

## Daily Air Quality Report August 31, 2020

### Beaumont

Total Operational Near Real-Time Monitors: 2 for volatile organic compounds (VOCs); 3\* for sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>); 2 for particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

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 31, 2020. All measured VOC concentrations remained far below levels of short-term health concern.

Most of the hourly SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations measured in the Beaumont area remained low on August 31, 2020. The peak 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> concentration measured at the Port Arthur West 7<sup>th</sup> Street\* monitor was higher than usual but was still below the level of the federal SO<sub>2</sub> standard. All hourly SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were below a level of health concern.

Hourly PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations measured in the Beaumont area on August 31, 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<sub>2.5</sub> concentration measured at the SETRPC Mauriceville site that was higher than average but the concentrations in the next hour dropped to within the normal range.

*\*Update, September 3, 2020:* A data quality control assessment determined that the SO<sub>2</sub> data from the Port Arthur West 7<sup>th</sup> Street monitor may be invalid. Therefore, for August 31, 2020, there were data available from 2 SO<sub>2</sub> monitors, and all the hourly SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were low and below a level of health concern.

### Houston

Total Operational Near Real-Time Monitors: 8 for volatile organic compounds (VOCs); 6 for sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>); 7 for particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

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 31, 2020. Concentrations of benzene at the Galena Park monitor were somewhat higher than average for several hours, but even the highest concentrations were still more than 15-times lower than the health-based comparison level. Similarly, concentrations of 1,3-butadiene at the Clinton and Milby Park monitors were slightly higher than average for several hours but were still more than 600-times lower than the health-based comparison level. All measured VOC concentrations remained far below levels of short-term health concern.

Hourly SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations measured in the Houston Ship Channel area remained low on August 31, 2020. The peak 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> concentration measured at the Baytown Garth and Texas City Ball Park monitors were somewhat higher than usual but were still more than 20-times lower than the level of the federal SO<sub>2</sub> standard. All hourly SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were well below a level of health concern.

Hourly PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations measured in the Houston Ship Channel area on August 31, 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<sub>2.5</sub> concentration measured at the Clinton site that was higher than normal but the concentrations in the next hour dropped to within the normal range.