Daily Air Quality Report September 6 - 7, 2020

Beaumont

Total Operational Near Real-Time Monitors: 2 for volatile organic compounds (VOCs); 3 for sulfur dioxide (SO_2); 3 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 September 6 - 7, 2020. A single 1-hour concentration of benzene at the Nederland Highschool monitor was somewhat higher than average but was still more than 100-times lower than the health-based comparison level. All measured VOC concentrations remained far below levels of short-term health concern.

Hourly SO_2 concentrations measured in the Beaumont area generally remained low on September 6 - 7, 2020. Multiple 1-hour SO_2 concentrations measured at the Port Arthur West monitor and at the Beaumont Downtown monitor were higher than average but the highest was still 9-times lower than the level of the federal SO_2 standard. All hourly SO_2 concentrations were below a level of health concern.

Hourly $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations measured in the Beaumont area on September 6 - 7, 2020 were somewhat higher than average, influenced by the presence of African dust in the region. All hourly $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations were below a level of health concern.

Houston

Total Operational Near Real-Time Monitors: 9 for volatile organic compounds (VOCs); 7 for sulfur dioxide (SO_2); 7 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 September 6 - 7, 2020. Concentrations of benzene at the Galena Park, Houston Deer Park, Lynchburg Ferry, and Channelview monitors were somewhat higher than average for several hours on September 6 and/or 7, but even the highest concentrations were still more than 20-times lower than the health-based comparison level. Similarly, concentrations of 1,3-butadiene at the Galena Park and Milby Park monitors were somewhat higher than average for multiple hours on September 7 but were still more than 500-times lower than the health-based comparison level. All measured VOC concentrations remained far below levels of short-term health concern.

Hourly SO_2 concentrations measured in the Houston Ship Channel area generally remained low on September 6 - 7, 2020. Multiple hourly concentrations of SO_2 measured at the Houston Croquet, Houston Deer Park, Park Place, and Texas City Ball Park monitors on September 6 and early in the morning of September 7 were higher than average, but the highest hourly concentration was still more than 10-times lower than the level of the federal SO_2 standard. All hourly SO_2 concentrations were below a level of health concern.

Hourly $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations measured in the Houston Ship Channel area on September 6 - 7, 2020 were somewhat higher than average, influenced by the presence of African dust in the region. All hourly $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations were below a level of health concern.