

## Daily Air Quality Report September 1, 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 September 1, 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 September 1, 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 average but was still more than 10-times lower than 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 September 1, 2020 were generally higher than is typically observed for this area but were below concentrations of health concern. Because this trend of higher PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels was observed across the Houston and Beaumont areas, it suggests that the cause is not a single PM<sub>2.5</sub> emission source, but rather that this is an area-wide phenomenon.

*\*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 September 1, 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: 9 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 September 1, 2020. 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 September 1, 2020. 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 September 1, 2020 were generally higher than is typically observed for this area but were below concentrations of health concern. Because this trend of higher PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels was observed across the Houston and Beaumont areas, it suggests that the cause is not a single PM<sub>2.5</sub> emission source, but rather that this is an area-wide phenomenon.