Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
2024 State-Initiative Monitoring Network Changes

Introduction

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) reviews its ambient air quality monitoring network annually and creates an annual monitoring network plan (AMNP) to demonstrate how Texas is meeting or will meet federal air monitoring requirements specified in 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 58 and its appendices. In addition to monitoring described in the AMNP, TCEQ and its monitoring partners (city, county, private, and industry) operate a robust network of non-federal, state-initiative monitors that support a variety of purposes, including potential health effects evaluation. Data from these additional, state-initiative monitors are publicly available on TCEQ's TAMIS webpage.

This annual summary is provided to document changes to TCEQ-owned, state-initiative air quality monitors and/or sites not discussed in the AMNP. This summary includes changes that occurred in calendar year 2024.

The latest information regarding the entire Texas air monitoring network of federal and state-initiative monitors, monitoring data, and air quality forecast conditions for Texas' metropolitan areas is featured on the TCEQ webpage Air Quality and Monitoring - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - www.tceq.texas.gov.

2024 Non-Regulatory, State-Initiative Monitoring Network Changes

Geographical Area	Site Name, Address, and Identification Number	Summary of Changes
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	Jarrell Farm to Market (FM) 487 4831 FM 487, Jarrell 484911094	This temporary air monitoring site was initiated in 2020 to evaluate local air quality concerns regarding particulate matter of 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$). The data showed that $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations from this site trended well with the other three regional $PM_{2.5}$ monitors within the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos MSA, and mean daily concentrations were generally below that of other regional monitors despite its close proximity to nearby aggregate production operation (APO) facilities. Air monitoring data obtained at this site were also used in TCEQ's Toxicology, Risk Assessment, and Research Division evaluation of particulates, including crystalline silica, near APOs. The monitoring project measured concentrations of crystalline silica in particulate matter of 4 micrometers or less in diameter (PM_4) and total $PM_{2.5}$ at existing TCEQ stationary ambient air monitoring sites that were publicly accessible and downwind of APO facilities, as well as at a background monitoring site that was not located near an APO facility. The goal was to determine what contribution, if any, the APO facilities had to ambient air concentrations of crystalline silica PM_4 and total $PM_{2.5}$ relative to that of background in the Central Texas area. Overall, this monitoring study found that total $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations were not measurably impacted by area APO operations. The full evaluation is available on TCEQ's Toxicology Research Projects

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		webpage: Ambient Monitoring of Particulates, Including Crystalline Silica, Near APO Facilities Final Report. The monitoring instruments deployed for this temporary site were needed to meet federal monitoring requirements in another area of the TCEQ air monitoring network, and the site was deactivated on June 26, 2024.
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA	Midlothian Old Fort Worth (OFW) 2725 Old Fort Worth Road, Midlothian 481390016	TCEQ's Midlothian OFW air monitoring site was activated in 1997 with monitors for hydrogen sulfide (H_2S), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), non-continuous volatile organic compounds (VOC), and meteorological sensors. Continuous measurements for ozone, oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), and $PM_{2.5}$ with speciation were added to Midlothian OFW in the early 2000s. The annual toxicological evaluations of the Midlothian OFW H_2S monitor indicated reported H_2S concentrations were below the state standard of 80 parts per billion for residential areas from 2000 to 2021. Since there were no Midlothian OFW H_2S exceedances of the 30-minute residential area standard reported for over 20 years, it was determined that the H_2S monitor was no longer needed at this site. Therefore, the monitor was permanently deactivated in December 2024. Evaluations of air quality data collected across Texas for potential health effects and odors are available on the TCEQ Toxicology webpage. TCEQ was required to temporarily deactivate the Midlothian air monitoring site due to the property owner revoking TCEQ's access to the site. The site will be relocated in or around Midlothian. Once the new Midlothian air monitoring site is relocated and activated, multiple federal ambient air monitors measuring NO_x, ozone, $PM_{2.5}$ with speciated metals, SO_2, solar radiation, outdoor temperature, wind, and VOCs (by state-initiative canister) will be operational, similar to the air quality monitors that were historically at Midlothian OFW.
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA	Houston Bayland Park 6400 Bissonnet Street, Houston 482010055	TCEQ's Houston Bayland Park air monitoring site was activated in the western portion of Houston in 1998 with a non-continuous VOC canister sampler, ozone and NO_x monitors, and meteorological sensors. The annual toxicological evaluations of the Houston Bayland Park 24-hour canister measurements indicated data well below respective long-term air monitoring comparison values developed to evaluate potential health impacts. Due to the low monitoring measurements and the lack of emission sources in the vicinity, the Houston Bayland Park non-continuous VOC canister sampler was identified as a monitoring resource that could be reallocated elsewhere in the network. Therefore, the monitor was deactivated in February 2024 and reallocated to Houston East in March 2024. Evaluations of air quality data collected across Texas for potential health effects and odors are available on the TCEQ Toxicology webpage.

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Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands MSA	Houston East 1262 ½ Mae Drive, Houston 482011034	TCEQ's Houston East air monitoring site was activated downwind of the Houston Ship Channel in 1973 with non-continuous particulate monitors. Continuous monitors for ozone, NO_x, $PM_{2.5,}$ and meteorological sensors were added in the late 1990's. A non-continuous VOC canister sampler was added to the Houston East site due to its proximity to schools and neighboring industrial activities, and was activated on March 1, 2024.
Tyler MSA	Tyler Airport Relocated 14790 County Road 1145, Tyler 484230007	TCEQ's Tyler Airport Relocated air monitoring site was activated in 2000 with ozone and NO_x monitors and meteorological sensors. A seasonal SO_2 monitor was activated in 2010 at the request of the North East Texas Advisory Committee to assess potential power plant impacts on high ozone days during ozone season. Subsequent deactivation of area coal-fired power plants, the predominant nearby sources of SO_2, diminished the need to monitor for SO_2; therefore, the monitor was deactivated on April 1, 2024.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Email questions to **monops@tceq.texas.gov**