



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

Thursday, February 14, 2013 Issue Number: 16

Public input sought in air quality strategies

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is seeking input from the public on air quality strategies to reduce ozone formation and maintain attainment with the national standards.

DEQ and the Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition (BRCAC) have created a survey that allows the public to make suggestions on how improve air quality in their own area. The link to the survey is <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cleanairforlouisiana>.

While presently there is only one nonattainment area in the state, the Greater Baton Rouge area and many areas of the state are very close to becoming nonattainment. If they are designated nonattainment, then more regulations kick in that affect industry and also the general public. The areas around New Orleans Metro, Lafayette-St. Martin, Terrebonne-Lafourche, Shreveport-Bossier and Lake Charles each have unique emission sources and each area will have different control strategies.

DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch said "It is important that the public be invested in the process because becoming nonattainment will affect everyone."

The BRCAC has developed a list of some strategies to mitigate ozone formation already in place in the Greater Baton Rouge Area. They include:

- Transportation Management Center – Facilitates more efficient traffic flow thereby reducing mobile emissions
- Motorist Assistance Patrols – Helps reduce traffic snarls related to breakdowns and accidents thereby reducing mobile emissions
- DOTD Ozone Action Day signage on major local arteries – encourages measures to reduce mobile traffic and associated mobile emissions
- DEQ – Maintains "serious" major source thresholds for industrial emission sources even though the area is classified as "marginal"
- DEQ/Industry – Partnership in which industries agree to implement their ozone action day plans at lower predicted ozone levels than on regular ozone action days
- DEQ/BRCAC – Ozone Action Day Program predicts high ozone days and informs public on things individuals can do to reduce ozone precursor emissions
- WAFB Weather Forecasters, WBRZ and WVLA forecasters inform public of Ozone Action Day calls and present tips on what individuals can do to help mitigate ozone
- Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition provides a forum for major area stakeholders to help find intelligent solutions for ozone attainment and provides public education/outreach on ozone through its website and events
- Greater Baton Rouge Clean Cities Coalition promotes clean alternative fuels and vehicles thereby contributing to mobile emissions reductions in the Baton Rouge

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area and provides public education/outreach on clean fuels through events and its website

- DEQ provides public education/outreach through events and website
- DEQ employs new technologies to research sources of ozone precursor emissions, e.g. HAWK and mobile lab, barge studies, etc.
- LDEQ/Exxon/Mobil BEP funds used for Port Fourchon emissions inventory research
- State of Louisiana offers various incentives for alternate fuel vehicles
- Capital Area Transit runs a (free) trolley service in downtown Baton Rouge. This reduces lunch time traffic and associated mobile emissions
- All state buildings are built to strict energy efficiency codes
- Earth Day – Baton Rouge has one of the largest Earth Day events in the nation, where environment, sustainability, and clean energy are highlighted.
- Department of Natural Resources has programs that promote home energy efficiency and alternative fuels
- CRPC is pursuing a regional rideshare program that is designed to increase ridership and reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

These are ideas that are working in the Baton Rouge area. Other areas will have different solutions and ideas that will be more effective for their particular emissions.

DEQ and the Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition encourage residents statewide to think about their own areas and environment and help be the solution by making suggestions to improve air quality. A clean environment is everyone's responsibility.

DEQ, other agencies developing surface water withdrawal map

There are many old and new industrial processes that require the use of large amounts of water. In order for the state to protect the surface water resources for multiple uses such as drinking water supply and support of aquatic life, the use -- or withdrawal -- of water must be monitored and evaluated.

In 2010, several agencies – DNR, DWF and DEQ – developed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together in evaluating the impact of surface water withdrawals that are requested through the state's cooperative endeavor program. More information on the program, including application information, can be found at: <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&mp=home&pid=92>.

DEQ's role is to review the proposed withdrawals in consideration of existing water quality and quantity conditions and whether the water body is supporting its designated uses that may include but are not limited

to drinking water, aquatic life support, recreation, and agriculture.

Thoroughly evaluating the impacts of surface water withdrawals has been complicated by multiple withdrawals being located on the same water body. To help address evaluation of cumulative impacts, DEQ, in coordination with DNR and DWF, has initiated development of a new tool ARCGIS, a map layer indicating withdrawal sites along the water body. When using the withdrawal map layer during the application review process, the agencies are able to see where the proposed site is located, how much water withdrawal is anticipated, where other withdrawals may be occurring and other information pertinent to evaluating the impact of the withdrawal.

