

Kathleen Hartnett White, *Chairman*
R. B. "Ralph" Marquez, *Commissioner*
Larry R. Soward, *Commissioner*
Glenn Shankle, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

Date

NAME
COMPANY
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIP

RE: Notification of Remote Sensing Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Project

Dear **MR./MS. CONTACT LAST NAME:**

In consideration of Texas Homeland Security concerns, this notification is being sent to affected industrial sites, regional law enforcement agencies, emergency management networks, and industrial trade groups to inform them of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) intent to utilize a low flying helicopter equipped with VOC remote sensing equipment to gather information in support of Texas Air Quality Field Study II (TexAQS II). Remote sensing observations are scheduled to begin and end in July. The observations will be conducted primarily by TCEQ's contractor, Lamar University, using Leak Surveys, Inc., as their subcontractor. This project is the first of many projects to be undertaken as part of TexAQS II. The overall purpose of TexAQS II is to advance the understanding of ozone formation thus leading to improved air quality planning efforts of the state. More information about TexAQS II can be found on the TCEQ's website at:

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/policy/ta/am/TexAQS_II.html

The primary goal of this remote sensing VOC project is to identify VOC emission sources that have possibly been unreported or under-reported in the TCEQ emissions inventory. To identify VOC plumes, the TCEQ will be conducting helicopter flights around the Houston Ship Channel, the Texas City industrial area, the Beaumont/Port Arthur industrial areas, and the areas between those geographic locations using the HAWK infrared camera. The camera images VOC plumes such as gasoline vapors and ethylene that cannot be seen by the human eye. All industrial sites in the areas listed above may be subject to the helicopter flyovers and other remote sensing activities.

The helicopter is white in color with "PATROL" marked underneath in large green letters and is marked with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) license number N160TX. The project will have proper air clearance from the FAA. Our experienced subcontractor will perform grid-type flyovers of these industrial areas and may hover when needed (for example, if a leak is identified) to gather imagery and emissions source coordinate data.

The TCEQ also plans to conduct additional remote sensing in the study area during the study period. The additional observations will be from public roads, public areas, stationary elevated positions, and public waterways such as the Houston Ship Channel.

In the event VOC emission plumes are identified, the apparent owner or operator of the source will be contacted by letter and asked to identify the source, nature, and emissions rate of the emissions identified. Other information may be requested on specific source types. An example information request letter and tables are enclosed for your use.

The TCEQ has set up an e-mail list server to notify interested parties of the approximate location and dates of observations during the observation phase of this project. Interested parties may subscribe to the e-mail list server by sending an e-mail to: join-rsense_voc@listserv.tceq.state.tx.us. The list server will automatically reply to the subscriber that they have been added to the list. A website has been created to share additional information about this project at www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/airmod/texaqs-files/rsproject.html.

Please address any questions or concerns about this project to Adam Bullock at (512) 239-5155 or by e-mail at abullock@tceq.state.tx.us, or Russ Nettles at (512) 239-1493 or by e-mail at rnettles@tceq.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,



David C. Schanbacher, P.E.

Chief Engineer
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

DS/rn/rs

Enclosures