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Public Meeting On Coal Terminal Held In Plaquemines Parish

By [TEGAN WENDLAND \(/PEOPLE/TEGAN-WENDLAND\)](#) • SEP 18, 2015

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DNR Holds Public Meeting On Coal Terminal In Plaquemines Parish

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The proposed coal terminal would operate on 600 acres near Ironton, about 16 miles south of Belle Chasse on the Mississippi River. The development has been contentious since RAM Terminals proposed it several years ago. The DNR called the public meeting after the Gretna City Council and Jefferson Parish Council passed resolutions asking the state to intervene.

Ricky Templet, Chairman of the Plaquemines Parish Council, stood outside the packed auditorium and explained he wants the DNR to do a full environmental impact study.

“We represent the coastal areas of Jefferson Parish and the state of Louisiana – we’re spending billions of dollars to rebuild and remake our marshlands and hurricane protections. Our concerns are if this environmental impact would affect those projects,” Templet says.

Citizens voiced concerns on everything from traffic to air quality to the impact on property values.



At moments the hearing was tense, as DNR officials tried to manage the long list of speakers. When a speaker was slow to get to the podium, an official said he planned to get home at a reasonable hour – a comment which drew outrage from the crowd. The DNR official then said he would have security remove anyone who was disruptive.

Reverend Tyrone Edwards of Plaquemines Parish took the podium soon after and said, “I came to say tonight that all of us that are Christian are here as stewards of this good earth,” and led a chant of “Not in my backyard.”

Last year, a state judge overturned a coastal permit issued for the coal terminal. State Judge Kevin D. Conner in Belle Chasse ruled that the state agency should not have granted a permit to RAM Terminals LLC because too little

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Environmental advocates from the Sierra Club and Gulf Restoration Network held a press conference outside Belle