

# LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D. - Secretary**



# TOPICS

- Who we are, what we do
- Initiatives and goals
- Outreach and Education
- Ongoing Issues
- Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust

# MAKE-UP OF THE DEPARTMENT

- Office of the Secretary
  - Includes Legal, Communications, Business, Community Outreach and Incentive Division and Criminal Investigation Division
- Office of Management and Finance
- Office of Environmental Compliance
  - Includes Enforcement and Surveillance Divisions
- Office of Environmental Services
  - Includes Air Permits, Waste Permits, Water Permits and Public Participation Support Group Divisions
- Office of Environmental Assessment
  - Includes Remediation Division, Underground Storage Tanks Division, Air Planning and Assessment Division, Water Planning and Assessment Division
- Regional Offices
  - Capital Region (Baton Rouge), Acadiana Region (Lafayette), Southwest Region (Lake Charles), Southeast Region (New Orleans), Northwest Region (Shreveport) and Northeast Region (Monroe)

# DEQ'S AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- **Air quality**
- **Water quality**
- **Laboratory accreditation**
- **Hazardous wastes**
- **Asbestos, mercury, lead programs**
- **Radiation protection**
- **Remediation of contaminated sites**
- **Regulations development**
- **Permitting**
- **Groundwater protection**
- **Surveillance**
- **Criminal investigations**
- **Underground storage tanks**
- **Environmental impact assessment**
- **Planning and performance tracking**
- **Complaints**
- **Legislative Support**
- **Compliance assistance**
- **Solid waste**
- **Economic Development**
- **Beneficial environmental projects**
- **Environmental monitoring**
- **Environmental education**
- **Emergency response**
- **Accident prevention**
- **State revolving loan fund**
- **Brownfields projects**
- **Enforcement**
- **Economic development assistance**
- **Emissions inventories**
- **Contractor certifications**
- **Training programs**
- **Environmental research**

# GOALS

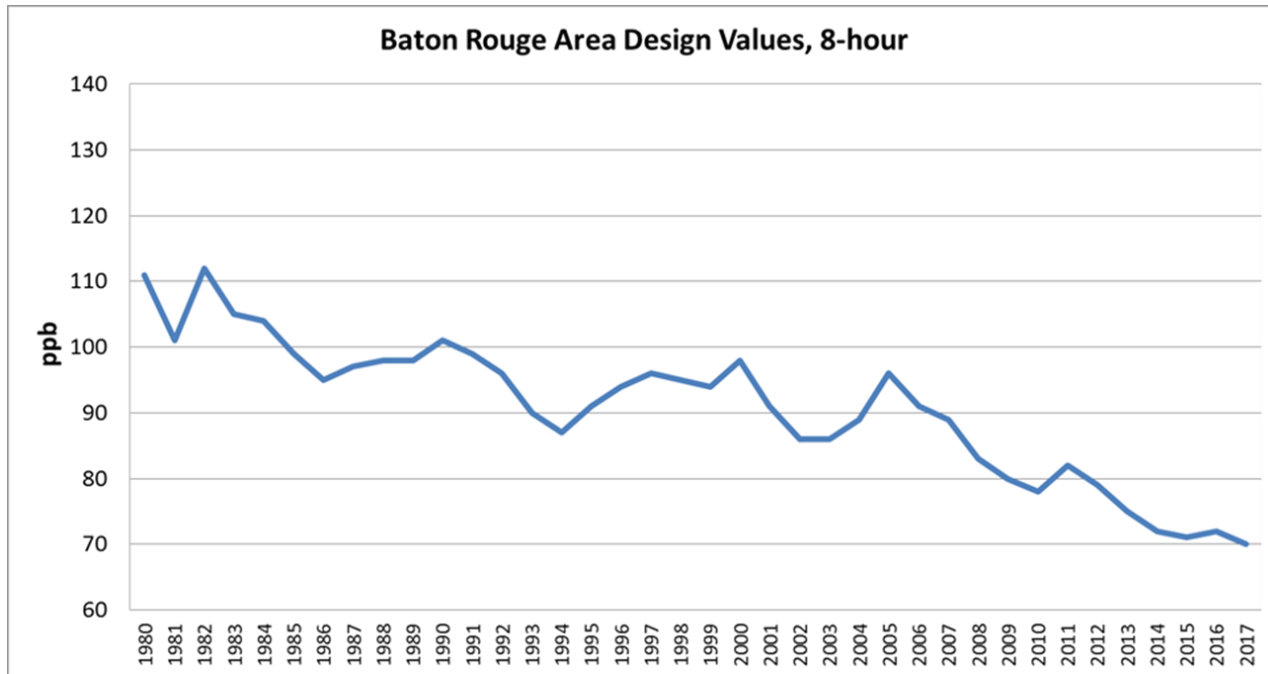
- Our goal is to protect the environment by:
  - Being accessible
  - Being transparent
  - Listening
  - Informing and empowering the public
  - Using social media, traditional media, web applications, meetings, hearings, news releases, e-news and other means to impart information to the citizens of Louisiana
  - Engaging the public
  - Adhering to environmental laws and regulations while using our authority in a fair and equitable way

