

Section 4: Ambient Ozone Monitoring Data

Since 1989, the state of Louisiana has operated one ozone monitoring station located in Grant Parish, known as the Bentley site (EPA AQS code 22 043 0001). The site has been operated and ozone monitoring data has been reported to EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) in accordance with 40 CFR 58 and the approved Quality Assurance Program Plan. Since the early 1990's the Bentley site has monitored attainment with the 1-hour ozone NAAQS until revocation of the standard on June 15, 2005. The site has also monitored attainment with the 8-hour ozone NAAQS since 1998. (See Table 4.1)

Because the Bentley site had continued to monitor attainment with the 1-hour ozone standard and because the site has monitored attainment for the 8-hour ozone standard since 1998, the LDEQ discussed a monitoring network change with EPA which was followed with a written request for change to the monitoring network in a letter dated December 12, 2002. EPA responded affirmatively to plans to discontinue operation of this monitor in correspondence dated May 27, 2003 (See Appendix D). The department planned to cease operation of and dismantle the monitoring site at the end of 2005 in conjunction with renewal of the Section 175a maintenance plan under the 1-hour ozone standard. Unfortunately, the Bentley monitoring site was completely destroyed by fire on the afternoon of August 13, 2005. The department has no plans to re-establish the site.

However, with implementation of the 8-hour ozone standard and revocation of the 1-hour ozone standard, the state is required to address the maintenance requirements in Section 110 (a)(1) of the CAA for certain areas designated unclassifiable/attainment for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS such as Grant Parish. According to the guidance document for section 110 (a) (1) maintenance plans, "a monitor may be unnecessary when it...has monitored attainment for the latest five complete three-year periods. This time period is necessary to confirm that several non-overlapping data periods show sustained clean air due to strategic emission reductions rather than favorable meteorology." Thus, the Bentley site meets the aforementioned criteria and continued monitoring in the area is unnecessary.

With current emphasis on EPA's new National Monitoring Strategy and the proposed Ambient Air Monitoring Regulations (71 FR 2710), a comprehensive re-

examination and re-configuration of air monitoring networks will occur. Monitoring resources need to be reallocated to address new monitoring priorities. Therefore, the department formally requests approval from the EPA Regional Administrator to delete the Bentley monitoring site in Grant Parish from the state's air quality monitoring network.