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Information Exchange Workshop Forming

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is currently working with a variety of industry leaders to form the Information Exchange Workgroup. This voluntary workgroup is aimed at addressing a variety of environmental issues.

"We have seen the number of emissions associated with unauthorized discharges decrease since 2008," said DEQ Assistant Secretary Sam Phillips. Phillips based his information on the statewide Emissions Reporting and Inventory Center data received each year from certain industries that are required to report emissions. "Through new rules and regulations, plus advancements in technology, emissions from facilities have really ratcheted down. This group of industry leaders that meets periodically decided that through information exchange, new innovative environmental protection measures may be discovered."

A third party group has been hired to conduct a survey concerning the most common causes of upsets and malfunctions. The responses to the survey on industry practices are confidential.

"The first effort of this group is to discover if there are common themes or issues that can be addressed through best management practices," Phillips said. "Environmental education and the sharing of information is a good thing for the environment when experts and leaders in the field are involved."

The workgroup is voluntary. DEQ does not have authority to force industry to be involved or to provide information, some of which may be regarded as trade secrets. Since the workgroup is in its beginning stages, discussions are still ongoing with the US Environmental Protection Agency and others on how to best provide information.

"This is a voluntary program that goes beyond the regulatory requirements," Phillips said. "The success of this program hinges on industry participation. Once the third party gathers the information and processes it, the ultimate goal is to share information and have discussions on best management practices."



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Advance Program

The Advance Program, previously known as the Ozone Advance Program, is a collaborative effort between EPA, states, tribes, and local governments. The program encourages expeditious emission reductions in ozone attainment areas to help these areas continue to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter, PM_{2.5}.

The Advance program encourages areas to find proactive measures to prevent ozone formation and also to work on PM_{2.5} as well. Right now, the entire state is in compliance with the PM_{2.5} standard and only one area, the Greater Baton Rouge area, is considered by EPA as nonattainment for ozone.

DEQ made, and has continued to make, presentations through local planning districts in those areas of the state where participation in the Advance program could make the greatest impact. Five of the six areas have already submitted their letter of inclusion to EPA.

Those areas that have already been accepted for inclusion in the Ozone Advance part of the Advance Program are:

- Coordinating & Development Corporation -Shreveport-Bossier-Northwest Louisiana
Capital Region Planning Commission - Baton Rouge Area
Imperial Calcasieu (IMCAL) Regional Planning & Development Commission-Lake Charles and Southwest Louisiana
- South Central Planning & Development Commission-Lafourche, Terrebonne and River Parishes area
- Regional Planning Commission -New Orleans area

Capital Region Planning, Lake Charles and South Central Planning have all applied for the PM_{2.5} part of the Advance Program.

Areas of the state that are close to nonattainment have different sources and conditions that lead to ozone formation. Some areas are industrial, while others have little industry but more car traffic. DEQ modeling will help pinpoint pollution sources. Modeling results, which will indicate the sources of ozone, should be available in late spring. These results will help the state and the local areas tailor their efforts for ozone reduction to their particular sources of ozone and make best use of the resources available to them, instead of a one-size-fits-all approach.

DEQ will continue to offer assistance and to work with all areas of the State to improve ozone reduction. It is hoped that this approach, targeting specific problem areas in locations around the State with more specific and tailored solutions, will help Louisiana meet all federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards.



Michael Vince and Vivian Aucoin, DEQ environmental scientists, give a presentation on the EPA Advance Program in Monroe



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DEQ's Air Quality Assessment Division maintains air monitoring stations throughout the state

The Air Quality Assessment Division of DEQ is tasked with maintaining 36 stationary ambient air monitoring stations that are located in various locations throughout the state. Stations typically consist of a secured building which houses analyzing units that take hourly and daily air samples of certain chemical compounds that may be present in the air. Each site monitors for a set criteria of specific pollutants as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Each air monitoring station has a varied monitoring schedule as required by federal rules. While stations continually pull air samples, an environmental scientist from DEQ's Air Quality Assessment Division will typically visit the site several times a week to track and record the retrieved data and check the instrumentation for proper operation. Gas analyzers are typically calibrated once every quarter and particulate samplers once a month to ensure functionality and accuracy.

