

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
New Technology Research & Development (NTRD) Program
Monthly Project Status Report**

Contract Number: 582-5-65591-0003

Grantee: *The University of Texas at Austin*

Date Submitted: *May 22, 2006*

Report for the **Monthly** period:

Starting Date *April 1, 2006*

Ending Date *April 30, 2006*

Section I. Accomplishments

Summary of progress during reporting period:

Activity during the reporting period included air quality monitoring at sites along the Texas-Louisiana border (**Task 1**).

As noted in the previous progress reports, five measurement (5) sites for this project have been deployed. In the reporting period all of these sites collected data and provided it to the TCEQ's data management system. Data from all of the sites are available online. The sites became operational on the following dates:

Wamba NTRD C645 (near Texarkana) became operational 7/20/05

Newton NTRD C639 became operational 7/22/05

Clarksville NTRD C648 became operational 7/26/05

San Augustine Airport NTRD C646 became operational 7/27/05

Smith Point, an existing site, had ozone measurements become operational on 8/3/05

Data analysis (**Task 2**) involved continued interpolations of ground monitoring data for selected episodes from the summer, 2005 monitoring period. In addition, ozone flux calculations continued for days that resulted in high ozone concentrations in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

The main finding from this task to date has been a difference in night-time ozone concentrations between rural sites in regions with extensive oil and gas production and pipeline operations and sites in regions with no oil and gas operations. This difference is not replicated by photochemical models that are being used to design ozone reduction strategies for the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The low overnight ozone concentrations, at rural sites with oil and gas operations, not replicated in the model, suggests that NO_x emissions from oil and gas operations may be underestimated. Photochemical modeling, with added nitrogen oxides from oil and gas operations reduces night-time model predicted ozone concentrations, but predicted ozone concentrations are still higher than those observed at the monitors. Back trajectory analyses have been performed to identify source regions for the nitrogen oxides, and current emission inventories for oil and gas operations in both Louisiana and Texas are being reviewed.

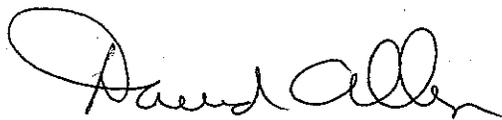
Section II: Problems/Solutions

<p>Problem(s) Identified</p> <p><i>(Please report anticipated or unanticipated problem(s) encountered and its effect on the progress of the project)</i></p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Proposed Solution(s)</p> <p><i>(Please report any possible solution(s) to the problem(s) that were considered/encountered)</i></p>	
<p>Action(s) Conducted and Results</p> <p><i>(Please describe the action(s) taken to resolve the problem(s) and its effect)</i></p>	

Section III. Goals and Issues for Succeeding Period:

During the next reporting period, the project goals are:

- Continue data collection
- Continue data analysis activities, specifically focusing on modeling the sensitivity of night-time ozone concentrations to increased NOx emissions from oil and gas production and pipeline operations



Date 5/22 /06

Authorized Project Representative's Signature

NOTE: Please attach any additional information that you feel should be a part of your report or that may be required to meet the deliverable requirements for tasks completed during this reporting period.