# Outreach and Education

- In order to be more transparent and informative, DEQ will make full use of traditional methods to communicate information to the public, as well as social media – Facebook, You Tube and Twitter
- DEQ will continue its workshops through EnviroSchool to provide information on the department, on its functions, on regulations, issues and information on how to use the online functions.
- DEQ will continue to request the public' s input and comments and is forming a citizen's advisory committee to receive input from stakeholders.

# ONGOING ISSUES

- Air Issues
  - Some areas remain out of attainment for SO<sub>2</sub>.
  - Continue air quality improvement



# Reed Vapor Pressure (RVP)

- Originally, there were 16 parishes out of attainment for ozone. At that time, they were required to use 7.8 psi RVP summer blend.
- 11 parishes have come into attainment through efforts of LDEQ and stakeholders since then. The RVP requirement remained a part of their maintenance plans during this time.
- The Baton Rouge area came into attainment for ozone in March of 2017.
- LDEQ petitioned EPA to lift RVP requirement for all 16 parishes. It was lifted for 11, but additional conditions had to be met for last five parishes in the Baton Rouge area.
- The RVP requirement for the last five was relaxed on Oct. 15, 2018.



# Louisiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust

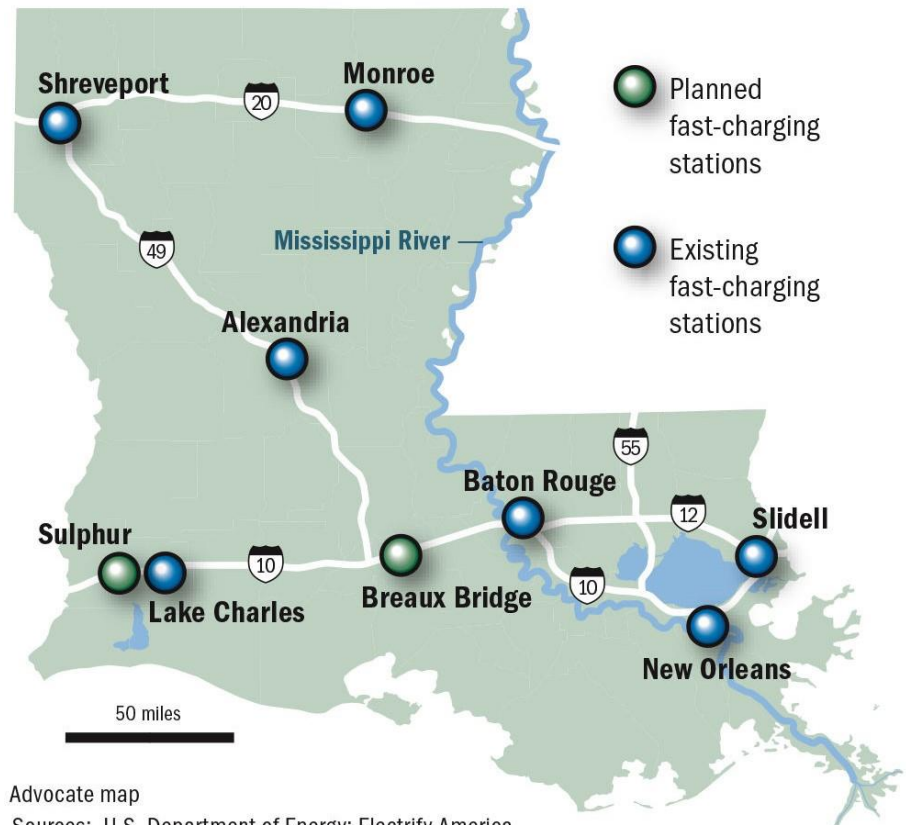
- In 2017, Volkswagen AG (VW) plead guilty to installing a “defeat device” software in model years 2009 – 2015 2.0 and 3.0 liter diesel cars.
- These vehicles emitted up to 40 times more pollution than standards allow.
- As part of the settlement, states are eligible to receive funds to fund projects that reduce emissions from diesel vehicles and install electric vehicle charging stations.

# Louisiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust

- Louisiana's share is approximately \$18 million.
- State agencies, with public input, are proposing to pool their funds to target replacement of eligible diesel school buses.
- The bus replacement program will offer partial funding primarily to school districts to replace their buses with electric, alternative fuel or high-efficiency diesel vehicles.

# Volkswagen Settlement – Additional Benefits

- Electrify America
- Alternative Fuel Corridor



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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**DEQ Website**

[www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov)