



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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For Immediate Release
March 22, 2004

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Environmental Notification

DEQ Reports Ozone Exceedance at Baker Site

(Baton Rouge) -- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is reporting that ozone levels in the Baton Rouge area recently exceeded established federal standards. From noon to 1 p.m., March 20, 2004, an ozone concentration of 142 ppb was recorded at the Baker air-monitoring site.

Ozone forms when volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides react in the presence of sunlight and warm temperatures on days with little or no wind. While ozone in the earth's upper atmosphere helps protect us from the sun's harmful rays, ground-level ozone is potentially harmful to human health. Ozone levels above 124 parts per billion (ppb) are considered violations of the 1-hour federal standard set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

DEQ is investigating the cause of the exceedance and is implementing more monitoring and other measures to better predict and track exceedances for 2004.