Certain air monitoring data, such as ozone, particulate matter or nitrogen oxides (NO_x), are automatically posted on DEQWeb site's Air Field Services page under the Assessment link. The data is posted directly from the air monitoring stations to the Web site on an hourly basis to provide the public with accurate and close to real-time numbers as possible. The data provides an updated indication of a particular area's current air quality while serving as a valuable reference tool for the public and industry, as well as the media.

Depending on the location and modeling parameters, some stations also house several 6-liter stainless steel canisters along with a gas chromatograph and organic vapor concentrator that collect air samples. The canisters are retrieved during site visits and sent to a lab for analysis, whereupon the data is recorded and the canisters are cleaned and returned to the stations to continue the sampling cycle.

During a site visit, DEQ Air Analysis technicians collect direct measurements of air pollutant concentrations, which are then studied and interpreted. The data is primarily used to track trends in air quality and to ensure compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards. In accordance with federal air monitoring regulations, the air monitoring stations contain specialized instrumentation that measures a varied combination of pollutant concentrations such as ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and total suspended particles. A Beta Attenuation Monitor (BAM) checks for the presence of particulate matter in the air on an hourly basis. Other



DEQ Environmental Scientist Cory Parent checks a Beta Attenuation Monitor (BAM) atop the Capitol Air Monitoring Station in Baton Rouge

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DEQ Environmental Scientist Cory Parent checks an air monitoring canister, which collects an array of airborne compounds for further lab analysis

instrumentation such as the Carbon Monoxide Analyzer Trace and the Nitrogen Dioxide/Nitric Oxide/Nitrogen Oxide Analyzer monitor for those respective chemicals, and certain air monitoring stations also measure for the presence of volatile organic compounds in the air.

Located along a service road near the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge, the Capitol Air Monitoring station collects ozone precursor air samples every six days during non-ozone season, and daily during ozone season (which runs from May 1 through September 30). Radiation is also monitored at the Capitol station and DEQ technicians from DEQ's Radiation group will visit to check that data on a regular basis.

Inside certain monitoring stations, an organic vapor concentrator collects a sample every 30 minutes, which is

then transferred to the gas chromatograph. Software then processes the data from the gas chromatograph to yield the amount of hydrocarbons in the sample. A calibration and zero check of the gas chromatograph are performed once a week to ensure system accuracy and functionality.

Certain stations also contain a methane/non-methane hydrocarbon analyzer which reports the number of hydrocarbons in the ambient air. If the concentration reaches a predetermined value or higher of hydrocarbons in the air, a canister is automatically triggered to collect a sample for 25 minutes. Canisters are then sent to a contractor for evaluation, analysis and reporting the results back to DEQ.

For EPA-mandated canister sampling for ozone precursors, each canister collects 3 hours worth of air, for a total of 8 canisters per day. A canister sampling unit sends a signal to a switching unit, which engages a specific canister for automatic sampling. During the site visit, canisters are retrieved and examined by the DEQ technician.

Site operators perform additional calibrations, span checks and precision checks at each station throughout the year, supported by an inspection by the EPA on an annual basis to ensure that each station is fully functional and operating within its parameters.



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DEQ On The Move



India Anderson and Marissa Jimenez, DEQ environmental scientists, man a DEQ informational booth at Earth Day



DEQ Staff interacts with the public at the Alexandria Zoo Party for the Planet



Tiffani Cravens, DEQ Geologist, demonstrates the aquifer model at the Harry Hurst Wetland Watcher Celebration at the Bonne Carre Spillway.



Michael Vince, Senior Environmental Scientist with DEQ speaks at the DEQ Press Conference on Air while Peggy Hatch, DEQ Secretary and Partner in the Advance Program, Mike McDaniel, Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition, Ravi Ponapureddy, Capital Region Planning Commission and Lauren Stuart, GBR Clean Cities Coalition look on.



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Regional offices cover the state

Headquartered in Louisiana's capital city of Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality also maintains several regional offices positioned throughout the state, covering all 64 parishes.

