



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ to hold meeting on air permitting rules, issues

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Air Permitting Division is hosting a meeting at DEQ Headquarters, tomorrow at 10 a.m. DEQ headquarters is located at 602 N. 5th Street in Baton Rouge. Interested parties are invited to attend,

At the meeting, DEQ will discuss air permitting requirements changes for the five-parish maintenance area as well as new requirements that may take effect when the area is designated nonattainment for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards. There will be an explanation of the emergency offsets rule, major source thresholds, and approximate timing on nonattainment designations.

This is the first of several meetings that will be held to discuss the new federal air quality standards and how they will influence permitting, emissions and the environment throughout the state. DEQ plans to have meetings throughout the state to address these rules, as well as situations that are unique to specific urban areas.

“These meetings are important for several reasons,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. “We continue to see the air quality improve throughout the state. These new rules may change an areas attainment status, but that does not mean the air quality is getting worse. We have to create strategies to meet the new, stricter air quality standards. There may be changes in the permitting process. There may be rules or regulations that pertain to particular areas. This is a chance for industry and small businesses that have air permits, or need air permits, to work with DEQ staff while addressing the state’s air quality.”

For more information on Air Quality please go to the DEQ Web site at www.deq.louisiana.gov.