



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



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### ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

## EPA to study decision on special gas in Baton Rouge area

BATON ROUGE -- The United States Environmental Protection Agency will reconsider its decision to require the five-parish Baton Rouge area to use reformulated gasoline, according to a joint motion signed by the parties and EPA. The motion to remand was signed by the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, today, August 2, 2004. During the reconsideration process the five-parish nonattainment area will not have to use RFG

The suit involves Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish and the Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce's challenge of EPA's decision to require the nonattainment area to use reformulated gasoline. The use of RFG is which is a provision of the Clean Air Act of 1990. The Baton Rouge group, using information provided by DEQ, stated that reformulated gasoline would not benefit the non-attainment area. EPA's stance at the time was the gas would help air quality.

According to the court document, "EPA is reviewing the new information and expects to make a decision on the pending administrative petition taking all submitted new information into account. EPA believes it would be appropriate to reconsider its original decision at the same time."

The document also states the decision should be made in the "next several months."

DEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel said, "The agency believes in its air-quality modeling and has asked EPA to make a decision on reformulated gasoline based on the science. I believe our information presents a compelling argument against the implementation of RFG which is now going to be studied by EPA."