

Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission
Meteorological and Air Monitoring Network

Project Description:

Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission ("SETRPC") shall operate, maintain, and potentially expand the existing Southeast Texas Regional Air Monitoring Network which includes nine monitoring stations currently at the following locations:

1. Beaumont CAM#2
2. Cove School CAM #C695
3. Mauriceville CAM#642
4. Port Arthur (Motiva) Industrial Site CAM #C628
5. Port Arthur Memorial High School campus CAM #C689
6. Port Neches CAM #136
7. Sabine Pass CAM #C640
8. Southeast Texas Regional Airport CAM #C643
9. West Orange CAM #C9

The pollutants currently monitored at each station are identified in Table 1.1, below. Additional parameters or monitoring sites may, contingent upon available funding and approval of TCEQ, be added. Operation and maintenance of the ambient air monitoring stations includes canister sampling and gas chromatographs. Ancillary equipment includes sample conditioning systems, meteorological towers, climate controlled equipment shelters, a remote communications system, and electronic data logging capability. Ambient monitoring protocols have been and will continue to conform to applicable TCEQ or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.

SETRPC shall maintain a TCEQ-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan containing all applicable EPA QA-R5 elements. SETRPC shall ensure that analysis of all data collected from these sites complies with Standard Operating Procedures for the analysis and measurement of Volatile Organic Compounds in Ambient Air. SETRPC must also ensure that the 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. For example, SETRPC must comply with 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 25, Subchapter A, relating to Environmental Testing Laboratory Accreditation and Certification, as amended.

SETRPC shall use SEP Funds to purchase equipment (such as automated canister samplers), hardware, software, and licenses to enable the monitoring, and for the cost of operating, maintaining, and periodically upgrading or adding to these air monitoring stations along with ancillary equipment approved by TCEQ. SETRPC shall ensure that the data is validated and sent to TCEQ's Leading Environmental Analysis and Display (LEADS) system. All costs associated with the collection, transfer, and formatting of these data to be compatible with the LEADS system is the responsibility of the SETRPC. No portion of the SEP Funds will be used for administrative costs or salaries of SETRPC's personnel. SETRPC may use contractors to perform the monitoring project, subject to special conditions concerning costs.

Environmental Benefit:

Particulate matter (PM), sulfides (SO, SO₂), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), volatile organic carbon (VOC) compounds, and ambient air conditions are measured at the stations and the data are made accessible to TCEQ and the public. Sites may also provide continuous assessment of benzene, 1, 3-butadiene and styrene. This monitoring was not previously covered by existing ambient air monitoring systems. The data is shared with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, industry, and the public at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/compliance/monops/site_info.pl .

Continued monitoring in this area of the community will help better understand air quality pollutants and will enable better identification of emission sources. The data will focus on specific chemicals that may raise air quality concerns.

Eligible Areas and Counties:

This project may receive contributions from the following:

Jefferson County

Minimum Contribution Amount:

Any amount accepted