State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 26-024

RENEWAL OF STATE OF EMERGENCY - THREAT OF SUBSIDENCE, SUBSURFACE INSTABILITY, AND PRESENCE OF HYDROCARBONS IN SULPHUR MINES SALT DOME AREA

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, et seq., a state of emergency was declared through Proclamation Number 160 JBE 2023;

WHEREAS, Proclamation Number 160 JBE 2023 has been renewed and extended every thirty (30) days through JML 26-017 which is in effect through Sunday, March 15, 2026;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;

WHEREAS, local, state, and federal agencies began monitoring subsurface seismic activity occurring in the vicinity of the Sulphur Mines salt dome in Calcasieu Parish in December of 2021, with a true seismic monitoring array being ordered by the Office of Conservation, which came online in January of 2023;

WHEREAS, the Office of Conservation began investigating unexplained hydrocarbon bubbling within the area of concern in January of 2023, as well as monitoring seismicity, and the rate of subsidence in the area of concern;

WHEREAS, on Wednesday September 20, 2023, in response to this subsidence and seepage, Commissioner of Conservation, Monique M. Edwards made a declaration of emergency under the authority of Louisiana Revised Statutes 30:1 *et seq.*, ordering the operator of the salt cavern underneath the area of subsidence to undertake all necessary activities to evaluate and abate any deterioration of the cavern's integrity;

WHEREAS, the State anticipates that further assistance may be needed to assist Calcasieu Parish in their response to this continuing threat; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to continue the measures provided in Proclamation Number 160 JBE 2023 to further protect the health and safety of the citizens of Louisiana;

NOW THEREFORE I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist in the Parish of Calcasieu, as a result of seismic activity, lost cavern integrity, increased hydrocarbon bubbling, and accelerated subsidence, that collectively indicate a potential for structural failure that could potentially threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

Section 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

Section 3: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies, and officers of the State or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions, the State may take in response to this incident.

Section 4: This Order is effective upon signature and shall continue in effect from Friday, March 13, 2026, through Sunday, April 12, 2026, unless amended, modified, or terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 13th day of March, 2026.

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE