



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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ADEC - AQM
Anchorage

Ms. Barbara Trost
Air and Water Quality Division
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617

Dear Ms. Trost:

We have evaluated the 2011 Alaska Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan, which describes the Alaska monitoring network for 2011-12. EPA has the following comments on this network plan.

The primary change to the Alaska air monitoring network this year was the addition of the Fairbanks NCore monitoring site, which was supposed to be fully operation on January 1, 2011. As of that date, only the required PM_{2.5} and meteorological monitoring equipment had been initiated. However, ADEC has provided adequate justification in its final plan explaining that some of the gaseous monitors at this site were not in operation until mid-September because of instrument problems requiring factory repair. Also, ADEC provided a description of the Fairbanks NCore site selection process in Appendix G of the plan, which explains why ADEC believes the site is properly located. EPA concurs with the selection of the Fairbanks NCore monitoring site.

As requested by EPA, ADEC added a footnote in Appendix E that explains that the 2009 PM_{2.5} 98 percentile value, and the 2008-10 design value, provided in the tables for the Fairbanks State Office Building Site, are contingent on EPA concurring on the five high flagged exceptional event days for 2009.

The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) will discontinue collection of a PM_{2.5} FRM monitor at the Garden site (AQS ID: 02-020-0018) after 06/30/11. MOA will continue collection of PM_{2.5} data at this site with an FEM BAM1020 monitor which is also designated as SLAMS for PM_{2.5}. EPA approves this change.

MOA replaced the primary PM₁₀ FRM samplers (operating on a 1:3 frequency) at the Tudor site with a BAM1020 operating continuously, in accordance with 40 CFR, Part 50, Appendix K, Section 3.1 (f). EPA approves this change.

MOA discontinued CO monitoring at the Turnagain site effective 03/31/11. CO monitors will continue to operate at three other locations in Anchorage (the Garden, Parkgate, and DHHS sites). EPA approves this change.

The following monitors are designated "core" monitors because they are either: 1) required by 40 CFR Part 58, Appendix D; 2) have a design value near or above the new PM2.5 24-hour standard of 35ug/m3 or; 3) they are essential monitoring parameters at NCore sites:

1. PM2.5 FRMs (or Approved Regional Method):
 - a) Fairbanks (primary and secondary)
 - b) Juneau
 - c) Butte

2. PM2.5 speciation and precursor gas monitoring at the Fairbanks NCore site.

"Core" monitors are those monitors in the network that must be operated with available PM2.5 monitoring funds. The "non-core" PM2.5 monitors in the State's network can be operated at ADEC's discretion with any remaining federal funds or State funds.

If you have any questions about our approval of the Alaska monitoring network, please contact Keith Rose at (206) 553-1949.

Sincerely,



Robert Elleman, Acting Manager
State and Tribal Programs Unit

cc: Chris Hall, OEA