The information helps the agencies recommend withdrawal conditions that should result in protection of the state's surface water resources.



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DEQ On The Move



Cheryl Nolan, DEQ Assistant Secretary for Compliance, speaks at the Environmental Regulatory Compliance Conference (ERCC)



Ned Richards and Linda Brown at the DEQ booth at the ERCC Conference



Students participate in training for the 2013 Louisiana Envirothon Competition to be held March 9th at the LSU Burden Center in Baton Rouge



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New brochures available concerning Biosolids Permits and Construction Stormwater Permits

One of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's many functions is to regulate the use or disposal of sewage sludge and biosolids by permitting facilities and transporters who have direct involvement in the treating, production, application or transportation of sewage sludge.

DEQ is also tasked with permitting certain construction projects to ensure that a stormwater protection plan is in place and erosion control measures are being implemented.

New brochures have been prepared for permit seekers as a quick reference guide which explains the requirements as well as regulatory guidelines and how permittees may maintain compliance.



Biosolids Permits:

Permit seekers are typically waste transporters or facilities that accept, process, treat or dispose of sewage sludge.

To request issuance of a Sewage Sludge & Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit, regulated facilities must

complete and submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) or a Permit Application for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge and Biosolids in Louisiana.

The forms are available via the DEQ website: www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WaterPermits/Biosolids.aspx.

Construction Stormwater Permits:

Permit seekers are typically construction companies planning to develop or facilities planning to expand upon existing property or new construction that would involve an erosion control and/or stormwater runoff issue that would need to be addressed before development commences.

Requirements to obtain a Stormwater Permit include providing a site description to include the nature of the activity, maps with drainage patterns, sequence of activities, and any applicable information relative to the site. Also, permit seekers must provide a description of erosion and sediment control measures, stabilization practices, structural controls and maintenance procedures. Inspections will be conducted at least once every 7 days.

Storm Water General Permits for Construction Activities are available on the DEQ website: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/permits>.



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Nonpoint source group and EPA talk about watershed restoration

The Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Section and the watershed coordinators who partner with them are steadily working to improve the quality of Louisiana's water bodies.

Recently, Doug Norton from USEPA headquarters in Washington D.C. presented a special workshop at DEQ explaining a new watershed prioritization restoration tool. The workshop was well attended with DEQ employees of the Nonpoint Source Section, Water Permits Division, Water Quality Modeling and Standards & Assessment sections, GIS Center and watershed coordinators from around the state.

The new computer tool, which layers information from around the state and maps it, will help prioritize watersheds within the state that have the highest chance of successful restoration within the next five to ten years. The tool will merge data from agencies such as DEQ and Wildlife and Fisheries as well as information from other outside sources such as the Nature Conservancy. The information will include ambient water quality data, flow data, ecological data, the stressors in the watershed and societal indices such as urban growth.

The cooperation of the public in a particular watershed is of utmost importance for improving water quality. After incorporating all of the data, the tool will help the State to prioritize resources and projects that improve water quality and restore designated uses – i.e. swimming, fishing, recreation or drinking water. USEPA plans another workshop with DEQ in six months to discuss outputs from the watershed prioritization tool.

After learning about the watershed restoration tool, nonpoint source employees hosted the annual NPS Review Meeting for DEQ Watershed Coordinators and other cooperators who work with DEQ to implement NPS projects throughout the state. The projects are varied in nature but all of them have the common goal of improving the water quality of the state of

Louisiana. They include watershed monitoring in areas such as Bayou Teche, Ouachita River Basin, Bayou Lafourche watershed, Lake Joseph Watershed, upper Bayou Terrebonne, Marsh Bayou, Bayou Chene and Lacassine Bayou. Other projects include Using a Green Infrastructure Approach to Managing Storm Water and NPS Pollution in the Tangipahoa and Tchefuncte Rivers. All of the power point presentations concerning the projects can be seen on the Be the Solution portion of the DEQ Web site at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2953/Default.aspx>.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY'S FOURTH QUARTER SUMMARIES

4th Quarter 2013 Enforcement Actions:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/225/Default.aspx>

4th Quarter 2013 Settlement Agreements:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2838/Default.aspx>

4th Quarter 2013 Air Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx>

4th Quarter 2013 Water Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx>

4th Quarter 2013 Solid and Hazardous

Waste Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2586/Default.aspx>

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