



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

Contact Jeff Simon, Ph.D. for more information: (225) 763-5403; e-mail: jeff_s@deq.state.la.us

J. Dale Givens
Secretary

DEQ SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH MARATHON TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced today its participation in an environmental agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Justice Department and Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC (Marathon) that will reduce air emissions from seven petroleum refineries, including the Marathon refinery located in Garyville, Louisiana. The states of Minnesota and Ohio, and Wayne County, Michigan are also joining the settlement, which is part of a national effort to reduce harmful air pollution released from refineries. "This cooperative settlement will result in cleaner air for the citizens of the area by reducing significant amounts of air pollutants," stated R. Bruce Hammatt, Administrator of the DEQ Enforcement Division.

The national agreement settles allegations of violations of the Clean Air Act and the state implementation plan and will result in a \$50,000 cash payment to DEQ. As a result of the settlement, Marathon will install and use additional state of the art air pollution control equipment and procedures at the Garyville refinery, which was built in 1976 and is one of the newest refineries operating in the United States.

The control equipment and procedures, to be installed and implemented over the next eight years, should result in decreases of 2,100 tons per year (TPY) of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), 184 TPY of particulate matter, 93 TPY of carbon monoxide and a significant reduction of volatile organic compounds. NO_x, a precursor to ozone, includes nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) which is a poisonous gas that is known to be harmful to lungs. SO₂, when released to the atmosphere, may combine with excess water vapor and oxygen to become sulfuric acid, which is harmful to plant life and irritates the respiratory system.

Under the agreement, Marathon is required to spend approximately \$11,000,000 to install and implement the additional state of the art control equipment and procedures at the Garyville refinery. The additional control equipment and procedures will reduce VOC emissions from leaking valves and decrease emissions from stacks and wastewater vents. The additional control equipment and procedures will also decrease the number and length of flaring incidents.

"The settlement is a cooperative effort that will benefit the environment and the citizens both within and outside of the State," said J. Dale Givens, DEQ Secretary.