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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****LEAN ISSUES NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENSURE RESPONSIBLE CLEAN UP OF ROSELAND COMMUNITY**

Roseland, LA, Sept. 4, 2024 - Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN) has issued notice that it intends to file a citizen suit under the Clean Water Act against Smitty's Supply, Inc. for the contamination resulting from the explosion, chemical release, and fire at its Roseland facility on August 22, 2025. LEAN intends to sue for violations of the facilities Spill Prevention and Control Plan and its Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, as well as violations of its water permit and Clean Water Act regulations that result from the discharge of hazardous and toxic chemicals into the Tangipahoa River and beyond.

The notice is required by the Clean Water Act before a lawsuit can be filed. This is a first step designed to give the community a seat at the table, if they need it, when plans and decisions are being made to respond to the disaster. A citizen suit allows LEAN to obtain extensive information, seek penalties, and perhaps more importantly seek an injunction, which could be one tool to force Smitty's Supply to fully clean up the contamination. It may also result in supplemental environmental projects to improve the quality of the Tangipahoa in other ways not related to the disaster. A citizen suit has nothing to do with recovering money for individual residents who were harmed or put at increased risk from the contamination.

LEAN has heard the concerns of many impacted residents that the contamination is dangerous and will negatively impact the Tangipahoa River and the people and properties on its banks for years to come. One resident, Crystalin H., expresses the sentiments heard so often in the past week: "I don't know what the stuff on my property is, but I do know that I've had a headache for days. Why do we not know yet? And why are we being told to clean it up ourselves? I feel like this has been handled very irresponsibly." LEAN has been urged to take action to protect the communities' interests and it will continue to do so.

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The Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN) is a community based not for profit that has been working since 1985 to improve the health and safety of Louisiana's diverse environment. For more information, visit: leanweb.org