

Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC)

Southeast Texas Regional Air Monitoring Network

SEP No. 2011-35 – as Amended on 12/12/2023.

Project Description

This Project involves air quality monitoring throughout Jefferson and Orange Counties, and specifically the Beaumont and Port Arthur area. SETRPC operates nine air monitors in this area.

SETRPC shall use SEP Funds to pay a contractor for monthly operation and maintenance of the sites, acquisition of all data from the monitors, processing and validating all data, monthly reporting of data, and performance of Quality Assurance Audits on all hardware systems. The air monitors will operate on a continuous basis, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. SETRPC shall ensure that the data is validated and sent to TCEQ’s Leading Environmental Analysis and Display System (LEADS) in a format acceptable to TCEQ. SETRPC shall acquire or retain, at its own expense, all necessary leases for the right to place monitoring stations on property and to conduct monitoring activities. SETRPC shall provide a way for TCEQ to contact equipment operators during normal working hours to address data quality or communication issues. Data displayed on TCEQ’s website will be reviewed periodically for quality assurance by SETRPC and will be subject to change pending final validation by SETRPC.

Operation and maintenance of the ambient air monitoring stations includes canister sampling and gas chromatographs (GCs). Ancillary equipment includes sample conditioning systems, meteorological towers, climate-controlled equipment shelters, a remote communications system, and electronic data logging capability. Ambient monitoring protocols will conform to applicable TCEQ and EPA guidelines. SETRPC shall generate and maintain a QAPP adhering to the principles of *EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans*, EPA QA/R-5.

SETRPC shall ensure that analysis of all data collected from the air monitors comply with TCEQ Standard Operating Procedures for the analysis and measurement of VOCs in ambient air. SETRPC must also ensure that the laboratory data generated by this Project is from a TCEQ accredited laboratory in compliance with all applicable laws and rules.

Environmental Benefit

This Project will provide environmental benefits to the Beaumont and Port Arthur area by providing measurements of concentrations of certain air pollutants and an evaluation of those air pollutants. Continued air monitoring in this area will help with better understanding air quality pollutants and will enable better identification of emissions sources. The data will focus on specific chemicals that may raise air quality concerns. The information obtained from this network will provide the area’s community with more knowledge of the types and quantities of pollutants emitted from the industries in this area. In addition, data obtained from the monitoring sites and made available to the public may be used by TCEQ and EPA.

Eligible Areas and Counties

Angelina, Hardin, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, Trinity, and Tyler Counties

Minimum Contribution Amount

\$500

Total Project Budget

\$1,500,000