



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



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## DEQ announces industry on board with added air monitoring

BATON ROUGE -- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality announced today that 15 industries have signed agreements to provide additional air monitors in the five-parish, ozone-nonattainment area. The agreements are the result of administrative orders that were announced by Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco and issued to 15 Baton Rouge-area facilities in October.

The orders require the facilities to install monitors and develop response plans to address releases of highly reactive hydrocarbons, also known as HRVOCs. HRVOCs are a key ingredient to the formation of ozone and small releases, even those within permitted limits, can lead to the formation of ozone when the conditions are right. With negotiations complete and agreements signed, DEQ and industry will now work together to ensure the monitors will provide necessary information during this upcoming ozone season.

DEQ invested more than \$500,000 to upgrade its air-monitoring capabilities for the summer of 2004 and, throughout the ozone season, noticed that HRVOCs were playing a key role in ozone exceedances. The 15 industries that participated were chosen because they handle HRVOCs.

"I've been pleased with the response from industry and their cooperation with DEQ to the administrative orders," Blanco said. "The additional air monitors and measures coupled with DEQ's efforts will help us better understand the ozone problem, protect human health and reach our goal for ozone attainment."

"The Baton Rouge area will have one of the most comprehensive monitoring systems in the nation," said DEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel. "Through teamwork with industry and the department, this new monitoring network will help us pinpoint the HRVOC releases that can lead to high levels of ozone. Industry's response to the administrative orders was impressive and, with the system soon to be in place, we will work together to gather important information that will help the Baton Rouge area reach ozone attainment."

During the planning process, industry and DEQ developed several methodologies to make the best use of the monitors - including the use of real-time data. Those early negotiations also led to the implementation of new and innovative technologies.

The goal of the administrative orders is to have a process that will clearly define the sources of HRVOC emissions from industry. This information will be used by industry personnel for their internal audits to determine what operations are causing the releases of concern.

The participating facilities are: Dow Chemical, ExxonMobil Baton Rouge Plastics Plant, Shell Chemical Geismar, Williams Olefins LLC, ExxonMobil Chemical Company, Vulcan Chemicals, BASF Corporation, ExxonMobil Chemical Co. Baton Rouge Polyolefins, Crompton Manufacturing Company, ExxonMobil Refinery and Supply Company, DSM Copolymer Baton Rouge, Plantation Pipeline Company, Baton Rouge Fractionators Plant 1, Placid Refining Company and Syngenta Crop Protection.