Currently, DEQ maintains six regional offices and two substations. Since DEQ's mission is to respond to air and water quality issues, solid/hazardous waste concerns and emergency response issues within a short amount of time, regional offices are a necessity in order to provide adequate and prompt service to any parish.

DEQ environmental scientists and staff members at the regional offices often wear many hats, as most environmental issues or concerns must be addressed quickly. Emergency response and coordinating with local, parish and state officials is also an important aspect of the regional office mission. Staff assists local emergency responders at a wide variety of events.

Over the next few e-newsletters, we will focus on a DEQ Regional Office in order to provide an overview on their function and the key role they play as a component of DEQ's mission to protect human health and the environment throughout the state.

This issue spotlights the Capitol Regional Office based in Baton Rouge:

Capitol Regional Office

Parishes served: Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, St. Martin, Tangipahoa, West Baton Rouge & West Feliciana

The Capitol Regional Office is located in the heart of DEQ's headquarters at the Galvez building, 602 N. 5th Street in downtown Baton Rouge. The office is tasked with serving an extensive, heavily populated 13-parish area along the Mississippi border, including part of the northshore of Lake Ponchartrain and portions of south central Louisiana.

The office helps to maintain DEQ's storage warehouse in Port Allen, which houses the Mobile Air Monitoring Lab, the Mobile Command Unit, 2 high-speed boats and a canoe. These critical assets may be deployed statewide for location staging in order to serve as remote outposts for addressing an environmental event. The warehouse also



The Capitol Regional Office is housed in the 4th floor of the DEQ Headquarters building in Baton Rouge

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Bobby Mayweather, Manager for the Capital Regional Office, reviews a field surveillance report

has classroom space for air monitoring classes, which are held on a regular basis as refresher education and training for the agency's entire regional and headquarters-based air monitoring staff.

"The Capital Regional Office has the capability to respond to any environmental event under DEQ's purview in a rapid fashion," said Bobby Mayweather, Manager of the Capital Regional Office. "Our physical location within the DEQ headquarters building provides us with a wide array of personnel, equipment and technical support assets which facilitate the air monitoring, water analysis, solid and hazardous waste inspections and soil testing capabilities, as well as emergency response functions."

The office consists of a manager, two administrative staff members and 22 environmental scientists, who conduct

site surveillance as well as field inspections of facilities that operate under an air, water or solid waste permit issued by DEQ. In addition, the office's air monitoring technicians inspect the region's 14 ambient air monitoring sites on a weekly scheduled basis to ensure that the equipment is functioning properly and the reporting data is accurate. Environmental scientists also investigate a wide array of environmental concerns that are received from the general public, or that may arise at any time.

While the Capital Regional Office has the convenience of being located within DEQ's headquarters, the office functions exactly like DEQ's other regional offices as a fully-functioning, stand-alone entity, capable of responding to regional needs as it relates to DEQ's human health and environmental protection responsibilities.

DEQ seeks public input on revisions to the Risk Evaluation/Corrective Action Program regulations

The Risk Evaluation/Corrective Action Program (RECAP) is the regulation which DEQ utilizes to evaluate and clean up sites within the state with potential impact to the groundwater and/or soil (such as a large oil leak, illegal dumping event or chemical release).

The RECAP regulation establishes DEQ's minimum remediation standards for present and past uncontrolled constituent releases. To ensure that the DEQ's RECAP regulation is based on the most current science and EPA recommendations DEQ is asking for interested parties to submit ideas, general comments and/or technical proposals for consideration during the revision of the RECAP regulation.

"The purpose of this announcement is to ensure that industry and the general public have the opportunity to submit technical comments to the draft RECAP revisions before the rule-making process moves forward. This is in addition

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to the formal rulemaking process and not a replacement.” said Tom Harris, Administrator of DEQ’s Underground Storage Tank and Remediation Division.

Revisions to the current regulation, promulgated on October 20, 2003, are currently underway. Preliminary draft revisions to Appendix D have been completed and DEQ welcomes feedback from interested parties. Appendix D addresses petroleum hydrocarbons, carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin and dioxin-like compounds, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), produced water, sodium chloride, inorganic lead, mutagens, nitrogenous compounds, sulfate, acidic and caustic COC, and other non-traditional parameters (such as constituents or physical/chemical parameters for which toxicity data are not available and thus cannot be evaluated using traditional risk assessment/RECAP methods).

A preliminary draft of Appendix D of the RECAP regulations is posted on DEQ’s Website, along with additional information regarding RECAP at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/UndergroundStorageTankandRemediationDivision/RemediationServices/RECAP/RECAPDocument2003.aspx>. To submit information, please send an email to: RECAP@la.gov.

Sign up for EnviroFlash, free air quality notification program, now!

With ozone season beginning and May being recognized as Air Quality Awareness Month, now is an excellent time for citizens and businesses to become more aware of the air quality.

An easy way to keep informed about air quality is through the free EnviroFlash automatic notification system. EnviroFlash is a free e-mail and text alert system that delivers air quality information straight to an inbox or phone.

To subscribe, citizens can fill in basic information such as the frequency with which they would like to receive notifications, e-mail address and ZIP code. The subscriber will then receive alerts either daily or when ozone or particle pollution is expected to be unhealthy. Another benefit to subscribing to EnviroFlash is that DEQ will send out manual emails to subscribers when there is an event, such as a fire, that affects the air quality.

To stay better informed about ozone and other air quality matters, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality encourages the general public sign up for the EnviroFlash system. These are the Web addresses to sign up statewide:

- <http://Batonrougearea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://neworleansarea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://shreveportarea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://alexandriaarea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://lakecharlesarea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://monroearea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://thibodauxarea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://lafayettearea.enviroflash.info>
- Or go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash and choose your location

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Knowing about air quality is the first step in taking measures to preventing pollution.

The U S Environmental Protection Agency has been steadily making the standards for criteria pollutants stricter. While only one area of the state, the Greater Baton Rouge Area, is currently out of attainment for the pollutant ozone, Shreveport, Lake Charles, Lafayette, New Orleans and Houma/Thibodaux are close to nonattainment. These areas have joined the EPA Ozone Advance program to take measures to reduce pollutants, and an important part of that is for citizens to participate.

Environmental Leadership Awards presented at DEQ

Recently, DEQ hosted the Environmental Leadership Awards. DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch was joined by Senator Mike Walsworth, Chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and Representative Gordon Dove, Chair of the House Natural Resources and Environmental Committee, to recognize environmental achievements at the 2013 ceremony. New and existing members of Environmental Leadership Program were commended for their voluntary pollution prevention efforts and community environmental outreach initiatives. The ceremony highlighted projects that went above and beyond regulatory compliance to substantially improve the quality of the environment.

Awards were presented to large, medium and small businesses, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and schools/universities. This year, DEQ presented 15 awards in recognition of the following:

- 219,780,000 pounds (lbs) of pollutants were removed including: criteria pollutants, caustic, GHG emissions, etc
- Reduction in energy usage in the amount of 8,600,000 kilowatt hours (kwh)
- Recycling 163,473 lbs/yr of E-waste
- Recycling 1,857,714 gals/yr of hydrocarbon contaminated water, soapy water, used oil, etc.

This year, of the 15 awards, three were special recognition awards presented to:

- St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District – Special Recognition in Pollution Prevention
- Martin Ecosystems – Special Recognition Award in Pollution Prevention
- St. Landry Parish S.W. Disposal District – Special Recognition in Community Environmental Outreach



Students from St Margaret's Science Club accept an Achievement Award for their project from DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch, Senator Mike Walsworth and Representative Gordon Dove.

"The Environmental Leadership Program recognizes non-governmental, schools, businesses and community groups that have gone above and beyond regulation to combat pollution, spearhead community outreach efforts,

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or present educational programs that make a positive difference in the quality of Louisiana's environment," said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch.

The ELP began in 1995 as a cooperative effort between DEQ and participating companies in the state. Today, any company, federal entity, municipality, non-governmental organization, school or university committed to improving the quality of the state's environment is eligible to join the program. For more information on the ELP, please contact Linda Brown at 225-219-3954 or visit the DEQ Web Site at www.deq.louisiana.gov/elp.

To see a list of winners and their projects go to <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/portals/0/news/pdf/ELPdescriptions.pdf>.

