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LDEQ gets two new Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratories

BATON ROUGE – (Nov. 13) -- LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown announced today that the agency has accepted delivery of two new Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MAML) vehicles. LDEQ's current MAML is still an effective resource but it is aging, Brown said.

“These new MAMLs will greatly enhance LDEQ's ability to respond to air quality issues across Louisiana and will allow us to sample and analyze air quality data on-site and in real-time,” Brown said.

Assistant Secretary Lourdes Iturralde, who oversees LDEQ's Office of Environmental Compliance, said settlements of civil penalties covered the \$1.4 million price tag for one of the vehicles and \$1.5 million for the second MAML.

“They have all the bells and whistles – gas chromatograph, reduced sulfur compounds analyzer, methane/nonmethane analyzer, and more,” said Roger Gingles, LDEQ assistant secretary for Environmental Assessment. “They have all the capabilities of the MAML we have now, testing for all criteria pollutants -- ground-level ozone, particle pollution, lead, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxide, as well as hydrogen sulfide, methane, ammonia, speciated reduced sulfur compounds, speciated hydrocarbons and atmospheric mercury.”

The vehicles are mounted on a 35-foot truck chassis with a custom body to house equipment, supplies and work gear with benches. The MAML currently in use will remain active in a support role, said Bob Bailey, environmental scientist manager in the Office of Environmental Assessment.

“We will have them all out at the same time if it is necessary,” Bailey said. The new MAMLs will have an awning and exterior lighting to facilitate night work and will also have the capability of collecting meteorological data. One of the new MAMLs is equipped for water analysis, Bailey said. LDEQ personnel are looking forward to having these new, fully functional assets in their work to protect the health and environment of Louisiana, he said. “It will be exciting.”

The new MAMLs are currently undergoing a shakedown phase as LDEQ personnel train with representatives of Farber Specialty Vehicles of Columbus, Ohio, the company that built the vehicles.



LDEQ's two new MAMLs are nearly identical. They are shown in front of the state Capitol.