



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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DEQ BEGINS CHALMETTE AIR MONITORING PROJECT

BATON ROUGE -- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality recently installed a new air-toxic monitor in the Chalmette area. This monitor will take samples of and analyze 59 air toxics and the precursors to ozone.

The monitoring results will provide DEQ with detailed information about the air quality in the area. Using the most up-to-date scientific methods, this information will be validated by a state certified laboratory to be accurate and scientifically sound.

Louisiana has developed a more comprehensive air-monitoring system than 47 other states. This system allows DEQ to monitor more than 100 air toxics, which is higher than the federal regulations require.

DEQ has more than 40 air monitoring sites around the state. Of these, 16 monitor air toxics such as benzene, vinyl chloride, MTBE, ethylene dichloride and ozone precursors. To find out more about these monitors and their locations go to <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/evaluation/airmon/airsites/statemap.htm>.

The Chalmette monitor is scheduled to be active for at least 12 months. However, if the readings are close to, or exceed, Louisiana's air-toxic standards, the monitoring will continue.