

POTPOURRI NOTICE

Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Assessment Environmental Planning Division

Solicitation of Comments on Volatile Organic Compound Emission Reductions as Contingency Measures to Support Ozone Control (0011Pot2)

Louisiana has experienced many days of elevated ozone levels this summer throughout the state and especially in the Baton Rouge area as a number of the monitored readings have exceeded the one-hour standard. In addition, the 5-parish Baton Rouge ozone non-attainment area, which includes the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge, did not meet the 1999 statutory deadline to comply with the one-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Therefore, identification and promulgation of regulations to implement emission reduction controls and contingency measures is necessary by August 15, 2001.

The LDEQ is preparing a revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) that will specify emission reduction control strategies in addition to contingency measures so that Louisiana can comply with the NAAQS standard. Rules to implement emission reduction controls for inclusion in the SIP as contingency measures must be promulgated. In accordance with R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act, any proposed rule must include a Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement. Further, the LDEQ is required, by R.S. 30:2019(D) and R.S. 49:953(G) to perform a cost/benefit and risk analysis if a rule has a fiscal impact of \$1 million or more and is not required for compliance with a federal law or regulation.

The LDEQ is considering several volatile organic compound emission reductions as contingency measures. Specifically, the LDEQ is considering lowering the pounds per square inch absolute (psia) of volatile organic compound (VOC) storage tanks, reservoirs or other containers from 1.5 psia to .75 psia for applicability in LAC 33:III.2103; lowering the psia of marine vapor recovery from 1.5 psia to .75 psia for applicability in LAC 33:III.2108; lowering the potential to emit from 50 tons per year to 25 tons per year for applicability in LAC 33:III.2115 as well as lowering the number of pounds in any continuous 24-hour period from 100 pounds to 50 pounds in LAC 33:III.2115.H.1.c; and adding a degassing or cleaning of stationary marine and transport vessels rule. The degassing rule would potentially impact all stationary VOC storage tanks with a nominal storage capacity of 1,000,000 gallons or more and would prohibit VOC emissions with a vapor space partial pressure greater than or equal to 0.5 psia (3.4 Kpa) under actual storage conditions unless the vapors are processed by a vapor control system with a control efficiency of at least 90%.

The LDEQ will also consider expanding the applicability thresholds either on a regional or statewide basis for the rules listed above.

The LDEQ requests all interested parties submit information to the Department for consideration prior to rulemaking. The LDEQ specifically requests responders to address the following questions:

1. What are the expected environmental benefits and/or disbenefits of the rule options under consideration? Respondent should address the potential environmental impact on all media (air, water, etc.), if air emissions controls would result in adverse impacts on other media.
2. What is the potential manufacturing/retrofit/new control equipment costs for the rules under consideration? Please specify costs attributed to each revised section of Chapter 21.
3. What should be the geographic applicability areas for the options under consideration if not statewide?
4. Are there any other VOC rule specifications the LDEQ should consider? Please answer the above questions by referencing the specific section of Chapter 21.
5. Any other information the responder desires to be in the record.
6. Please comment on any plans for VOC reductions through 2005.

Should the LDEQ propose a rule to implement new or revised existing VOC controls, the public will have an additional opportunity to comment during the rulemaking process.

Comments are due no later than 4:30 p.m. CST on Monday, January 8, 2001, and should be submitted to Ms. Patsy Deaville, Regulation Development Section, Box 82178, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2178 or hand-delivered to 7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Fourth Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70810 or faxed to (225) 765-5095. Persons commenting should reference this document as "VOC Emission Reductions as Contingency Measures to

James H. Brent, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary