



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

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NOV 16 2009

DEC
Division of Air Quality
Director's Office

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 2009 Alaska Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan, which describes the Alaska monitoring network for 2009-2010. The following proposed changes to the monitoring network, which are consistent with 40 CFR Part 58.14, are approved.

1. The State and the municipal air quality staff are proposing two locations for monitoring ozone in the Anchorage area, one within downtown Anchorage, and one in Eagle River to represent a maximum impact site, downwind of the main sources. Equipment has been purchased, and site installation and operation is to begin at the start of the 2010 ozone season.
2. ADEC has requested that the Anchorage Garden site PM_{2.5} monitor be reclassified from SLAMS to SPM status because it has measured low PM_{2.5} values relative to the NAAQS. Because the design values for all PM_{2.5} monitors in Anchorage are below 85% of the NAAQS, a PM_{2.5} SLAMS monitor is not required in Anchorage based on 40 CFR Part 58, Appendix D. We therefore approve the redesignation of this monitor to SPM.
3. The Fairbanks North Star Borough currently operates two CO monitoring sites in Fairbanks, at the Old Post office and at Hunter School. The Borough requests permission to discontinue monitoring at the Hunter School site because Fairbanks has not recorded an exceedance of the CO NAAQS in almost a decade, and the Hunter School CO monitor is well correlated with the Old Post Office CO monitor. We approve the discontinuation of the Hunter School CO monitor.
4. The Kenai Peninsula Site is part of the CIRIAMS network designed to assess regional particulate levels and better protect public health. A new CIRIAMS site will be located in Soldotna, behind the Kenai Peninsula Borough Building. Site installation will begin this summer. Similar to other CIRIAMS sites, it will house continuous PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} samplers.
5. The Red Dog Mine, a zinc and lead mine in the North West Arctic Borough, emits greater than 1 ton/yr of lead, and requires a source-oriented Pb monitor based on EPA's new Lead Monitoring Rule. The State will determine which of the nearby communities, Kivalina or Noatak, is best suited for the monitoring site. Sampling will begin at the selected site by January 1, 2010.

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 proposed 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,



Mahbubul Islam, Manager
State and Tribal Air Program Unit

cc: Chris Hall, OEA
Keith Rose, OAWT