recommend the following reforms to put our boats and people back to work.

1. The Louisiana Legislature establishes the Louisiana Idle Iron Program. The new law should set annual decommissioning goals in coordination with Louisiana's Coastal Protection Restoration Authority's coastal restoration projects.
2. Idle Iron Legislation should fund and staff up the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources (DENR). There aren't enough cops on the beat, and the new Idle Iron program office should establish minimum ratios of inspectors to platforms.
3. Assess & Address. DENR and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor should carry out paper and physical audits of structures and wells in Louisiana state waters. Our estimates are estimates, and it's time that the Louisiana government knows what is on its doorstep.
4. Triage. DENR's Idle Iron program should prioritize wells and structures on objective levels of risks (age of facility, proximity to likely mudslide zones, number of violations) and other uses (sediment borrow, proximity to wetland restoration projects).
5. Do the job right. Cleanup should include full removal of equipment and transport of materials to appropriate facilities onshore. Because Louisiana is facing a coastal land loss crisis, if the facility footprint is connected to a dredged navigation canal, then the canal should be backfilled.
6. Final Countdown to Cleanup. If the Legislature wanted to clean the coastal zone of these rotting relics in 15 years, then they should establish a goal of removing 73 platforms per year, and plugging 184 wells per year. We need a clear mission with concrete deadlines.

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