

## **Ambient Air Monitoring Program**

### **Project Description**

Harris County shall install an air monitor in Galena Park, Harris County, Texas, to measure speciated volatile organic compounds ("VOCs") using a gas chromatograph with a flame ionization detector (GC-FID) capable of automated (continuous) operation, which results in at least one sampling and analysis cycle per hour. Galena Park is listed on the TCEQ's Air Pollutant Watch List due to elevated annual average concentrations of benzene, a known carcinogen. This monitor (CAM 1667) will allow near real-time monitoring of VOCs selected from Exhibit 4 of this Agreement.

Prior to the use of SEP Funds, Harris County shall obtain written TCEQ approval concerning the specific pollutants to be monitored. Harris County shall compile a list of VOCs to be monitored from the list in Exhibit 4. The list in Exhibit 4 consists of VOCs that participate in the formation of ground level ozone, several of which are designated by EPA as Hazardous Air Pollutants ("HAPs"). Harris County or its contractor must generate a Quality Assurance Project Plan ("QAPP") following EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (EPA QA/R-5), which must be approved in writing by TCEQ prior to implementation. The QAPP shall include sampling site location, target compounds, measurement quality objectives, and quality assurance checks. After the list of VOCs and the QAPP have been approved by TCEQ, Harris County shall use SEP Funds to pay a contractor, hired through a competitive procurement process, to install, operate, and report near real-time data from the monitor.

The data from the monitor will be collected, validated, and quality assured using methodologies consistent with EPA guidance or recommended TCEQ standards. Data from the monitor will be uploaded in near real-time via a web-based portal directly to the TCEQ air quality information database, which TCEQ may make available to the public via the TCEQ public web site. Harris County is responsible for all hardware, software, and services associated with providing the continuous monitoring data into TCEQ's data acquisition system. Harris County shall ensure that analysis of all data collected from these sites complies with Third-Party Administrator's or its contractor's Standard Operating Procedures for the analysis and measurement of VOCs in ambient air. Harris County must also ensure that any laboratory data generated by this project is from a TCEQ accredited laboratory in compliance with state laws and rules regarding use of certified or accredited testing laboratories (See 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE, ch. 25, relating to Environmental Testing Laboratory Accreditation and Certification, as amended).

### **Environmental Benefit:**

Data from this monitoring network may be used to evaluate the effectiveness of current emission control strategies, track ambient concentration trends for key pollutants of interest, evaluate episodic emission events, conduct source attribution

studies, and assess potential community exposure to toxic air contaminants. The TCEQ may use this information, along with information collected at its own monitors and monitors operated by the City of Houston, to evaluate air quality in the Houston area.

This Project will allow continuation of ambient air monitoring in the Harris County region in order to collect near real-time VOC data that can be used to evaluate and track air pollution emission events as they occur and to assess potential ambient community exposure to a limited number of HAPs. Data from the monitor will be used with data from other monitors to provide critical information that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of current control strategies, and it provides a key source of information that is essential to furthering overall understanding of those emission sources that contribute to ambient community exposure to toxic air contaminants. Because the information is available in near real-time, it can be used to provide both agency staff and industry personnel with time-critical information to investigate emission events in a timely fashion.

**Eligible Counties:**

Air Quality Control Region 216: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker, Waller, and Wharton Counties

**Minimum Contribution:**

\$1,000