



Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition

The Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition recently commented and expressed support for the redesignation of the Baton Rouge nonattainment area to attainment of the 1997 8-hour national ambient air quality standard for ozone. In a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency, Sept. 26, BRCAC expressed support for the redesignation.

The Clean Air Coalition, which meets monthly, has representatives from industry, commerce, educational facilities, state and local governments and the general public. BRCAC has worked diligently over the last twenty years, along with the Department of Environmental Quality, to develop and implement emission reduction strategies and help improve the air quality.

The Baton Rouge area, which consists of East and West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston and Ascension parishes had been classified as severe for the pollutant ozone. This achievement means the area has significantly decreased ground level ozone resulting in cleaner air and a better, healthier environment.

“The significance of the redesignation of the Baton Rouge area to attainment should not be overlooked. When the 1990 Clean Air Amendments were promulgated, the Baton Rouge area was classified as having a “serious” ozone problem and, overall, Louisiana had around 20 parishes around the state designated as nonattainment for ozone,” said Mike McDaniel, Executive Director of the Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition. “Tremendous improvements in the state’s air quality have been made over the past two decades and, with the formal redesignation of the Baton Rouge to attainment for the ozone standard, every parish within the State of Louisiana will be in attainment for every National Ambient Air Quality Standard that has been implemented by the federal government. The State of Louisiana should be very proud.”

The Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association also sent a letter expressing support for the redesignation.

