



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For Immediate Release
March 7, 2009

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Emergency responders on scene at train derailment in Plaquemine

BATON ROUGE – Emergency responders from the Department of Environmental Quality continue to take air and water samples at the site of a train derailment at the Bayou Plaquemine bridge in Plaquemine. Air monitors have been stationed at several areas around the derailment and there have been no readings to indicate any issues with air quality.

DEQ responders continue to take water samples at various points along the bayou. Real-time water samples and field analysis show no ill environmental effects from the incident. However, DEQ will take additional water samples for further analysis.

The department also brought in its Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory to take additional samples. The MAML has the capability to take real-time samples as well as take readings from air canisters used at the site. The emergency responders are headquartered at the DEQ Mobile Command Center which has been deployed for this incident.

Early Saturday morning, five railcars derailed near the bayou. One railcar, containing molten sulfur, is leaking. The molten sulfur is leaking into the bayou where it solidifies and sinks. Presently, releases to the environment and any potential impacts are being contained at the site of the accident. There is little flow in the bayou and cleanup contractors have set out booms.

A Best Western hotel in Plaquemine has been evacuated. There is a limited shelter-in-place for residents near the scene of the derailment. Louisiana Highway 1 is closed near the bridge over Bayou Plaquemine.

LDEQ, GOSHEP, Louisiana State Police, Iberville Fire Department, Plaquemine Parish Sheriff's Office, Louisiana National Guard, Union Pacific Railroad, Dow Emergency Services and Plaquemine Parish OEP are all currently at the incident site.

The State Police, National Guard and local law enforcement are directing traffic to alternate routes around Plaquemine.