



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO

GOVERNOR

MIKE D. McDANIEL, Ph.D.

SECRETARY

For Immediate Release

Aug. 21, 2006

Contact: Rodney Mallett

Telephone: 225.219.3964

Enhanced air monitoring system gathers data in St. Bernard area

BATON ROUGE – The Department of Environmental Quality is announcing today that three enhanced air monitoring stations are now gathering data in the St. Bernard area. Chalmette Refining paid for and installed the equipment. DEQ will operate and maintain the sites.

After Hurricane Katrina, the entire air-monitoring network in St. Bernard and the surrounding area was destroyed. The new stations, which were part of an agreement between the state and the refinery, will give St. Bernard Parish a more comprehensive look at air quality in the area.

Each new station will be comprised of several air monitors that sample for a variety of pollutants. Continuous air sampling will take place in the parish and the data from all monitoring stations will be available on the DEQ web site at <http://aimportal.providenceeng.com/ldeqnet/>

Because the enhanced monitoring system is located throughout the St. Bernard area, there will be emissions data related to mobile, area and industrial sources. Meteorological data will provide information on wind speed and direction to facilitate identifying source locations.

--30--