Daily Air Quality Report August 28, 2020

Beaumont

Monitors in the Beaumont area started providing measured chemical concentration data as early as 1 PM on August 28, 2020.

Total Operational Near Real-Time Monitors: 2 for volatile organic compounds (VOCs); 3 for sulfur dioxide (SO_2); 2 for particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$).

Air Quality Summary: Measured hourly VOC concentrations, including benzene and 1,3-butadiene, were generally low and in the typical range for the Beaumont area on August 28, 2020. Concentrations of a few VOCs were somewhat higher than average at the Beaumont Downtown site at 7 PM, but these levels rapidly dropped and all measured VOC concentrations remained far below levels of short-term health concern.

Hourly SO_2 concentrations measured in the Beaumont area remained low on August 28, 2020. The peak 1-hour SO_2 concentration measured at the Port Arthur West 7th Street monitor was somewhat higher than usual but was still more than 10-times lower than the level of the federal SO_2 standard. All hourly SO_2 concentrations were well below a level of health concern.

Hourly $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations measured in the Beaumont area on August 28, 2020 were within the range of typical concentrations for this area and were below concentrations of health concern.

Houston

Total Operational Near Real-Time Monitors: 9 for volatile organic compounds (VOCs); 7 for sulfur dioxide (SO_2); 6 for particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$).

Air Quality Summary: Measured hourly VOC concentrations, including benzene and 1,3-butadiene, were generally low and in the typical range for the Houston Ship Channel area on August 28, 2020. Concentrations of a few VOCs were somewhat higher than average at the Lynchburg Ferry site at 8 PM, but these levels rapidly dropped and all measured VOC concentrations remained far below levels of short-term health concern.

Hourly SO_2 concentrations measured in the Houston Ship Channel area remained low on August 28, 2020. The peak 1-hour SO_2 concentration measured at the Texas City Ball Park monitor was somewhat higher than usual but was still more than 5-times lower than the level of the federal SO_2 standard. All hourly SO_2 concentrations were well below a level of health concern.

Hourly $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations measured in the Houston Ship Channel area on August 28, 2020 were generally within the range of typical concentrations for this area and were below concentrations of health concern. There was a single hourly $PM_{2.5}$ concentration measured at the Freeport South Avenue site that was higher than average but the concentrations in the next hour dropped to within the normal range.