



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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New Mobile Air Monitoring Lab visits Southwood High

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is increasing its air-monitoring capabilities with a new, high-tech mobile laboratory. The Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory has advanced air-monitoring equipment that will provide the department with instant data wherever the MAML is located. DEQ visited Southwood High School in Shreveport on Thursday to show science classes and teachers the new equipment and monitoring capabilities of the MAML.

DEQ Northwest Regional Office Manager Otis Randle said he is proud that Louisiana has such a top-notch piece of equipment.

“I think this demonstrates that the state is aggressively working to ensure that the air quality here meets state and federal standards,” he said. “Louisiana is one of the first states to have this state-of-the-art technology. We are now able to test the air quality in any area of the state and have real-time sampling results. DEQ plans to use the MAML for special projects, such as fence-line monitoring, emergency response situations and in areas where the public has special concerns.”

The MAML cost approximately \$400,000 and has been paid for using federal and state funds. The 2006 Winnebago was equipped with a gas chromatograph capable of sampling for hundreds of organic compounds. The mobile lab will also have capability of monitoring for the criteria air pollutants ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide. Because of the concerns about mercury in the environment, the mobile lab will also have a special mercury analyzer capable of detecting mercury in air at very low levels. The MAML can also monitor for hydrogen sulfide.

Throughout October, the department will take the MAML to the various regions throughout the state for training purposes and public viewing. The MAML is expected to be placed into full operation shortly thereafter and continue in service throughout the year.

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