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Baton Rouge area reaches attainment with national standards for ozone

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality announces that on March 21, the Greater Baton Rouge redesignation to attainment became effective for the pollutant ozone. The area includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston and West Baton Rouge parishes.

Due to the cooperation of LDEQ, industry, businesses and individuals, the Baton Rouge area has reached attainment two times before, once for the 1-hour standard and another time for the 1997 8-hour standard. This time, the area met the more stringent 8-hour ozone standard again. This means that the whole state is in compliance with ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

“Louisiana’s air is the cleanest it has been since the promulgation of the Clean Air Act,” Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, LDEQ secretary said. “This accomplishment has been a cooperative effort between LDEQ, industry and individuals for many years and has greatly improved the air quality and the quality of life for Louisiana. Many people have worked hard to make this happen.”

While the area is in attainment the EPA has proposed an even more stringent standard which may impact that designation.

It is important that the area remain involved in regulatory as well as voluntary activities and practices that continue to improve the air quality. Sign up for Enviroflash to keep up with the air quality in any area of the state. Enviroflash is a free automatic notification system that emails or texts you the air quality forecast on a daily basis; or if you prefer, when air quality alerts are issued. Go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash to sign up.