



## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

March 12, 2019

### **Arkansas Partners with Louisiana to Conduct Additional Air Monitoring in Bella Vista Community**

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK**—At the request of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) will conduct baseline air quality monitoring in the residential areas surrounding the Trafalgar site in Bella Vista starting today, Tuesday, March 12, 2019. This monitoring will supplement the work already done by the Arkansas National Guard's 61st Civil Support Team (CST) in late February, the four sampling events completed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and ADEQ's ongoing monitoring for fine particulate matter at its two stand-up monitoring locations in Bella Vista.

**ADEQ Director Becky W. Keogh:**

"We are thankful to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Secretary Brown for this immediate response to our ask for support on the Trafalgar Road fire. Residents of Bella Vista have asked for more extensive, 24-hour monitoring at impacted areas in the community. We continue to listen, and this advanced technology answers that call."

**LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown:**

"Under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a mutual aid agreement, Louisiana agrees to share its resources with other states which have a need. In the case of this Arkansas air quality situation, LDEQ is glad to help a neighbor."

LDEQ will mobilize its Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MAML) to Bella Vista for a multi-day, air-quality-sampling event. The MAML is a recreational vehicle that will rove the community outfitted with state-of-the-art air monitoring and analysis equipment. The MAML's primary advantage over previous, stationary, air-monitoring exercises is that it will record meteorological data that will be used to position and relocate the MAML in order to obtain quality readings that follow wind speed and direction. The array of onboard equipment will monitor for particulate matter, hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and total hydrocarbons. Additionally, LDEQ staff will deploy canisters to pull volatile organic compounds samples from the air in community locations.

The goal of this exercise is to gather real-time data in appropriate weather conditions throughout a three-day event. The data sets will be transmitted to ADEQ and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) at the end of each day. The data will then be evaluated by both ADEQ and ADH and then disseminated to the interested public.

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