



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor

Mike McDaniel, Ph.D.
Secretary

For Immediate Release:
October 6, 2004

Contact: Darin Mann
225-219-0860

DEQ issues administrative order to 16 facilities

BATON ROUGE – In response to recent ozone exceedances in the five-parish Baton Rouge area, Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco announced today that the Department of Environmental Quality has issued an administrative order to 16 Baton Rouge-area facilities requiring them to install air monitors around their perimeters.

As part of order, six plants in the north Baton Rouge area will also be required to conduct comprehensive emission audits to quantify potential sources of ozone causing pollutants.

At the Governor's direction, DEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel signed the orders directing the installation of the monitors and requiring the audits. According to the agency's monitoring data, the latest exceedances could be attributed to small releases of highly reactive volatile organic compounds (HRVOCs). These HRVOCs, even in small amounts, can lead to the formation of large amounts of ozone.

Ozone forms when volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides react in the presence of sunlight and warm temperatures on days with little or no wind. While ozone in the earth's upper atmosphere helps protect us from the sun's harmful rays, ground-level ozone is potentially harmful to human health. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has classified the five-parish Baton Rouge area as "severe" for ozone.

"Baton Rouge has struggled to comply with federal ozone standards and this has been an economic and physical burden on the area's residents and businesses," Governor Blanco said. "High ozone levels harm our most vulnerable residents. We hope these monitoring efforts will lead to more effective control of releases of these ozone-forming substances and will promote better air quality in Baton Rouge for our residents and businesses," the Governor added.

"DEQ, industry and the community worked hard this summer to protect the area from ozone," McDaniel said. "However, because of EPA mandated ozone deadlines for both the 1-hour and 8-hour standard, and the number of high ozone days this summer, we believe that these additional requirements are necessary. Additional monitoring and emissions audits will help the Baton Rouge area better understand the ozone problem, protect human health and help us reach our goal for ozone attainment."

The 16 plants are: Dow Chemical, ExxonMobil Baton Rouge Plastics Plant, Shell Chemical Geismar, Williams Olefins LLC, ExxonMobil Chemical Company, Vulcan Chemicals, DSM Copolymer, BASF Corporation, ExxonMobil Chemical Co. Baton Rouge Polyolefins, Crompton Manufacturing Company, ExxonMobil Refinery and Supply Company, DSM Copolymer, Plantation Pipeline Company, Baton Rouge Fractionators Plant 1, Placid Refining Company and Syngenta Crop Protection.

The six that will have to conduct emissions inventory audits are: ExxonMobil Chemical Baton Rouge Plastics Plant, ExxonMobil Chemical Company, ExxonMobil Chemical Baton Rouge Polyolefins, ExxonMobil Refinery and Supply, Baton Rouge Fractionators Plant 1 and Placid Refining Company.